

BLAIR-TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015 – 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, T. Tenneson. Absent: R. Arneson. Also present: J. Eide, D. Eide, M. Thomley, Chris Stalheim, Andy Nehring, Peggy Austad, Nick Frederixon, Bob and Wava Jacobchick, Lee Henschel, and Fred Nehring.

Mission statement was read aloud.

Official Oaths of Office were read by elected Board members - Perry Kujak, Keith Lien, and Troy Tenneson.

F. Aleckson made a motion to nominate D. Smikrud as President and motion was seconded by P. Kujak. There were no other nominations so a unanimous ballot was cast for D. Smikrud with all members voting yes. David Smikrud will serve as President.

Motion by P. Kujak to nominate T. Tenneson as Vice-President and motion was seconded by F. Aleckson. There were no other nominations so a unanimous ballot was cast for T. Tenneson with all members voting yes. Troy Tenneson will serve as Vice-President.

F. Aleckson made a motion to nominate P. Kujak as Treasurer and motion was seconded by K. Lien. There were no other nominations so a unanimous ballot was cast for P. Kujak with all members voting yes. Perry Kujak will serve as Treasurer.

Motion by K. Lien to nominate F. Aleckson as Clerk and motion was seconded by T. Tenneson. There were no other nominations so a unanimous ballot was cast for F. Aleckson with all members voting yes. Fern Aleckson will serve as Clerk.

Current committees are: **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, K. Lien. No changes were made at this time.

Motion by F. Aleckson, seconded by K. Lien that regular Board of Education meetings for 2015-16 year be held on the third Monday of each month beginning at 5:30 p.m. alternating between Blair and Taylor locations. Motion passed. D. Smikrud noted that Taylor site could be changed if technology needs arise.

No public comments.

Motion by F. Aleckson, seconded by P. Kujak to approve March regular/closed meeting minutes and March bills. Bills for March include payroll checks #57896-57909, payroll advice of deposits #21936-22155, money wires #84-86, #227, #438-439, #3288-3289, expense checks #5007, #15176-15182, and computer expense checks #55066-55167. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

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

No Student Council report.

Technology Report by Chris Stalheim: Today school libraries are not just about books, but a digital world provides information via the internet, data bases, and computer apps. Schools with good reading scores have high library book check-out numbers. Elementary library book check-out numbers are higher than middle/high school. During National Library Week teachers shared available library resources with students. Facebook is a popular means to communicate with the community. Will be trying to live stream more school events besides basketball games.

Legislative Report by Jeff Eide: There has been a lot of conversation with Senator Kathleen Vinehout and Representative Chris Danou about fixing the school budgets. They will be hosting more meetings in the area during May and first part of June. Schools are writing letters and resolutions.

CESA #4 Report by D. Smikrud: Cheryl Gullicksrud, current administrator at Mondovi School District, will start as the new CESA #4 administrator on July 1, 2015. CESA #4 approved a resolution letter that was sent to the Joint Finance Committee, Senator Vinehout, and Representative Chris Danou.

J. Eide's Report: Thank you letter about live-streamed basketball games on Wildcat TV was read. Beginning next year the Allen and Marjorie Redsten Endowment Fund will give the school \$14,500 each year. \$7,250 of this donation will be used for three annual scholarships and \$7,250 will be used for the library or technology areas. The Albert and Ernest (Fredrickson) Charitable Foundation Endowment Fund will provide three \$20,000 (\$5,000/year for students attending four-year college) and one \$5,000 (\$2,500/year for student attending two-year technical college) scholarships each year. These scholarships will begin this year and continue on for many years. State Superintendent Tony Evers' message about the Governor's proposed budget was viewed. Many schools are going to referendum because of decreased budget revenues. Everyone is encouraged to stay involved with legislators during this budget process. Our school district has been using fund balance the past few years since revenues and school enrollments have decreased. April 5, 2016 is a possible date for an operational referendum. Will look at more areas to cut back on. D. Smikrud reiterated that our school district has tried to keep costs in check but the decreased revenues hurt.

M. Thomley's Report: Wava Jacobchick exhibited a sample model of a nature case for the new United Campus building. Her display model would be a lighted 3D habitat for the animals that we have. She painted the background of the former K-6 building nature case several years ago. Since it could not be moved she raffled off pieces of that background so there is \$700 available to start the new case. Estimated cost for the glass is \$13,500 plus other materials will cost about \$4,000. The first step would be to paint the mural, then add the 3D materials later followed by the glass enclosure. Badger Mining Corporation and Ho Chunk Nation have expressed interest in donating money towards this project. Other funding sources could be federal grants plus local funds and donations. Board members were very impressed with her sample model and appreciative for her talent and ambition in creating a new nature case. School carnival held on April 10th was a success with \$5,000 gross and \$4,000 net profit. Some of this money will be spent on flowering landscape project and park day activities. In honor of Earth Day 350 students enjoyed picking up rocks today. Grades 6, 7, and 8 have finished the Badger tests and remaining grades will finish next week. New Chromebooks worked well for this. With 26 days of school left there will be field trips, testing, and end-of-year activities.

D. Eide's Report: Thanks to M. Thomley, C. Stalheim, S. Pooler, H. Walters, and middle school staff for assisting with the 7th and 8th grade Badger testing. 9th and 10th graders will be finishing with the ACT Aspire tests by the end of next week. Aspire test is a prerequisite for ACT tests. Middle school is having Spirit Week this week with special activities planned. Upcoming events: May 2nd - State Solo Ensembles, May 4th - High school concert and art show, May 9th - Prom with Post-Prom at Onalaska YMCA, May 12th - Middle school concert and art show, May 15th - Senior trip to Minneapolis, May 17th - Baccalaureate and Senior Award's Night, May 20th - Last day for seniors, and May 23rd - Graduation. Senior exit interviews are scheduled for the evenings of May 4th, 5th, and 7th. During these interviews seniors showcase their high school career. It is very interesting to hear about their goals, accomplishments, and see how they've grown and matured while compiling their high school portfolio. H. Walters presented Blair-Taylor's portfolio model at the State Counselor's Conference this year impressing many schools

with what we do. F. Aleckson, K. Lien, and D. Smikrud will be the Board representatives for the senior exit interviews. D. Smikrud, T. Tenneson, and K. Lien will assist with diplomas at Graduation.

Discussion:

School counselors would like to have our school apply for a DPI four-year Wisconsin School Mental Health Project that promotes the emotional well-being of all students. Only 50 schools will be accepted with no cost to them.

Nick Frederixon showed an illustration of a 50 ft. x 100 ft. pheasant-raising pen that the Blair Sportsman's Club would like to build on the east end of the school property (corner of land by the right field of softball field). Pheasants would be placed in this pen in June and released six weeks into the school year. Club would install a sand point as a water source at estimated cost of \$4,000 and work with teachers for educational purposes.

D. Smikrud read the 2015-17 Budget Resolution pertaining to school funding. They wanted to delete paragraph 8 about school funding hitting a 20-year low.

J. Eide read the school district budget letter that will be sent to parents/community. Everyone needs to keep talking to the legislators.

School would offer breakfasts and lunches during the six weeks of summer school at no cost to all students PK – grade 12 at no charge. Adults would pay for their meals. This is the first year that our school is eligible for this summer meal program, which is self-sustaining. School is required to put notice in paper that meals are available. K. Tenneson and P. Austad will work for this program plus one aide on the computer.

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

Motion by K. Lien, seconded by F. Aleckson to approve 2015-16 CESA #4 service contracts for total of \$74,113. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by F. Aleckson, seconded by D. Smikrud to approve 2015-16 CESA #5 contract for Distance Learning hosting services provided by CESA #10 at a cost of \$12,350. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by F. Aleckson, seconded by P. Kujak to approve 2015-16 CESA #5 contract for Alio accounting and payroll support services in the amount of \$9,232. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by K. Lien, seconded by F. Aleckson to approve contract with Johnson Block Co. for audit services at fiscal year-end June 30, 2015 at base cost of \$6,275 plus other fees as required. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by K. Lien, seconded by P. Kujak to approve 2015-16 contract with Hanson Consulting Services for computer support services in the amount of \$37,332. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by K. Lien, seconded by F. Aleckson to approve the 2015 Summer School Breakfast and Lunch Program, which will provide free meals to all students up to age 18 and special needs students up to age 21. Charge for adults will be \$3.00 per meal. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes. Board members thanked Kim Tenneson, Peggy Austad, and Carolyn Orlovski for working on this program that is new to our school district.

Motion by F. Aleckson, seconded by T. Tenneson to approve Andrea Hanson's maternity leave request for days off at the end of this school year and at the beginning of next school year until November 9, 2015. Motion passed.

Motion by D. Smikrud, seconded by F. Aleckson that our school district apply to the DPI for possible selection in a four-year Wisconsin School Mental Health Project. Motion passed.

Motion by K. Lien, seconded by P. Kujak to accept Jen McBain's resignation as an elementary classroom aide effective April 30, 2015. Motion passed and Board members expressed thanks for her years of service.

Motion by P. Kujak, seconded by K. Lien to approve the Blair Sportsman's Club pheasant-raising project providing all liability insurance coverage is in order. Motion carried.

Motion by D. Smikrud, seconded by K. Lien to approve the 2015-17 Budget Resolution pertaining to school funding with the deletion of paragraph 8. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by K. Lien, seconded by P. Kujak to approve school district letter about school funding that will be sent to parents and community with the addition of a thank-you statement from Board members. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by F. Aleckson, seconded by K. Lien to move to closed session at 8:00 p.m. in accordance with State Statute 19.85 (1) (c) (f) to discuss personnel issues, compensation discussion/models, food service concern, and staff letters of intent for employment. Motion passed.

Motion by D. Smikrud, seconded by P. Kujak to move to open session. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion by F. Aleckson, seconded by K. Lien to approve teacher letters of intent, as presented. Motion passed by roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Motion by T. Tenneson, seconded by F. Aleckson to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Fern Aleckson, Clerk