

BLAIR-TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 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, Mandy Swenson, Hilary Walters, Briana Collins, 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 F. Aleckson to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

No public comments.

Motion by P. Kujak with second by S. Staff to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2017 regular and closed sessions and December 12 and 13, 2017 special meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by P. Kujak to approve bills for the month of December. December bills include payroll advice of deposits #28576-28782, payroll checks #58177-58185, money wires #260, #506-507, #3354-3355, expense checks #15380-15382, #59024-59136, employee-paid HSA contributions of \$1,115.00, and employer-paid HSA contributions of \$1,500.00. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by T. Tenneson to approve the December financial statement. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Reports:

No Student Council report.

Superintendent Report by Jeff Eide: The health insurance consortium has sent out Requests for Proposals, which are due back by January 26, 2018. Thank-you note from Nola Olson family was shared.

Middle/High School Principal Report by Dana Eide: Elementary and middle/high school staff has been working together on the school improvement plan with its goal to increase effective collaboration and sense of community in order to improve school climate and culture, positive behavior, and high impact practices.

Elementary Principal Report by Lynn Halverson: Mid-year booster activities for Wildcat Way took place on January 4th and 5th as a refresher for positive student behavior. The number of elementary students' minors and majors are 380 less compared to this time last year, so this shows a major improvement.

School Psychologist Report by K. Belitz: Child Development Day is scheduled for February 1st at which time young children will be screened for the Early Learning program. Jackson and Trempealeau County birth to three programs will also be screening children as young as four months old. Middle school students will be having Lifeline Suicide training on January 26th and high school students will be having a refresher course.

Discussion Items:

School Improvement Team, consisting of teachers and administrators, attended SAIL (School Administrators Institute for Transformational Leadership) Conference last summer. They gathered data and created a school improvement goal with a 100-day plan that was implemented, and then followed by a second 100-day plan. An outline stated how the first 100-day steps for improving school climate and culture were accomplished and what

will be done during the second 100 days. Main focus was effective collaboration for all teams. Diagram was created to provide a visual definition of what collaboration includes such as communication, trust, respect, coherence, investment, student-centered, having fun, quality professional learning time for all staff, coaching and mentoring, guaranteed and viable curriculum, PBIS Wildcat Way, positive behaviors, culture and climate, high impact practices, and teams focused on student growth and relationships. Our diagram was shared at the SAIL conference with attendees being very impressed, as it is inclusive of what we working on to meet our goals. It was the general feeling that together we can do great things and communication is imperative.

SoSET (School of Science, Engineering, and Technology) Charter School (school within a school) was created in 2004. At that time the SoSET advantage was one-to-one technology, guided reading, inquiry-based learning, critical thinking, and learning independently. At the present time it seems that the advantage would be to apply what's happening in SoSET to the entire elementary school for the benefit of all students. Our current SoSET contract with DPI goes until 6-30-2019, but it can be terminated at any time if the SoSET governance board and school district wish to. If our DPI SoSET contract is terminated, our school district would have only one elementary school for all DPI purposes. Positive reasons for disbanding SoSET – would enable school district to have more flexibility in staffing, one grade level to teach would be easier for teachers, one state report card for all elementary school instead of current two, expand engineering buddies for everyone. Negative reasons would be community feelings and teacher/student relationships that are developed when students are in the same classroom for more than one year. Projected student numbers for 2018-19 school year with potential teacher assignments were shared with lower student numbers in lower grades and higher student numbers in upper grades. Same number of staff would be maintained with all attempts to keep teachers in same grade levels year after year. The staff's general feeling about this change has been positive so far, as they understand why it's being done – to have the best opportunities and teachers for all grade levels and classrooms. Further discussions will take place with staff and letters will be sent home to parents. Will be on agenda for next month's meeting.

Action Items:

In accordance with Wisconsin State Statute and Administrative Code requirements to designate for the following school year the number of open enrollment regular education spaces by grade and special education spaces by program or services, motion was made by S. Staff to not limit the number of regular and special education open enrollment spaces for the 2018-19 school year. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by S. Staff with second by T. Tenneson that Board members attending the WASB Convention will not conduct any governmental business. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by D. Thompson with second by F. Aleckson to approve the following Odyssey of the Mind coaches: Grade 4 – Joshua Nelson, Grade 5 – Karen Kling, Grade 6 – Baleigh Kehe, Grade 7 – Shadow Henton, Head/High School – Carlene Wolter. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by P. Kujak with second by F. Aleckson to move to closed session at 6:40 p.m. in accordance with State Statute 19.85 (1) (c) (f) to discuss staffing needs, spring and fall coaching contracts, and administrative evaluation/survey. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Fern Aleckson, Clerk