

BLAIR-TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 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, Kristi Smith, Gwen Kidd, Jeff Belongia, and Lee Henschel.

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

No public comments.

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

Motion by D. Thompson with second by S. Staff to approve the February 28, 2018 regular and closed meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by D. Thompson with second by F. Aleckson to approve the February 2018 bills. February bills include payroll advice of deposits #28986-29192, payroll checks #58194-58199, money wires #262, #510-511, #3358-3359, expense checks #15386-15387, #59291-59428, employee-paid HSA contributions of \$1,515.00, and employer-paid HSA contributions of \$1,500.00. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by P. Kujak with second by D. Thompson to approve the February financial statement. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Discussion Items:

Jeff Belongia from Hutchinson, Shockey, Erley & Co. presented the timetable that will be followed from the week of April 16<sup>th</sup> – July 9<sup>th</sup> for the refinancing of the 6.985M referendum debt balloon payment. Refinancing work will be done by the June 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting so interest rates will be known at that time with closing and delivery of bonds by July 9<sup>th</sup>. Tentative amortization schedule showed debt service payments (interest and principal) to be 1.35 to 1.4M per year, but this amount could be higher if wanted as higher principal payments saves on interest and accelerates debt payoff. Tax revenues for debt service payments are levied outside the general budget. It is not advantageous to refinance both balloon payments at this time so we could be on a similar schedule in three years (2021) when the 10M referendum bonds are due.

No Student Council report.

Superintendent's report by Jeff Eide: Special Board meeting was held on March 12<sup>th</sup> with health insurance presentation by Jeff Steckbauer from M3 Insurance. A consortium in-service and community presentation by Dr. Daggett is being planned for October 22<sup>nd</sup> so annual meeting date may need to be changed. April Board meeting will be held on Monday, April 23, 2018.

Elementary Principal's report by Lynn Halverson: Grades 2-6 students enjoyed their PBIS reward day at Bruce Mound on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. They were well behaved and showcased why they had earned the trip. K-1 students enjoyed a fun-filled day of activities here at school. Have seen a great improvement in student behavior as all referrals are down 38% compared to the same time last year. School carnival will be held on the afternoon of March 29<sup>th</sup> with games in the gym, baskets auctioned off, cake walk, and food. Some activities that students have been involved in outside of the regular school day are state swimming, state wrestling, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade O.M. team

earned second place at state competition. 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be part of the Couleeland 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Mega Band with Arcadia and Whitehall students performing a concert on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in Arcadia.

Middle/High School Principal's Report by Dana Eide: Very busy time of the year with the following activities: National History Day, State competitions for FCCLA STAR, FBLA, SkillsUSA, Forensics, and advanced handbells group (qualifying for 7<sup>th</sup> straight years), FFA sectional speaking contest, Conservation Awareness poster winner, and Trempealeau County Robotics team going to World finals in Detroit. Hosted 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Couleeland Honors Band for nearly 200 middle school students from 13 schools on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Spring sports are underway. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. In honor of "Music in our Schools" month middle/high school students will perform a concert for elementary students on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:45 p.m. State testing for Grades 3-10 students is tentatively set for week of April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Hilary Walters does a great job setting up the testing schedule along with assistance from Katie Belitz. Kristie Gill shared information about what FCCLA is and how it helps students, teachers, and schools, what their mission, motto (Toward New Horizons), creed, and purposes are as well as what local, state, and national programs/events are available to members.

School Psychologist's report by K. Belitz: Last session of Reading Buddies for this school year was held last week. Will be talking with staff to see if they want to continue this program in the future or not.

Action Items:

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by S. Staff to approve the 2018-19 school calendar. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by S. Staff with second by D. Thompson to accept Mary Ann Hulett's retirement as District Office Manager/Bookkeeper by the end of 2018 with thanks for her years of service and helping with the transition. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by S. Staff to approve 2018-19 CESA #10 contracted services for Project Circuit Distance Learning (13,209) and Alio software hosting (2,600). Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

School districts in Group A health insurance coop invited Group B schools to join and become a coop of up to 19 schools, which should give all members the benefit of more bargaining power and better health insurance rates. Current quote is that renewal rates will not exceed 11% for two years. Staff members seem to understand why this is being done even though changing health insurance companies is never desirable. Motion by P. Kujak with second by D. Thompson to join the Northwest Area Coop health insurance consortium. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Group health insurance proposal with Security Health Plan was reviewed. Deductibles will continue to be \$3,000/\$6,000 with the option to choose Central HMO network or the statewide network that includes Gundersen Health System. Motion by P. Kujak with second by S. Staff to approve health insurance quote with Security Health Plan, as proposed by Northwest Area Coop health insurance consortium (with approved consortium). Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by D. Thompson to approve the Joint Powers Agreement with the four-school consortium. Motion passed unanimously.

Two Board members from each school district will need to serve on the Joint Powers Board that will initially need to meet monthly to get by-laws set up, etc. and then meet quarterly. Motion by P. Kujak with second by T. Tenneson to nominate Sarah Staff as one of the representatives. Motion passed. Second representative will be selected after the April election.

With input received from SoSET parents via parent meeting, emails, or informal conversations the parents understand why it's being recommended to discontinue SoSET and become one elementary school. The biggest negatives seem to be the student-teacher relationships and students not knowing who their teacher will be. Curriculum is the same for all students except for Engineering Buddies, which will hopefully be continued. Another idea could be "looping", but must have two teachers at two grade levels willing to do this. Motion by D. Thompson with second by F. Aleckson to discontinue SoSET beginning with the 2018-19 school year and become one elementary school. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by S. Staff to approve contract with Johnson Block and Company for the school district's 2017-18 audit services. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by D. Thompson with second by F. Aleckson to approve MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Western Dairyland. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by P. Kujak with second by D. Thompson to approve contract for Bradley Becker, Middle School High Quiz advisor. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by D. Thompson with second by F. Aleckson to approve contract for Marcos Cecenas Lerma, Assistant Middle School Track coach. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by S. Staff with second by D. Thompson to move to closed session at 7:10 p.m. in accordance with State Statute 19.85 (1) (c) to discuss staffing needs, personnel concern, spring and fall coaching contract(s), district office manager/bookkeeper position, and the compensation model. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by D. Thompson with second by F. Aleckson to return to open session. Motion carried.

Motion by S. Staff with second by D. Thompson to approve Kelly Johnson for District Office Manager/Bookkeeper position. Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0.

Motion by B. Koxlien with second by S. Staff to renew Tammy Stensven's 2018-19 Head Volleyball coaching contract on a probationary status pending contingencies with a mid-season review. Motion did not pass with roll call vote of 2 no, 2 yes, and 2 abstaining.

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by S. Staff to adjourn. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Fern Aleckson, Clerk