

BLAIR-TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2014 – 5:30 P.M.

President D. Smikrud called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Board members present: F. Aleckson, R. Arneson, B. Koxlien, P. Kujak, K. Lien, D. Smikrud, and T. Tenneson. Also present: J. Eide, D. Eide, M. Thomley, Chris Stalheim, Ben Johnson, Dwight Frederixon, Billie Koxlien, Lorraine and Mahalia Dryak, Lee Henschel, and Fred Nehring.

Mission statement was read aloud.

Public Comment: Billie Koxlien expressed her concerns about the fourth grade teaching position, which is being filled with a long-term substitute who is not a DPI certified teacher.

Motion by R. Arneson, seconded by F. Aleckson to approve minutes of the August regular/closed meeting, August 21<sup>st</sup> special meeting, and August bills. Bills for August include payroll check #57824, payroll advice of deposits #20663-20720, money wires #220, #424-425, #3274-3275, expense checks #5004, #15123-15130, computer expense checks #54229-54299 and #500148-500164. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by K. Lien, seconded by F. Aleckson to approve the August Financial Statement. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Student Council has a new advisor, Carlene Wolter, and are getting their first meeting organized.

C. Stalheim's Technology Report: The extra week was very needed and appreciated for technology preparations. STAR assessments are being used at both elementary and middle/high school levels with results being used for Response to Intervention identification. Different ways to teach students who need extra help are being piloted.

Building Plan Update by Ben Johnson: Unit B (sixth grade classrooms) and Unit J (7-12 commons and hallway) should be completed by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Maple wood flooring is being installed in the gymnasium. Construction work on the library, band and vocal area, and auditorium are on schedule. Metal panels on the exterior north side should all be installed within a few days. Keys fobs currently work on the primary entrances, but there are some key and security issues needing to be addressed at both the existing and new areas of the building.

Legislative Report by Jeff Eide: State Superintendent Tony Evers recently announced that two of the areas he will be emphasizing this year are school safety and technology.

Jeff Eide's Report: Regular Board meeting for October will be on Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:30 p.m. followed by the budget hearing at 6:30 p.m. and annual meeting at 7:00 p.m. Flooring crew for the gymnasium floor has been working hard and making very good progress.

M. Thomley's Report: DPI recently released our state report card with grades of SoSET exceeds expectations, K-6 meets expectations, and overall district exceeds expectations. We have really been focusing on reading and math achievement and comprehension. Extra week of preparation was appreciated. With so many changes taking place at the start of this school year the teachers have been flexible and the excitement level is high. Annual safety night will be held on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at Blair Fire Hall. 36 new elementary students have enrolled this year.

D. Eide's Report: State report card shows that students tested in 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grades also meet expectations. Reading and math achievement went up, reading growth went up, but math growth did not. Important part of the testing is that students are learning the data. There was a K-12 pep rally on the first day of school encouraging students to work hard in school and be successful. Homecoming week is this week so many activities are taking place with seniors working cooperatively to include the elementary school. There is no parade this year, but bon fire will take place on Thursday night after the volleyball game, tailgate party on Friday, and dance on Saturday night hopefully in the new 7-12 commons. Many of the new middle/high school students were previously enrolled here.

Discussion Items:

Preliminary 2014-15 Budget: Preliminary state aid numbers from the state on July 1<sup>st</sup> showed another decrease in what our school district will receive. Final numbers will be known on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Land values in our school district are growing faster than the average school district, resulting in less state aids. Revenue and expenditure variances from 2013-14 actual figures in comparison to 2014-15 proposed figures were explained. Currently expenditures are approximately \$454,000 more than revenues.

Storage Building: Dwight Frederixson recommended that as a cost savings the school district consider building two storage sheds – one 40 ft. x 52 ft. and one heated 40 ft. x 40 ft. – instead of one storage shed. Board members asked that building plans be designed and call a special meeting when plan is ready. Middle of October is the latest possible start date for this season. The option of waiting until year was also mentioned.

Youth Options: Mahalia Dryak is requesting permission to take two college-level courses earning up to six credits. Courses would be taught at the university with the school district paying the tuition costs.

Yearly School Calendar: Later start date in September was very beneficial, but four student days need to be made up. Recommended dates are: November 7, January 26, June 4, and June 5.

Motion by K. Lien, seconded by P. Kujak to approve the 2014-15 preliminary budget with Fund 10 expenditures of \$7,324,268. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by T. Tenneson, seconded by P. Kujak to table the storage building and have a special meeting to further discuss on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Motion passed.

Motion by D. Smikrud, seconded by R. Arneson to approve Mahalia Dryak's Youth Options request allowing her to take two college-level courses earning up to six college credits, which will be paid by the school district. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by R. Arneson, seconded by F. Aleckson to approve the adjusted 2014-15 school calendar with November 7, January 26, June 4, and June 5 being changed to student days. Motion passed.

Motion by F. Aleckson, seconded by T. Tenneson to approve extra-curricular contract for Carlene Wolter as Student Council Advisor. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by R. Arneson, seconded by T. Tenneson to approve extra-curricular contract for Kimberly Nehring as Assistant Middle School Volleyball Coach. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by T. Tenneson, seconded by F. Aleckson to move to closed session at 7:00 p.m. in accordance with State Statute 19.85 (1) (c) to discuss employment certification needs and spring coaching contracts. Motion carried.

Motion by K. Lien, seconded by T. Tenneson to reconvene in open session. Motion passed.

Motion by K. Lien, seconded by P. Kujak to approve the following coaching contracts for spring sports: Allan Lien-Head Track, Gregory Bratina-Head Softball, Kimberly Nehring-Assistant Softball, Joshua Peterson-Head Baseball, Michael Soto-Assistant Baseball, Allison Thomley-Middle School Track, and Bradley Becker-Assistant Middle School Track. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by R. Arneson, seconded by F. Aleckson to adjourn. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Fern Aleckson, Clerk