

BLAIR-TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2017 – 5:30 P.M.

President T. Tenneson called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Board members present: B. Koxlien, S. Staff, D. Thompson, and T. Tenneson. Board members absent: P. Kujak and K. Lien. Also present: J. Eide, D. Eide, L. Halverson, Katie Belitz, Kristie Gill, Linda Nereng, Lee Henschel, and Fred Nehring.

Mission statement – “To educate all learners to reach their potential as productive citizens” was read aloud.

Motion by S. Staff with second by F. Aleckson to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

No public comments.

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by D. Thompson to approve the minutes of the July 2017 regular and closed meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by S. Staff to approve bills for the month of July. July bills include payroll advice of deposits #27905-27928, money wires #255, #496-497, #3345, expense checks #15365-15368, #58419-58481, and employee-paid HSA contributions of \$190.00. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by D. Thompson with second by S. Staff to approve the July financial statement. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Reports:

Jeff Eide, Superintendent: Preparing for the consortium that will be starting on September 1st. A letter was sent to parents of students going to other schools as well as students coming here about bussing, grading, and discipline. Initial bussing plan is that bus will leave here at 7:20 a.m. Meeting point for all schools will hopefully be at Fagerness Church (pending approval from church). After two weeks students can drive themselves if they have the correct information on file in the middle/high school office. Consortium in-service for all staff will be held on August 31st with noon lunch followed by presentations from local business leaders, Ron Wanek and Dave Skogen. Joint Board meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at which time a mission statement will be reviewed, discussed, and possibly adopted. Vision statement will define what we're doing as a consortium. WASB fall regional meeting will be held at Westby Middle School on October 6th. Board members interested in attending should contact the district office. Looking at what a combination storage shed and concession stand for softball field needs to be. It will be difficult to get any asphalt work done at this time of year. F. Aleckson and Paulette Halvorson have been working on preparing the Wildcat Closet, which will provide very reasonably-priced clothing items. They will be open on Orientation Day serving coffee and cookies. Exact hours have not been determined yet. Preliminary budget has not been finalized due to not having accurate information about state revenues. Joint Finance Committee will be meeting again this week.

Lynn Halverson, Elementary Principal: Letters have been sent to parents about Orientation Day that will take place on August 29th from 1:00 – 7:00 p.m. This will be the second year of using ELA collaborative and Words Their Way curriculum reading piece and the first year for the writing piece. Follow-up staff training is scheduled for August 23rd. Teaches will be using updated 2018 version of Math Expressions workbooks. It is our third year of using PAWS program for students' interventions and enrichments. We will also continue with the Wildcat Way (PBIS) behavioral program and recognize students for positive behaviors. Attempting to decrease discipline problems on the playground by offering more activities for students various types of balls have been purchased and materials for building Gaga pits. In beginning my third year as elementary principal will work on doing the

little things better, improving communication between grade levels, trust, and better relationships with each other. All teaching positions are filled.

Dana Eide, Middle/High School Principal: Frisbee golf course has been installed by Jaclyn Hauser and her husband, who is a professional frisbee golfer. Open house will be scheduled soon. Kristie Gill was introduced as the new Family Consumer Education teacher. Data presented at various summer trainings/conferences will help to improve our school culture and climate. Teachers have been working on curriculum by department. High school fall sports are in progress – girl's golf, swimming, volleyball, cross-country, and football. Middle school fall sports will begin before school starts. All students must have their physical cards in before they can practice. Julie Nehring is doing a great job transitioning into her new role as Administrative Assistant. Parents and students will be going to different stations during this year's orientation. Student pictures will also be taken on this day. Attendance is nearly 100%, partly due to the fact that students do not get their computer unless they go to orientation. Peer Review Mentor grant in the amount of \$25,000 shared with Independence has been approved for 2017-18 school year.

Pupil Services Report by Katie Belitz: There is a growing need across the nation for trauma sensitive school training, as 80% of students have at least one adverse childhood experience. New Special Education staff is looking forward to the new school year. Retreat was held on August 9th, which was a very good collaboration time for those in attendance. Blair-Taylor's Special Education vision, "to prepare students to graduate career or college ready with self-confidence, the ability to self-advocate, and having the skills they will need for life." Autism grant has been approved for 2017-18 school year.

Action Items:

Motion by S. Staff with second by D. Thompson to approve J. Swenson Construction's bid of \$7,360 for installing concrete on three areas – sidewalk area by B wing to better enable student movement to the football field during fire drills, corner on west side of elementary entrance where students cut across the grass daily, and small triangle by district office. Softball area will be tabled at this time to explore different options of design and location. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Biggest change in middle/high school student handbook is that students will only be allowed to have their cell phones during noon hour. Motion by S. Staff with second by T. Tenneson to approve the updated middle/high school student handbook. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by D. Thompson to approve contract for Seth Dale, high school Special Education teacher. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by S. Staff to approve extra-curricular contract for Jaclyn Hauser, middle school Forensics coach. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by D. Thompson with second by S. Staff to approve contract for Mindy Chandler, library media support staff. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by S. Staff (with great appreciation for her dedicated service to the students of our school district) with second by D. Thompson to accept retirement letter from Terry Lien. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by D. Thompson with second by F. Aleckson to approve contract for Dean Witz, middle/high school vocal music teacher. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by S. Staff to approve contract for Melissa Clemens, AGR (Achievement Gap Reduction) paraprofessional. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by D. Thompson to move to closed session at 7:00 p.m. in accordance with State Statute 19.85 (1) (c) to discuss personnel issues, extra-curricular pay, compensation model, administrative salaries, support staff salaries, and student concern. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Fern Aleckson, Clerk
