

BLAIR-TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017 – 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, D. Eide, Katie Belitz, Amber Lambright, Jeff Belongia, John Higley, Rich Kostner, Fred Nehring, and Lee Henschel.

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

Motion by S. Staff with second by D. Thompson to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

No public comments.

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by P. Kujak to approve the minutes of the November 2017 regular meeting and closed session and bills for the month of November. November bills include payroll advice of deposits #28377-28575, payroll checks #58169-58176, money wires #259, #504-505, #3352-3353, expense checks #15373-15379, #58890-59023, and employee-paid HSA contributions of \$1,365.00. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

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

Jeff Belongia from Hutchinson, Schockey, Erley & Co. spoke about refinancing the school district's 17M building/referendum debt. The 6.985M promissory notes have been parked at a 2% interest rate with upcoming balloon payments of 3.5M in 2019 and 3.485M in 2020. Interest rates on the 10M promissory notes are lower than the issue rate with future balloon payments of 3.75M in 2022 and 4M in 2023. Two-step refinancing option was chosen instead of a 20-year debt schedule to save thousands of dollars in interest payments, which has happened. Interest rates have remained low, but they're always subject to change. Balloon payments will be refinanced until total building/referendum debt is paid off with annual debt service payments of 1.2M to 1.3M. Board members agreed to move forward with Jeff Belongia's refinancing plan. If Board takes action at their March meeting, then refinancing could be done as early as June.

Student Council Report by Amber Lambright: Planning a winter formal dance that will be held on January 27th. Dana Eide added that on behalf of the Lettermen's Club Amber Lambright does part of the morning announcements each day. She does a great job keeping everyone informed of the athletic events, as she is very enthusiastic, positive, and shows her school spirit. In response to last month's request about a Student Council member having more input at the school board meetings, Chad Williamson is working on a proposal.

John Higley from TCC presented a new telephone option that would replace our current Nortel telephone system. TCC has been selling and servicing telephone systems since 1990 and is highly recommended by several area schools. Sample of smaller telephone that would be installed in each classroom was viewed, but larger telephones would be installed in administrative offices. Their telephone system would be connected through the internet instead of telephone lines. Fiber lines and internet services have been very dependable, but if the internet goes down, the telephones would also go down. Installation of new system would take about three to four days onsite. Ryan Hanson indicated that proper connections should be in classrooms already. Configuring the telephone extensions could be done remotely in advance.

Reports:

Superintendent by Jeff Eide: Ashley Furniture is building a mobile trailer that will have several exploratory and educational options with technical education emphasis for all students. An illustration of the 900 sq. foot, ADA accessible expandable unit was viewed. Ashley Furniture is spending 1.2M on this high-tech educational unit that should be ready by the next school year. The four consortium schools will each use the trailer for one quarter. Potential units of study are: DC/AC Power Basics, Introduction to Electromechanical Technology, Basic Electronics, Basic Industrial Controls, Basic PLC Programming, SolidWorks Principles-CAD, Fluid Power Fundamentals (Basic Hydraulics and Basic Pneumatics), Introduction to Mechanical Drives, Measurement and Inspection, Blueprint Literacy, Basic Sensor Technology Applications, and Basic Manufacturing Robotic Systems. Students will have opportunities that otherwise they would not have until at a technical school level. Current staff may not have time to teach in the trailer so consortium may need to hire a teacher that would stay with the trailer. Joint Powers Agreement will be discussed at January 10th Consortium Board meeting, as Ashley Furniture wants assurance that all schools will buy into this. Preliminary estimated cost is \$30,000 per school district. Ashley Furniture is sponsoring two Robotics teams – grades 5-6 and 7-8.

Middle/High School Principal Report by Dana Eide: Gearing up for Snow Fest, which FFA is organizing, will be held on December 22nd. Have a couple of community-hosted sessions as Sons of Norway will be demonstrating woodcarving and baking. Community-service opportunities such as making cards for Grand View residents or hats for elementary students will also be available. Heavy duty ACT testing preparation will begin in early 2018. Boot Camp with Alma Center Lincoln and Melrose-Mindoro is scheduled for February 14th.

Elementary Principal's Report: He felt very good about the winter concerts held on December 15^h, as the sound was very good and the audience could see the students performing much better. Comments should be directed to him. The first concert started later than expected. For future elementary concerts, we need to let people know about available space in the east high school parking lot and that the east and commons entrance doors are open. High school students were able to view the concerts on the school televisions.

School Psychologist Report by K. Belitz: Big Cats/Little Cats are doing many fun activities for their holiday celebrations. Will be looking at Special Education caseload numbers during holiday break. Numbers of groups are growing, as students are moving in or transferring back in as new referrals.

Action Items:

It was agreed that it will not work to have the announcing stand on top of the softball concession stand/storage shed. Motion by D. Thompson with second by S. Staff to approve D & D Builder's bid for the softball concession stand/storage shed in the amount of \$7,920. 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 7:00 p.m. in accordance with State Statute 19.85 (1) (c) (f) to discuss school psychologist pay. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Fern Aleckson, Clerk