

BLAIR-TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.

President D. Smikrud called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Board members present: F. Aleckson, J. Clark, B. Koxlien, K. Lien, D. Smikrud, T. Tenneson. Absent: R. Arneson. Also present: D. Dervetski, D. Eide, J. Eide, M. Thomley, Chris Stalheim, TJ Barth, Carolyn Frederixon, Kari Lejcher, Diane Moller, Linda Nereng, Brynn Parker, Alyssa Riemer, Stephanie Schick, Brittany Schmitt, Fred Nehring, Lee Henschel, Jacob, Angie, and Lila Dummer, TCI reps Ernie Tourville, Ben Johnson, and Tim Ruppert.

Motion by J. Clark, seconded by F. Aleckson to amend agenda under action items to include teacher base salary. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Mission statement was read aloud.

New teachers introduced themselves: Alyssa Riemer – K-4 and 7-12 Vocal Music, Brynn Parker – School Psychologist, Stephanie Schick – Elementary Art, and Brittany Schmitt – Kindergarten.

Public comments: None

Motion by T. Tenneson, seconded by K. Lien to approve July regular/closed meeting minutes and July bills. Bills for July include payroll advice of deposits #18031-18072, money wires #398-399, #3249, Flex expense checks #1879-1884, expense checks #4995-4996, #15038-15044, and computer expense checks #52857-52907. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by F. Aleckson, seconded by K. Lien to approve the July Financial Statement. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Student Council by Marissa Tenneson: Members are excited about the new school year and plan to use the new technology to have an online calendar. Hope to have council representatives from each homeroom. Will work on the constitution, which may take a semester or even all year.

Summer Reading Program by M. Thomley: 55 students enrolled in the program. Was a huge success – thanks to the teachers who worked diligently – TJ Barth, Carolyn Frederixon, Kari Lejcher, Andy Nehring, Cathie Slenczka. Student Lila Dummer read to Board members. Students showed various levels of reading growth during six-week program. Special thanks to sponsors AMPI, Atlas Resin, Badger Mining, Coop Credit Union, and Thompson Electric. Jacob and Angie Dummer expressed their heartfelt appreciation to teachers and aides for working with their daughter. 2014 reading program will be held two weeks in June, July and August for total of six weeks. It was a learning experience for teachers as well. Even though summer school expenditures were higher this year, revenues from the state should offset that.

Technology Report by Chris Stalheim: Acknowledged the following people for their hard work in the success of our Technology Rollout - Scott Pooler and Ryan Hanson on setup and Administrative team on Orientation Night. Teachers have really been rolling with it, as their theme is "work smarter, not harder". Two days of teacher in-service were devoted to technology. Over 90% of Grades 7-12 students paid their technology fees on Orientation Night. Next year's orientation will not be as intense, but will focus on seventh and ninth grades. Some teachers are having students turn in homework assignments on Google drive instead of paper. Beginning next week morning support groups for iPad use will begin as well as classroom visitations. Have met with architects regarding technology in the new building.

TCI Report by Ernie: Working on details of various plans and showed impressive images of what the elementary and high school entrances will look like. Various bid packages are being sent out. Groundbreaking is set for Thursday, August 29th at 6:30 p.m. with September 5th as target date for moving dirt.

Legislative Report by J. Clark: Only certain private schools were selected as voucher schools.

D. Dervetski's Report: September Board meeting will be held in Taylor. Preliminary budget will be presented in September with final budget being presented at October 28th meeting. Big question right now is what the school district's equalized valuation will be as the state does not provide final figures until October 15th. Groundbreaking will be held on Thursday, August 29th at 6:30 p.m. Property Committee (J. Clark, K. Lien, D. Smikrud) will meet on August 28th at 7:15 p.m. to discuss future options for the K-6 building. Support Staff Negotiations Committee (R. Arneson, J. Clark, T. Tenneson) will meet with support staff on August 28th at 6:30 p.m.

J. Eide's Report: In addition to previous thanks given by C. Stalheim, he thanked communities for approving our technology initiative, Chris Stalheim, Connie Hansen, and Pam Nehring as they spent a great deal of time preparing and implementing our Technology Rollout. The sessions were geared towards the parents. Registration was done online for the first time and the videos were excellent. Major goals for this school year will be to re-focus on student learning, assess student learning, and grow as a PLC school. Start of school year was more overwhelming for 7th graders this year as more emphasis was placed on technology.

M. Thomley's Report: Thanked elementary staff for being flexible on Orientation Day. Online registration was great, but experienced some problems with certain passwords. Four goals this year - Character First traits will be worked on this year with a new character trait introduced each month; new report card model will report what students are learning; have a six-day schedule this year with everyone teaching Reading/Lang. Arts and Math at the same time; technology integration. The technology integration has been exciting for both teachers and students even though teachers are at different levels.

D. Eide's Report: Educator Effectiveness model for evaluating staff will be mandated for 2014-15 school year so will be piloted this year. Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Teaching has four domains - planning and preparation, the classroom environment, instruction, and professional responsibilities. Administrative Team, Darrin Briggs, and Chris Stalheim attended training this past summer.

Motion by K. Lien, seconded by J. Clark to approve 2013-14 Western Dairyland contracts for Headstart rent \$300/month, transportation \$900/month, student and adult breakfasts \$1.90 each, student lunches \$2.95 each, and adult lunches \$3.05 each. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by J. Clark to accept Lynn Barnett's resignation as elementary school lead cook with special thanks for her years of service. F. Aleckson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Motion by J. Clark, seconded by K. Lien to approve a contract for Tracy Truax, food service dishwasher at the 7-12 building. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by F. Aleckson, seconded by J. Clark to approve a contract for Stephanie Schick as elementary art teacher. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by J. Clark, seconded by K. Lien to approve 2013-14 WEA Trust health insurance plan with 4.77% premium increase and dental insurance plan with 5% premium increase. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes. Initial health insurance increase was 11%, but with some plan modifications it was lowered to 4.77%.

Motion by J. Clark, seconded by D. Smikrud to approve a 2013-14 salary increase for teachers of 1.5%. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes. It was agreed that teachers will pack and unpack their classrooms during the upcoming move.

Motion by J. Clark, seconded by T. Tenneson to move to closed session at 6:45 p.m. in accordance with State Statute 19.85 (1) (c) to discuss personnel contracts. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fern Aleckson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Fern Aleckson, Clerk