

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

President Troy Tenneson called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Board members present: Troy Tenneson, David Thompson, Michele Steien, Blaine Koxlien, Sarah Staff, Jeff Stalheim, and Perry Kujak. Also present: Jeff Eide & Lynn Halverson. Dana Eide and Katie Belitz were not present at tonight's meeting. Meeting live-streamed on Wildcat TV.

The Pledge of Allegiance recited.

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

Motion by S. Staff, with a second by D. Thompson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

No public comment tonight.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by J. Stalheim to approve minutes of the February 2021 public hearing, regular and closed session. Motion carried.

Motion by J. Stalheim, with a second by M. Steien to approve bills for the month of February. Motion carried by roll call vote. 7-0.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by P. Kujak to approve the financial statement for the month of February 2021. Motion carried by roll call vote. 7-0.

Board member S. Staff, inquired about our student's lunch accounts. Does our district have a high number of negative balances? Mr. Eide explained that we do have a few. Letters and emails have been sent notifying parents. However, nothing extensive.

Reports:

District Administrator - Jeff Eide - The principals, counselors, special education directors, curriculum coordinators and superintendent continued to meet throughout the year. All 4 school board and the coop leadership teams met on February 10th and went through a SWOT analysis. Coop Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. It was a very good meeting. We analyzed the data and presented that information out to the coop school boards on Wednesday, March 10, 2021. The coop school board will be discussing the results and next steps on Thursday, April 8th. Focus will be on goals and action plans moving forward.

The bidding process is complete. The school board has approved the vendors and we will begin the project in the first part of April. The plan is to begin with the 6th grade classrooms and business education classroom. As soon as possible we will begin on the baseball field. The daycare is not able to begin until after school is done, but as soon as school is complete, we will begin working on the daycare.

Elementary Principal - Lynn Halverson - Last week Tuesday, we had the cereal domino challenge. We collected 1,469 boxes to be donated to our local food pantries. A huge thank you to Jean Stenberg and Kim Tenneson for organizing this event. It was live streamed on Wildcat TV and a few members of the press attended as well.. Wisconsin Forward tests will be taken April 12 - 23rd for all 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th graders. Kindergarten teachers would like to put together a kindergarten graduation, allowing parents to come in and recognize their achievement. We are looking at options of going one classroom at a time, the first starting at 12:15, the second classroom at 1:00, and 1:45 would be the third classroom. Time will tell if we can make that happen. Mrs. Gappa would like to put together a virtual spring concert as she did

with the winter concert. She will record each homeroom doing different musical activities. Then put it together and share with the community via Facebook and the school website in mid May. Can't say enough about Mrs. Gappa. She is an excellent teacher. We continue to work on our master schedule. We have found many things we were forced to change this year are actually good things. We would like those to continue. Trying to get our hybrid schedule that worked this year with ideas from prior years to create a better master schedule than we have had before. Great big thank you to our elementary staff for all their hard work and cooperation with the many challenges this year has brought. "I can honestly say that I will put the experience we have given our students this year up against any school in the state of Wisconsin."

Board member J. Stalheim commented we have had great publicity with the cereal donation and also being able to keep our school face to face during the 2020-2021 school year especially during the pandemic.

Middle/High Principal - Dana Eide - Mrs. Eide was not able to attend, but left her updates for Mr. Eide to present to the board. State testing is underway. Most of the juniors have taken the ACT Exam. We are finishing up with the ones who did not take it yet. We are finalizing the schedule for the 7th and 8th graders taking the Forward Exam and the 9th and 10th graders taking the ACT Aspire. We also have a few English Language Learners in the district who are taking the ACCESS test. All testing should be completed by the end of April. The junior class advisors and their prom committee, are working with Mrs. Eide, Mrs. Semb and the County Health Department to finalize plans for prom. The date for prom is April 24th. We are modifying our plans to include the best opportunities for social distancing. Masks will be required.

Along with consulting with principals from around the area, Mrs. Eide has been working with the senior class advisors on details for graduation. We are leaning toward an outdoor ceremony, but again need to hash out the details with the department of health services before we can determine the number of people who can attend, etc. We know people will want to make plans, so we hope to work this all out soon. This is all subject to change should there be changes in the health status of our counties.

Special Ed Director - Katie Belitz - Ms. Belitz was not able to attend, leaving her updates to Mr. Eide to present to the board. Ms. Belitz provided a link presenting the TVC 2.0 Mental Health information video the community providers have created. Thank you to all that created a video to share out more information about their organization. They are doing a great job with the mental health support needs. In the past few years, Blair-Taylor, Independence, and Whitehall have been able to have in person community mental wellness events. We continue to have them virtually.

Action Items:

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by D. Thompson to approve CESA 10 services contract through 2022 at the cost of \$13,945.00. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by S. Staff to approve purchase of Chromebooks from CTL for the 8 grade levels for \$87,400. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion by J. Stalheim, with a second by D. Thompson, to approve purchase of new Macbook Air Devices \$52,740 for the staff. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion by P. Kujak, with a second by J. Stalheim, to approve the first reading of the Daycare handbook. Motion carried.

Motion by S. Staff, with a second by D. Thompson to approve Pam Nehring's retirement/resignation. We would like to Thank Pam for her many years of service and have a happy retirement. Motion carried.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by S. Staff, to move to closed session in accordance with State Statute 19.85(1)(c) to discuss staffing needs, school psychologist, softball coaching contracts, retirement/benefits/handbook, compensation model, Board Policy Committee.

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by J. Stalheim, to move to open session. Motion carried.

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by J. Stalheim, to approve Lauren Hendrickson school psychologist contract. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion by S. Staff, with a second by M. Steien, to approve JV & JV/C-Team softball contracts. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion by S. Staff, with a second by B. Koxlien, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Thompson".

David Thompson, Clerk