

BLAIR-TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2016 – 5:30 P.M.

President T. Tenneson called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Board members present: F. Aleckson, B. Koxlien, P. Kujak, K. Lien, J. Stalheim, and T. Tenneson. Board member absent: D. Thompson. Also present: J. Eide, L. Halverson, Jeff Steckbauer, Lee Henschel, Fred Nehring, Amanda Bakkestuen, Sarah Davis, Timothy Delnay, Cassandra Shaw, Mianna Sobotta, and Troy Tiedens.

Mission statement was read aloud.

No public comments.

Motion by J. Stalheim with second by K. Lien to approve the July regular and closed minutes and bills for the month of July. July bills include payroll advice of deposits #25499-25549, money wires #243 and #470-471, #3320-3321, expense checks #15293-15299 and #56980-57028. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by T. Tenneson to approve the July financial statement. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

J. Eide's Report: Elementary playground area should be blacktopped by August 29th and back parking lot will be done later. Elementary playground fence has been installed. Black dirt from the Wildcat housing addition was moved to the school property by Randy Ekern (City of Blair), Norval Greenwald (Town of Preston), Jeff Sexe and Rod Saxe (Hegg Contractors). Dirt will be spread on football practice field and seeded, which should create a nice area for athletic practices and Phy. Ed. classes. P. Kujak's efforts in organizing this project are greatly appreciated. All staff will participate in ALICE training on August 23rd and Jeff Steckbauer will be giving health insurance presentation at 11:45 a.m. Various community organizations have been invited to join our ALICE training. Board meeting for 4-School Consortium in Arcadia on August 17th at 7:30 p.m.

L. Halverson's Report: Elementary teachers will have refresher ELA training on August 25th. Working on finalizing schedules for new school year with implementation of PLC model in which student learning is the main focus. Introduction of new elementary teachers: Cassandra Shaw – kindergarten, Mianna Sobotta – fourth grade, and Amanda Bakkestuen – fifth grade. New teachers were selected from a very good candidate pool.

Introduction of new middle/high school teachers: Troy Tiedens – English, Sarah Davis – Social Studies, and Tim Delnay – Vocal Music and K-12 Gifted & Talented. Board members extended a warm welcome to all new teachers, who expressed excitement for being here as well.

Discussion Items:

WASB Fall Regional meeting is on September 27th. J. Stalheim will attend. Special Board meeting is scheduled for August 29th.

Jeff Steckbauer, M3 insurance consultant, talked about the options for our health insurance plan, which has renewal date of September 1st. One option would be to keep our current HRA plan with 6% premium increase. Another option would be to change to a HSA plan with a 4.36% premium decrease. With deposits made into employees' health savings accounts the school district's total cost would be similar to what it currently is. Another option would be to offer both plans, but the current HRA plan would cost the employee 22.38% of the premium. Routine physical exams are not subject to deductible. Insurance information will be presented to staff on August 23rd. Board will make decision on August 29th.

Action Items:

D. Eide joined the meeting from PBIS Conference.

Changes to athletic code policy, as recommended by D. Eide and R. Storlie – behavior and conduct of athletes was defined more clearly, options to become eligible if ineligible at the end of the fourth quarter due to grades, detentions must be made up before practices and games immediately. Athletes sign a student handbook and athletic code holding them to a high standard. Motion by K Lien with second by F. Aleckson to approve athletic code policy with recommended updates. Motion passed unanimously.

PBIS Team worked on the MS/HS Student Handbook focusing on four big words – Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, and Honesty. As handbook was reduced from 20 pages to 12 pages, it should be more user friendly. Electronic devices are about personal devices (cell phones) with consequences for abusing them. Whether students should be allowed to have cell phones during the school day was discussed as well as determining appropriate use of them. Middle school students can only have their cell phones during breaks and before/after school. Cell phones are a learning tool. High school students can have their cell phones all day. Will work on improving student attendance this school year. Students who are absent all day for an unexcused absence will need to make up two hours of detention. Pathway to Self-Control, being used at middle school level, has been successful. Motion by F. Aleckson with second by J. Stalheim to approve 2016-17 MS/HS Student Handbook. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by K. Lien with second by T. Tenneson to approve the first reading of Policy 751.2 Bus Riding Protocol. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by P. Kujak with second by K.Lien to approve the first reading of Policy 345.43 Graduation Exercises. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by J. Stalheim with second by P. Kujak to approve the first reading of Policy 494 Student Parking. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by P. Kujak with second by K. Lien to approve 2016-17 Academic Standards. Motion passed unanimously. Recognition of honor students will be different as three levels – magna cum laude, sigma cum laude, and cum laude will replace valedictorian, salutatorian, and honor students.

Motion by J. Stalheim with second by F. Aleckson to accept Colin Stiemke's resignation as vocal music teacher and Gifted & Talented Coordinator. Motion carried unanimously. Board members expressed their appreciation for his years of service to our school district.

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by J. Stalheim to approve contract for Timothy Delnay, vocal music teacher and Gifted & Talented Coordinator. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by P. Kujak with second by J. Stalheim to approve contract for Tammy Stensven, Food Service Cook. Motion passed by roll call vote with five Board members voting yes and T. Tenneson abstaining.

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by P. Kujak to approve contract for Kimberly Sweet, Food Service Dishwasher. Motion passed by roll call vote with five Board members voting yes and K. Lien abstaining.

Motion by P. Kujak with second by K. Lien to approve contract for Janet Lathrop, Food Service Dishwasher. Motion passed by roll call vote with all Board members voting yes.

Motion by J. Stalheim with second by F. Aleckson to move to closed session at 8:05 p.m. in accordance with State Statute 19.85(1) (c) (f) to discuss personnel issues, extra-curricular pay – cheerleading, compensation model, insurance, and consideration of conditional early re-instatement of previously expelled student, Alternative Education Consortium 66:030. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Fern Aleckson, Clerk