

BLAIR-TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 16th – 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, Blaine Koxlien, Sarah Staff, Jeff Stalheim, Michelle Steien, Perry Kujak. Also present: Dana Eide, Lynn Halverson, Katie Belitz, Kari Lejcher, Karen Pennekamp, Gwen Kidd, Lori Lisowski, Kari Ekern, and Lauren Steien. Jeff Eide by Google Hangout.

The Pledge of Allegiance recited.

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

Public Comment- Kari Lejcher and Karen Pennekamp express concerns regarding hourly support staff pay during the Covid-19 school closure.

Motion by S. Staff, with second by M. Steien to approve the amended agenda. Motion passed by majority.

Motion by J. Stalheim, with second by D. Thompson to approve February 2020 Co-op and closed meeting minutes. Motion passed by roll call vote 7-0.

Motion by J. Stalheim, with second by S. Staff to approve bills for the month of February 2020. Motion passed by roll call vote 7-0.

Motion by M. Steien, with second by D. Thompson to approve the February 2020 financial statement. Motion passed by roll call vote 7-0.

Student Council Representative – Lauren Steien. Student Council has decided to cancel any remaining events due to the mandatory school closure.

Superintendent Report – Jeff Eide. Shout-out to the Admin. staff for collaborating all the steps for the Government Evers mandatory school closure. Also, a shout out to all the teachers for working so diligently to getting student packets ready for a 3 week school closure. Earth day will not take place.

Elementary Principal's Report – Lynn Halverson. Shout outs to all the Blair-Taylor District staff. Just trying to keep everyone, staff & families updated on accurate information regarding the closing. Main concerns were daycare and food. Main priority to keep families updated.

Middle School/High School Principal Report – Dana Eide. Updated the board how we are informing students with accurate information regarding the plan for what's expected of them during the required school closure. Examples were presented of what teachers are sending home for students to work on while on break. There are 27 juniors who will retake the ACT test tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17th. Parent-teacher attendance was over 50% in the high school level. Middle school was almost 100%. Jenny Semb, our school nurse has an addendum to our overnight field trip policy regarding prescription medication. Dana will bring that to the next board meeting.

Special Education Director – Katie Belitz. Currently working on a lot of IEP evaluations due to the COVID-19 closure. The board was updated regarding changes to the restraint law beginning in October.

Discussion Items:

Review/discuss Calendar 2021-2022 School Year- This will be tabled and discussed at a future meeting.

Review/discuss the closure – Cleaning service did an extra 6 hours of cleaning yesterday, Sunday, March 15th to better sanitize while the school is still operating. We are abiding by the state mandate to close March 18 at 5:00 p.m. - April 3rd. School closure information and COVID-19 frequently asked questions will be available on the school's website.

We can submit a waiver to waive instructional days so we will not need to make up missing days. We can also submit a waiver to suspend the state testing in the spring.

Action Items:

Motion by J. Stalheim with a second by S. Staff to approve closing school on Tuesday, March 17th at 5:00 p.m. Motion passed.

Motion by S. Staff with second by M. Steien to approve the Trap Team becoming a lettering sport beginning this year and budget request needs in the 2020-21 school year. Motion passed by roll call vote 7-0.

Motion by M. Steien with second by J. Stalheim to approve Jessica Lien (bookkeeper) access to the remaining school accounts listed in the letter with the Union Bank of Blair. Motion passed by roll call vote 7-0.

Motion by S. Staff with second by D. Thompson to approve the resignation/retirement request by Speech & Language teacher, Kelly Mattison. Motion passed by roll call vote 7-0.

Motion by D. Thompson with second by J. Stalheim to move to closed session in accordance with State Statute 19.85(1)(f) to discuss staffing needs - Alt Education/Graduation, personnel concern. Motion carried.

Motion by D. Thompson with a second by S. Staff to move into open session. Motion approved.

Motion by D. Thompson with a second by M. Steien, to approve paying up to 6 credits for a staff member (Cassie Geary) who is taking courses to become certified for our Alternative Education program. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by J. Stalheim with a second by D. Thompson, to approve an alternative education student to walk at graduation as long as no other concerns arise prior to graduation. Motion carried 7-0.

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

Respectfully Submitted,


David Thompson, Clerk