

BLAIR-TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018 – 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, S. Staff, D. Thompson, and T. Tenneson. Board member absent: K. Lien. Also present: J. Eide, L. Halverson, D. Eide, Katie Belitz, Kristie Gill, Gwen Kidd, Linda Nereng, Fred Nehring, and Lee Henschel.

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

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

No public comments.

Motion by D. Thompson with second by F. Aleckson to approve the January 15, 2018 regular and closed meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by D. Thompson with second by S. Staff to approve the bills for the month of January. January bills include payroll advice of deposits #28783-28985, payroll checks #58186-58193, money wires #261, #508-509, #3356-3357, expense checks #15383-15385, #59137-59290, employee-paid HSA contributions of \$1,515.00, and employer-paid HSA contributions of \$74,083.34. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by D. Thompson to approve the January financial statement. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

No Student Council report.

Superintendent's Report by Jeff Eide: If Assembly Bill 835 gets final approval from Governor Walker, we would receive \$100 more per student (about \$64,000) in sparsity aid. Per pupil adjustment, which is part of revenue limit calculations, would increase from current \$9,100 to \$9,400, then \$100 more each year resulting in more revenues. Thank-you note was read from Dana Eide for plant and support received during her mother's illness and passing. Joint Powers Agreement was reviewed at consortium Board meeting held on February 27th. Will have draft copy ready for first reading at March meeting with second reading the next month. Two Board members from each of the four schools will serve on this board.

Elementary Principal's Report by Lynn Halverson: Elementary students finished benchmark assessment (BAC) testing today. There were rotating stations with activities for students not being tested so teachers could work closely with students being tested. Everyone is excited for our Bruce Mound trip on Friday, March 2nd, which is re-scheduled from February 20th. Students participated in Jump Rope for Heart event on February 20th. In two weeks students raised over \$6,500 for the American Heart Association. Special thanks to teachers, students, and communities of Blair and Taylor for donating over \$40,000 to Jump Rope for Heart over the last six years. Also special thanks to Jeremy Hanson for all his efforts in coordinating this event each year!

Kristie Gill's Report: For the first time in twelve years, students competed in FCCLA STAR competition. Three students (two B-T and one Arcadia) competed at regionals in February and now will compete at state in April. She is very proud of what these students have accomplished, as two students even gave up their Bruce Mound trip to compete. Junior level of competition is for grades 6-8 students and senior level is for grades 9-12 students. There are many options that students can choose to compete in such as community service projects or culinary projects.

School Psychologist's Report by K. Belitz: 40 students were screened on Child Development Day. ACT Work Keys testing was done today. Special needs students have a two-week window to complete their testing. Staff did a lot of preparations to assure that the testing goes well. Crisis Team will have a presentation on the evening of March 6th for parents about student mental health issues and ALICE training. Younger children can play Bingo during this same time in the elementary.

Middle/High School Principal's Report by Dana Eide: Special thanks to Kristie Gill for doing such a great job with the FCCLA students! Juniors completed the four-hour ACT test on February 27th during the morning and were then dismissed for the rest of the school day. Some staff members made breakfast for them before testing. DPI was contacted about the disruption that testing causes in classes comprised of students from more than one grade level and testing dates being scheduled during basketball tournament week. Their response was not very reassuring as dates are set for the next three years. Wallapalooza was held last week and went very well. High school students were recognized for second quarter accomplishments as well as Braeden Smith for being a state wrestling qualifier. High school students watched a movie this afternoon as a reward for having less than 85% of students with F's for the semester. Letter was shared from sophomore student Rafael DaCosta in which he is asking to take two on-line classes from home for two class periods. He feels that this would give him more time to pursue his swimming goals and still remain a Wildcat and be eligible for football.

Discussion Items:

Proposed 2018-19 school calendar was reviewed making special note of important dates for each month. Calendar has 175 student days allowing for two snow days. If more than two snow days, they'll be made up at the end of the year. Consortium schools are trying to coordinate PLC times. Currently Independence has early releases, Arcadia has late starts, and Whitehall will start having early releases. We are looking at early releases on Wednesdays, but will discuss further with staff and have more information next month.

Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR) teacher-student ratio must be 18 to 1 in grades K-3 or have an instructional coach if more than 18 students. For this school year we meet the 18 to 1 ratio at each grade level. AGR reading and math data for kindergarten – grade 3 students was shared. Reading growth for kindergarten and first grade students is measured with PALS assessment in the fall and PALS assessment in the spring. At the present time there is no good assessment for kindergarten math. Math growth for first grade students is measured with STAR assessment at mid-year and end-of-year. Fall and mid-year reading and math STAR assessments for second and third grade students showed growth in our number of students above the 25% percentile (average). STAR assessments are a snapshot of one day while BAC seems to be a more valid testing tool. Goal is to see continued growth in all students' reading and math assessments.

Per communications with some parents there seems to be little opposition to disbanding our SoSET (School of Science, Engineering, and Technology). May host a question and answer session for SoSET parents. Staff is in favor of this change. If SoSET is disbanded, we will need to re-arrange elementary classrooms. Since grades 5-6 have bigger enrollments, it might work better to have a grade 5-6 multi-grade room for two years. Then grade levels should be in place for a five-year plan.

Action Items:

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by S. Staff to accept Melissa Massman's resignation as Assistant Middle School Track coach. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by D. Thompson with second by F. Aleckson to accept Allan Lien's resignation as Head Cross-Country coach. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by D. Thompson with second by F. Aleckson to move to closed session at 6:50 p.m. in accordance with State Statute 19.85 (1) (c) to discuss compensation model, extra-curricular contracts, staffing for 2018-19 school year, office manager/bookkeeper position, and 7-12 administrative assistant position. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by D. Thompson with second by S. Staff to move back into open session. Motion carried.

Motion by S. Staff with second by D. Thompson to accept Julie Nehring's resignation for the 7-12 Administrative Assistant position, but maintain her special education support position for two hours per day. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by D. Thompson with second by B. Koxlien to approve extra-curricular contracts for the following fall sports: Andrew Nehring-Head Football, Jeffrey Eide-Assistant Football, Mackenzie (Mac) Bowen-Assistant Football, Hank Kujak-Assistant Football, Gregory Bratina-Head Middle School Football, Justin Shramek-Assistant Middle School Football, Baleigh Kehe-Head Middle School Volleyball, Catherine Slenczka-Assistant Middle School Volleyball, Head Cross-Country-Alexandra Lisowski, Assistant Cross-Country-Jared Peterson, and Mandy (McDonald) Schultz-Football Cheerleaders. Contracts for high school volleyball coaches were tabled. Girls Golf coaching contract for Andrew Smikrud will be issued with appropriate number of participants. Motion passed by 5-0 roll call vote with P. Kujak abstaining.

Motion by D. Thompson with second by B. Koxlien to approve extra-curricular contracts for the following spring sports: Allan Lien-Head Track, Alexandra Lisowski-Assistant Track, and Bradley Becker-Assistant Track. Boys Golf coaching contract for Jesse Lien will be issued with appropriate number of participants. Motion passed by 6-0 roll vote.

Motion by D. Thompson with second by F. Aleckson to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Fern Aleckson, Clerk