

BLAIR-TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 28, 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, T. Tenneson. Also present: D. Dervetski, J. Eide, D. Eide, M. Thomley, Chris Stalheim, Joe Clark, Katie Bentz, Greg Bratina, Julie Gappa, Sue Guenther, Andrea Hanson, Angie Hong, Kim Joten, Terry Kling, Ned Laughery, Kari Lejcher, Laurie Marsh, Kelly Mattison, Linda and Ken Nereng, Lisa Nestingen, Karen Pennekamp, Lisa Perry, Sandy Serum, Shari Solberg, Brent Steinke, Brooke Bahr, Erin Hoff, Tanner Patzner, Marissa Tenneson, Kristy Benedict, Terry Lien, Joan Woyicki, Judy and Jay Bettker, Becky Elvaker, Charlie and Lars Everson, Darrin Jahr, Patti Juszcak, Gwen and Aaron Kidd, Lee Henschel, Whitehall Times reporter, Ernie Tourville, Ben Johnson, Kevin Lisowski, and Tim Ruppert.

Motion by F. Aleckson, seconded by R. Arneson to amend agenda by adding Chris Stalheim's Technology Report as the fourth report. Motion passed.

Mission statement was read aloud.

Joe Clark was recognized and thanked for his eight years of dedicated service to the Blair-Taylor Board of Education. J. Clark stated that it was a great opportunity for him to learn about the school district and the community should be very proud of our United Campus.

Official Oath of Office was administered to Randi Arneson.

R. Arneson made a motion to nominate D. Smikrud as President. Motion by F. Aleckson to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for D. Smikrud. Motion passed with all members voting yes. David Smikrud will serve as President.

Motion by F. Aleckson to nominate T. Tenneson as Vice-President. Motion by K. Lien to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for T. Tenneson. Motion passed with all members voting yes. Troy Tenneson will serve as Vice-President.

F. Aleckson made a motion to nominate R. Arneson as Treasurer. Motion by T. Tenneson to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for R. Arneson. Motion passed with all members voting yes. Randi Arneson will serve as Treasurer.

Motion by R. Arneson to nominate F. Aleckson as Clerk. Motion by T. Tenneson to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for F. Aleckson. Motion passed with all members voting yes. Fern Aleckson will serve as Clerk.

Motion by F. Aleckson, seconded by T. Tenneson to approve the 2014-15 Committees as follows:
Finance/Property/Transportation: P. Kujak, K. Lien, D. Smikrud. **Long-Range Planning/Safe Facilities:** R. Arneson, P. Kujak, D. Smikrud. **Board Policy Review:** F. Aleckson, R. Arneson, K. Lien. **Teacher Negotiations:** F. Aleckson, B. Koxlien, D. Smikrud. **Support Staff Negotiations:** R. Arneson, P. Kujak, T. Tenneson. Motion passed.

Motion by F. Aleckson, seconded by K. Lien that regular Board of Education meetings for 2014-15 year be held on the third Monday of each month beginning at 5:30 p.m. alternating between Blair and Taylor locations. Motion passed.

Public comments: A letter written by Judy and Jay Bettker in support of Terry Kling was read by Laurie Marsh. Laurie Marsh asked that the district not reduce teachers, especially Terry Kling as she encourages project-based learning and does a very good job with both academics and discipline. Speaking in support of Terry Kling, Patti Juszcak stated that Terry Kling is a real asset to our school district. Sue Guenther commented that Terry Kling was an excellent teacher for her son and that students entering middle school always talk about their former elementary teacher-Terry Kling. Tanner Patzner, former student of Terry Kling, stated that she was a great teacher. Andrew Lien said that his son really flourished while in Terry Kling's room. Darrin Jahr expressed his concerns about the future of the K-6 building and that the building and/or space continues to be maintained and an asset to the community. Ned Laughery stated that if Terry Kling is let go with no valid reasons, it would be an injustice. Greg Bratina spoke in support of Terry Kling, as his son's reading really improved while in her classroom and really appreciated everything she did to make his son's first year at Blair-Taylor successful.

Motion by R. Arneson, seconded by K. Lien to approve March regular/closed and special meeting minutes and March bills. Bills for March include payroll checks #57777-57788, payroll advice of deposits #19424-19648, money wires #77-79, #215, #414-415, #3264-3265, expense checks #5001-5002, #15086-15093, computer expense checks #53783-53870, and computer expense checks #500047-500056. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by F. Aleckson, seconded by T. Tenneson to approve the March Financial Statement. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Student Council Report by Marissa Tenneson: Amber Lambright will be new freshmen council member for next year and officers will be President-Marissa Tenneson, Vice-President-Bethany Ginther, Treasurer-Mahalia Dryak, and Secretary-Tanner Patzner.

SADD Report by Erin Hoff and Brooke Bahr: Had a complete new slate of officers this past year. During Healthy Behavior Week SADD promoted dress-up days and stressed a healthy behavior each day. Members also connected with elementary students by dressing up as Super Heroes, talking about healthy behaviors, presenting skits, and reading Dr. Seuss books. Members who attended the Teen Summit Conference in Wisconsin Dells felt it was a very good experience. Conference was about healthy and abusive relationships with stories and presentations from students.

HSE Report by Jeff Belongia: The second phase of borrowing (\$6,985,000) for new facility will be finalized on May 14, 2014. School district received an A+ rating with interest rate of 1.9% for six years. 20-year rate is currently 3.75% with an average of 3.55%. Local bank invested \$500,000 in this loan. J. Belongia was very impressed with the community support for the building referendum and appreciated working with the Administration and Board.

Technology Report by Chris Stalheim: High school laptops were checked for minor repairs and will be checked again this summer. High school students will have bags for carrying their laptops. Will convert computer labs to be iPad accessible for Read 180 program. Read 180 may be added in grades 4-6. Library books will be available to students online giving them access to thousands of books. Will be K-12 effort to change computer settings for next year.

Construction Report by TCI: Gymnasium floor should be poured on May 1st and will take 65-75 days to cure. Working on finishes in one part of the building and still digging in other areas. Weather has been conducive for construction work. As soon as school is over, interior remodeling of the 7-12 building will begin. Thanks to the administration for moving everything to the elementary building for the summer so all work can continue. Bid package #5 for finishes and specialty items was presented.

No Legislative Report.

D. Dervetski's Report: Construction tours on May 6th – with students and staff during the day and community in the evening. NorthStar has completed asbestos and lead sampling of the K-6 building with results expected by next week. There are some interested parties in the K-6 building. Dedication ceremony for United Campus is tentatively set for Sunday, December 7th. Upcoming Board meeting schedule: May-Taylor, June-Blair K-6 LMC, July-Taylor, August-Blair K-6 LMC, and hopefully September in new United Campus building. 7-12 building will be cleared out by May 16th. Moving date to United Campus building is scheduled for August 15th. Mr. D. will be contacting members to schedule committee meetings with B-T Cleaning Service and Noren Transport, Inc.

J. Eide's Report: Upcoming end-of-year events: May 3rd = State Solo Ensembles and FFA Banquet, May 4th = Baccalaureate Service and Senior Award's Night, May 5th & 6th = Senior exit interviews, May 9th = 8th Grade Recognition, May 10th = Graduation. During the Senior exit interviews it has been great to see how the students have grown over the past four years. P. Kujak and T. Tenneson will present diplomas at graduation. Due to the limited parking at the high school a shuttle service will run from elementary to high school beginning at 11:30 a.m. and again after the ceremony.

M. Thomley's Report: Elementary musical program from March 28th will be broadcast on TCC. Great job students and staff! During the end-of-year assessments other students participated in mini-lessons. Upcoming end-of-year events: April 29th = 4th Grade Regional Heritage Fair & Title I May Day celebration, May 2nd: Kids College at UW-La Crosse, May 7th = 6th Grade DARE Graduation, May 8th = Kindergarten Graduation, May 9th = Park Day, May 14th = 4-Kindergarten registration. During Title I May Day celebration students will be making baskets, receiving free books along with a pizza supper. Parents provide input for Title I services.

D. Eide's Report: Graduation will be live-streamed this year. 6th graders will be visiting the middle school on April 30th. Recognition event for academics and extra-curricular was held last week for high school students. B-T High School received a bronze medal from US News and World Report as a Best High School. This award is based on student-teacher ratios, the percentage of students participating in AP courses, and student performance in reading and math. Staff and students should be commended for this accomplishment!

BTUEA officers Katie Bentz, Andrea Hanson, Lisa Perry, and Kim Joten commented that with decreasing a teacher it has created issues such as an anxious climate and low morale in both buildings as staff members are concerned about job security. Our school district has always put students first and should continue to be marketable for students with our small class sizes. Hopefully this matter can be worked out in good faith.

Terry Kling expressed her gratitude to everyone for their support. She spoke about her teaching career and teaching style. As an educator she sets both the academic and behavioral bar high for her students and often refers to a quote "to teach is to touch a life forever." She has given a lot to this school district and would like to give more as her roots are here. Blair-Taylor staff and students are her extended family.

Charlotte Everson spoke on behalf of Terry Kling and that she engaged her children in learning. She questioned why these cuts are needed and who is deciding to cut teachers. She suggested that teachers be re-positioned according to grade needs and urged that we do not take the people away who are educating our children. School district should ask large-scale businesses for financial support, specifically the area sand mines.

Motion by K. Lien, seconded by F. Aleckson to approve resolution authorizing the issuance and awarding the sale of \$6,985,000 general obligation promissory notes. Motion passed by roll call with all members voting yes.

Motion by R. Arneson, seconded by P. Kujak to approve bid package #5 for the following: H.J. Martin & Son = \$63,580 for ceramic tiles, H.J. Martin & Son = \$235,366 for carpet and resilient flooring, Central Ceiling Systems = \$188,886 for acoustical ceilings, Masse's = \$24,500 for epoxy floor coatings, Anderson Ladd = \$13,565 for wood stage flooring, MJLP = \$144,686 for painting, John Buhler = 20,441 for specialty items, Bartley Sales = 27,106 for

specialty items, Direct Office = 10,240 for specialty items, Kadee = 21,292 for specialty items, WL Hall = \$9,261 for operable partitions, Creative Sign Co. = \$15,694 for signage, North Central Insulation = \$24,680 for acoustical spray, Wynn O. Jones & Associates = 202,452 for casework. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by F. Aleckson, seconded by R. Arneson to appoint D. Smikrud as CESA #4 annual convention representative. Motion carried.

Motion by F. Aleckson, seconded by R. Arneson to approve 2014-15 CESA #4 service contracts for \$73,453. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by D. Smikrud, seconded by K. Lien to approve 2014-15 CESA #5 data processing support service contract. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by F. Aleckson, seconded by K. Lien to approve contract with Johnson Block Co. for 2013-14 audit services. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by R. Arneson, seconded by K. Lien to approve contract with Hanson Consulting Services for 2014-15 computer support services for \$37,332. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by K. Lien, seconded by P. Kujak to approve the new 2014-15 school calendar. Motion passed. Since schools are no longer required to have 180 student days, more teacher in-service days were added to the calendar and student days were decreased.

Motion by R. Arneson, seconded by K. Lien to accept the resignations of Brynn Parker-School Psychologist, and Alyssa Riemer-Vocal Music teacher. Motion passed.

Motion by R. Arneson, seconded by K. Lien to accept the retirements of James Hoepner-Middle School Social Studies teacher, and Dennis Dervetski-Superintendent. Motion carried.

D. Smikrud announced that the school district would be moving from four to three administrative positions and that one-year contracts have been offered to Jeffrey Eide-Superintendent, Michael Thomley-K-6 Principal, and Dana Eide-7-12 Principal. Board members are looking forward to this new arrangement.

Motion by F. Aleckson, seconded by R. Arneson to move to closed session at 8:15 p.m. in accordance with State Statute 19.85 (1) (c) (f) to discuss and/or approve administrative contracts, non-renewal, and letters of intent. Motion passed.

Motion by K. Lien, seconded by F. Aleckson to move back to open session. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion by R. Arneson, seconded by F. Aleckson to approve Jeffrey Eide's and Dana Eide's administrative contracts. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by R. Arneson, seconded by F. Aleckson to approve Michael Thomley's administrative contract for two years and remove "probationary" from the contract. Motion passed by roll call vote with five members voting yes and two members (P. Kujak, K. Lien) voting no.

Motion by F. Aleckson, seconded by P. Kujak to approve teacher letters of intent, as presented. Letters of intent not given to Brynn Parker, James Hoepner, Terry Kling, and Alyssa Riemer. Motion passed by roll call vote with six members voting yes and one member (D. Smikrud) voting no.

Motion by R. Arneson, seconded by K. Lien to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fern Aleckson, Clerk