

BLAIR-TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY17th – 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, Sarah Staff, Michele Steien, Perry Kujak, Jeff Stalheim, and Blaine Koxlien. Also present: Jeff Eide, Dana Eide, Lynn Halverson, and Katie Belitz & Kris Smith. Meeting also live-streamed on Wildcat TV.

The Pledge of Allegiance recited.

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

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

Public comments - Kris Smith attended the meeting to Thank the Board personally for all their hard work during this very strange & stressful school year. It was very challenging for teachers but we are extremely fortunate to have a board who put the students first. Board member S. Staff commented, the board couldn't be as successful without the amazing staff.

Motion by D. Thompson, with second by M. Steien to approve April, 2021 regular & closed meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by J. Stalheim, with second by D. Thompson to approve bills for the month of April 2021. Motion passed by roll call vote 7-0.

Motion by M. Steien, with second by S. Staff to approve the April 2021 financial statement. Motion passed by roll call vote 7-0.

Discussion:

Jeff Belongia with Huntington Security gave an update via telephone of the refinance process. He explained the plan is to restructure the three debt amounts which are, the referendum project of \$4.145 million at a 1.17% interest rate, 2013 note of \$3.750 million at 3.50%, and 2018 note of \$4 million at 3.75%. He is anticipating in the end a total of \$11.895 million to be refinanced at around 2.00% interest rate. Mr. Belongia assured the board that we are on schedule to provide the final authorizing resolution at the June 21st meeting.

Reports:

District Administrator - Jeff Eide - The Coop will have their governing meeting next month. Strategic planning & curriculum meeting is scheduled for July 9th. Mr. Eide gave the board an update on the construction project. At this time each project is on track to be completed on schedule.

Elementary Principal- Lynn Halverson - We have 9 student days left. We are extremely grateful to have a field trip this year to Perrot Park. Grades 1 & 2 went Tuesday, grades 3-4 on Thursday and grades 5-6 on

Friday. Teachers continue to do an amazing job keeping our students engaged while the end of the school year is approaching.

Middle/High Principal - Dana Eide - We have a few virtual students left to take the state testing yet for this year. Our 8th grade recognition took place last Friday and was a huge success. The County Health Department approved that we are able to give 2 additional tickets to each graduate if the ceremony is held outdoors. However, if the ceremony takes place indoors we are limited to 6 guests per graduate. Mrs. Eide suggested a couple modification suggestions to graduation. She proposed no shaking hands or handing diplomas to graduates. However, the graduates will be able to remove their mask once they receive their diploma for a picture then put back on. Mrs. Eide would like to encourage a couple board members to be present to congratulate graduates. With the challenges of Covid and learning virtually, unfortunately, we do have 2 students not able to graduate even after attending summer school. It also looks like summer school for the Middle/High school will have about 44 students attending.

Special Education Director - Katie Belitz - Mental health grant application has been submitted. We will know if we are approved in July. We are finishing the end of the year testing.

Action Items:

Motion by D. Thompson, with a second by S. Staff, to approve Board Policy Updates and Approval Second Reading. Motion carried.

Motion by M. Steien, with a second by D. Thompson, to approve Consent Agenda Items which includes:

- ~Early Graduation Requests,
- ~Haylei Lyga maternity leave
- ~Scott Hovell resignation,
- ~Johnson Block, Auditor engagement letter,
- ~IT Contract for 2021-2022 school year,
- ~Marin Berghagen Art Teacher Contract.

Motion carried by roll call vote. 7-0.

Motion by J. Stalheim, with a second by D. Thompson, to move to closed session in accordance with State Statute 19.85(1)(c) to discuss extra-curricular/winter sports contracts, staffing needs, and administration/contracts.

Motion by P. Kujak, with a second by S. Staff, to move to open session. Motion carried.

Motion by M. Steien, second by J. Stalheim, to approve extra-curricular/winter sports contracts as presented, Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

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

Respectfully submitted,


David Thompson, Clerk