

BLAIR-TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2016 – 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, B. Koxlien, P. Kujak, K. Lien, D. Smikrud, J. Stalheim, and T. Tenneson. Also present: J. Eide, D. Eide, L. Halverson, Kari Lejcher, Kevin Lisowski, Jeremy Tranberg, Carol Ekern, Steve Nelson, Cindy Noren, Breanna Janzen, Jennifer Lambright, Troy Lindberg, Mark Olson, Lee Henschel, and Fred Nehring.

Mission statement was read aloud.

Public comments: Carol Ekern expressed her concerns on how long the bus routes will be if transportation service is contracted with Pape and asked why parents were not notified by the School Board of this change. Questionnaires should have been sent out to parents involved.

Motion by K. Lien with second by J. Stalheim to approve the February regular, closed, and special minutes and bills for the month of February. February bills include payroll checks #57968-57975, payroll advice of deposits #24209-24410, money wires #238, #460-461, #3310-3311, expense checks #15253-15258, #56339-56459, and #500282-500283. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by K. Lien with second by P. Kujak to approve the February financial statement. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Student Council Report by B. Janzen and J. Lambright: Two new members will be voted in at semester time. Working on resumes of 8th graders. Trying to order suitable recycling bins.

J. Eide's Report: Community member suggested that the school purchase four water fillers (about \$450.00 each) with two for the elementary and two for the middle/high school. Could be purchased with Fund 21 funds if approved. Painting on nature case has started. Hall of Honor committee has been meeting regularly and are trying to create nomination criteria for people who've made significant contributions to society. Lion's Club has generously donated \$3,000 towards this project. 40 feet of the hallway from the library to auditorium will be used for Hall of Honor and another 40 feet will be used for the Wildcat Way, which will have large Wildcat paws and recognize a student each year.

L. Halverson's Report: Evenings of March 22 and March 31 – Parent-Teacher Conferences, April 8 - Booster Club/PTO Carnival 2:00-6:00 p.m., May 27 - Spring Concert at 1:30 p.m., June 15-16-17 – training for new Collaborative Literacy program. March 30 – May 20 is window for state testing. Information will be sent home to parents on how they can help their children prepare for testing. A concern about the short time frame allowed for ordering the elementary yearbook was discussed.

D. Eide's Report: Parents can schedule conference times through Skyward. Scott Pooler is getting computers ready for upcoming testing. All spring sports are practicing and one baseball game date has been changed already due to number of practices per WIAA rules. In an attempt to help middle school students get organized assignment notebooks will be used for the fourth quarter. 47 students signed up for this pilot project, which seniors also helped with. Eight teachers are taking a reading and language arts class (Building Academic Vocabulary) offered through CESA #4. Teachers can take the course for a credit through UW-La Crosse or professional development.

Discussion Items:

Jeremy Tranberg spoke about the 2016 season for the Western Wildcats semi-pro football team. Their outstanding building usage fee from the 2015 season has been paid. He has been working on getting sponsors to help defray team expenses and talking with local organizations to give them the opportunity to earn money by working the concession stand. Arrangements will be made for clean-up crews to work after each game. Currently there are 42 players interested.

Kevin Lisowski, Blair American Legion member, spoke about the Wall of Honor project that would bring a veteran focus to the school. Display cabinets would be located on the west wall of the 7-12 commons. Names of veterans from Blair, Taylor, and Blair-Taylor back to 1915 would be grouped by decades. Norman and Brenda Olson are helping to provide the Taylor names as the local veteran services offices could not give out names. Total budget for project is \$10,000, which will be fully funded by donations. Cheese Fest Committee has generously donated \$6,000. Fire extinguisher cabinet and fire alarm strobe will need to be moved to have the display symmetrical, but work will be donated by local companies. Project has three phases and hopefully the first two phases will be done by Memorial Day. A Wall of Honor website was created by Isaac Walters that will be ongoing.

J. Eide and L. Halverson attended a two-day workshop in late February on ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training. Statistics show from past school shootings that there were more fatalities when a passive approach was used. ALICE training is a proactive approach for an active shooter or someone with a weapon. ALICE training provides guidelines, then gives staff the authority to make decisions for survival – evacuate if possible, barricade the door, or throw something at the intruder. Usually we have lockdown practices twice per year, but our safety plan should be reviewed monthly. Although it is an unpopular topic we need to plan and prepare. Initial presentation on ALICE training will be made to staff on April 15th.

New counter tops for the middle/high school science lab were cut from the referendum building project budget, but still need replacing. Estimated cost for counter tops that would cover the existing ones and are made of material that resists chemicals is \$13,750 plus installation costs. This could be a Fund 21 expenditure and will be an action item in April.

Action Items:

Motion by T. Tenneson with second by F. Aleckson to approve the second reading of Policies #321-The School Calendar, #322-The School Day, #323-Special Observance Days, #331-Curriculum Guides, #332-Curriculum Evaluation, #341-Basic Instructional Program, #342.1-Special Education Programs, #342.2-Title I Reading/Math Programs, #342.5-School Age Pregnancy, #342.21-Title I Parent Involvement, #342.41-Acceleration Procedures, #342.42-Youth Option Program, #342.43-Charter School, #343-Student Schedules, #344-Adult Education, and #345.1-Academic Achievement/Grading Systems and to table Policy #342.4-Gifted/Talented Education. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by K. Lien with second by D. Smikrud to approve the first reading of Policy 342.3-At-Risk, Alternative Education Options. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by K. Lien with second by J. Stalheim to approve a five-year transportation contract with Pape School Bus, Inc. Motion passed by roll call vote with five members voting yes and B. Koxlien and T. Tenneson abstaining.

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by T. Tenneson to approve the 2016-17 school calendar, which has five August in-service days, 175 student days, and 192 teacher days allowing for two snow days. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by K. Lien with second by J. Stalheim to approve the Wall of Honor (Military Recognition) project with no cost to the school district. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by J. Stalheim with second by P. Kujak to approve agreement with Tri-West Communications LLC for providing data transmission services (high speed internet). Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by D. Smikrud with second by F. Aleckson to accept Kim Nehring's resignation as Head Middle School Volleyball coach with thanks for her service. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by J. Stalheim to approve coaching contract for Allan Lien, Assistant Middle School Track. Motion passed by roll call vote with six members voting yes and K. Lien abstaining.

Motion by J. Stalheim with second by F. Aleckson to approve coaching contract for Jared Peterson, Assistant/Middle School Cross-Country. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by P. Kujak with second by K. Lien to approve Johnson Block and Company as auditors for 2015-16 fiscal year and to request bids for next year's audit. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by J. Stalheim with second by K. Lien to move to closed session at 7:15 p.m. in accordance with State Statute 19.85(1) (c) (e) to discuss staffing needs, personnel concern, retirement request, negotiate Western Wildcats' building use proposal, and storage shed proposals. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Meeting reconvened in open session.

Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to approve Carolyn Frederixon's retirement request for the end of the 2015-16 school year. A payment of single health insurance will be paid by the school district until age 65 in lieu of the \$350.00 monthly insurance stipend.

Motion was made, seconded, and passed by 6-0 vote with J. Stalheim abstaining to approve D & D Builders' bid for the storage shed.

Motion by F. Aleckson with second by T. Tenneson to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Fern Aleckson, Clerk