

BLAIR-TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY MAY 18th – 5:30 P.M.

President Troy Tenneson called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Board members present: Troy Tenneson, Neil Kniseley, Michele Steien, David Thompson, Perry Kujak, Blaine Koxlien, & Lindsey Byom. Also present: Lynn Halverson, Beth Lisowski, Melissa Pientok, Jared McCutchen, Becky Brouillet.

The Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Mission statement - "To educate all learners to reach their potential as productive citizens" read aloud.

Motion by N. Kniseley, with second by D. Thompson, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

There were no public comments.

Motion by P. Kujak, with second by L. Byom, to approve April 2026 regular and closed meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by M. Steien, with second by N. Kniseley, to approve bills for the month of April 2026. Motion passed by roll call vote 7-0.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by M. Steien, to approve the April 2026 financial statement. Motion passed by roll call vote 7-0

Reports:

Superintendent - Lynn Halverson - Mr. Halverson updated the board, we currently have seven applicants for the open Special Education Director position. Interviews will take place tomorrow. Also, presented the state of Wisconsin legislative updates. There have been discussions regarding how to utilize the budget surplus. For schools it included a proposal of special ed funding of \$85 million for the 25-26 school year, \$130 million for the 26-27 school year, and roughly \$302 million going into general aid for property tax relief. However it was voted down.

MS/HS Principal - Beth Lisowski - Mrs. Lisowski reported on some of the end of the year activities. The high school students have participated in the Dairyland scholar banquet, state solo ensemble, FFA elementary ag day, senior exit interviews and the youth apprentice banquet. We celebrated Andrea Waldera and Kole Trapp on their college signing day. Andrea will be attending UW La Crosse for volleyball, and Kole Trapp attending UW River Falls for football. We started High Five Fridays, with staff meeting the students with a high five as they arrive at school in the morning..

Assist. MS/HS Principal - Melissa Pientok - Mrs. Pientok shared that the middle school has a lot of activities planned before the end of the school year. They will visit Brady's bluff, lock and dam in Trempealeau, Trades day in Whitehall, and park day. The middle school band will have

a concert on the football field. MS Golf and track will wrap up this year. The National Junior Honors Society (NJHS) will have their first induction this Thursday.

Elementary Principal - Jared McCutchen - Mr. McCutchen stated like middle school there are a lot of end of the year activities scheduled. Activities being visiting the zoo in the dells, visit to Beaver Creek Reserve, ride on the La Crosse Queen, visit the capitol in Madison and the Minneapolis Science Museum. A thank you to Kris McNamer for inviting author Kevin Lovegreen. Brad Pfaff visited our 4th graders last Friday. The ELC students put on a mothers day concert. Thank you to Julie Gappa. Wrapping up the year with our annual park day. After tonight the elementary school should be fully staffed for the 26-27 school year.

Special Ed Director - Becky Brouillet - Ms. Brouillet reported all the annual IEPs have been completed. Staff has been amazing flexing their schedules to allow students the opportunity to participate in field trips. Shout out to Maddie Robinson for digging into NextPath. She attends monthly update meetings to help streamline a lot of things not just in special ed, but for the whole district.

Discussion Items:

Mr. Halverson presented to the board an updated draft of the TVC 2.0 Government Board Agreement. Tom Thibodeau will serve as the Executive Director. Discussions with Tom focused on gaining momentum, increasing collaboration, increasing opportunities for kids, and bringing schools, administration, staff, and communities together to better understand the TBC 2.0. The original intent of the TBC 2.0 has not changed, but there are discussions about allowing younger students (freshmen, sophomores) to travel for CTE programming, which was initially intended for juniors and seniors.

Mr. Halverson also mentioned the district has the right of first refusal regarding the adjacent Hartman Property. This was discussed in December. Which means that if a third party offers "x" number of dollars for a property, the District can match and purchase, or decline. Mr. Halverson recommends declining the right of first refusal and allowing the third party to purchase.

Action Items:

Motion by N. Kniseley, with a second by D. Thompson, to approve the Health Insurance Renewal option 2, which raises our deductible to \$5,000/\$10,000 with max out of pocket \$6,000/\$12,000 and increases HSA contribution. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion by N. Kniseley, with a second by L. Byom, to approve the Open Enrollment Approval 2026-27 as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0..

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by P. Kujak, to approve the Carpet City bid to update the Classroom Flooring Replacement. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by N. Kniseley, to approve MOU - School Social Worker contract. Motion carried by roll call vote, 6-0.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by L. Byom, to approve Professional Speech Therapists LLC updated agreement. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0. Speech Language Pathologist Services 2026-27. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by N. Kniseley, to table the 26-27 property insurance until next month. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion by P. Kujak, with a second by M. Steien, to approve consent agenda items which include resignation of Paraprofessional Sam Anderson, resignation of Assistant MS/HS Principal, Melissa Pientok, issue contract for third grade teacher, Ella Gelder, issue contract to fourth grade teacher, Emma Schneider, issue contract for fifth grade teacher, Morgan Vehrenkamp. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by N. Kniseley, to move to closed session in accordance with State Statutes 19.85(1)(c) to discuss individual staffing 2026-27. Motion carried.

Motion by N. Kniseley, with a second by D. Thompson to reconvene to open session. Motion carried.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by M. Steien, to authorize the District to open an account for the Abby Mae Memorial Scholarship with Wamandee State Bank. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by N. Kniseley, with a second by B. Koxlien, to adjourn for the evening. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Thompson", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

David Thompson, Board Clerk

