MINUTES
BLEDSOE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
November 6, 2023

The Bledsoe County Board of Education met in Regular Session on November 6, 2023, at 6:14 p.m. at Bledsoe County Middle School.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vincent Boring, with six members present.

Roll Call:

Mr. Andy Billingsley - Absent
Mr. Vincent Boring - Present
Mr. Ben Farmer - Present
Mr. Jacob Frady - Present
Mrs. Carolyn Oakes - Present

Mr. Bron Reece - Present via zoom

Mr. Don Snow - Present

Mr. Howard Upchurch, Board Attorney, introduced Mrs. Claudia Angel, a new associate at his law office.

1. Approval of the Agenda with an addition of 15a. Facilities updates present by Mr. Allen Jones

MOTION: Mr. Farmer SECOND: Mr. Reece

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: ABSENT Mr. Boring: AYE Mr. Farmer: AYE Mr. Frady: AYE Mrs. Oakes; AYE Mr. Reece: AYE Mr. Snow: AYE

2. Approval of the minutes from the October 2, 2023 regular meeting of the Bledsoe County Board of Education.

MOTION: Mr. Snow SECOND: Mr. Farmer

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: ABSENT Mr. Boring: AYE Mr. Farmer: AYE Mr. Frady: AYE Mrs. Oakes: AYE Mr. Reece: AYE Mr. Snow: AYE

3. Request by Mrs. Kara Walling, Finance Director, to approve monthly financial reports for the month ending September 30, 2023.

MOTION: Mr. Boring SECOND: Mr. Farmer

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: ABSENT Mr. Boring: YES Mr. Farmer: ABSENT Mr. Frady: YES Mrs. Oakes: YES Mr. Reece: YES Mr. Snow: YES'

4. Request by Mrs. Kara Walling, Finance Director, to approve quarterly financial reports for the Quarter ending September 30, 2023.

MOTION: Mr. Farmer SECOND: Mr. Snow

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: ABSENT Mr. Boring: YES Mr. Farmer: ABSENT Mr. Frady: YES Mrs. Oakes: YES Mr. Reece: YES Mr. Snow: YES

5. Request by Mrs. Kara Walling, Finance Director, to approve General Purpose budget amendments.

Request for the following General Purpose Budget Amendments:

Amendment #2: To approve State Special Education Preschool Grant and Budget

Amendment #3: To amend overspent line items

Amendment #4: To approve Innovative School Models Grant & Budget-IS Year 2

MOTION: Mr. Farmer SECOND: Mr. Boring

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: ABSENT Mr. Boring: YES Mr. Farmer: ABSENT Mr. Frady: YES Mrs. Oakes: YES Mr. Reece: YES Mr. Snow: YES

6. Approval of the 2023 Local Education Agency Compliance Report.

MOTION: Mr. Boring SECOND: Mr. Farmer

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: ABSENT Mr. Boring: AYE Mr. Farmer: AYE Mr. Frady: AYE Mrs. Oakes: AYE Mr. Reece: AYE Mr. Snow: AYE

7. Request by Mr. Mark Oxner, Grant Manager, for the approval of ESSER Grant budget changes. Proposed changes for approval are as follows:

An additional \$60,691,00 for new math textbooks.

An additional \$22,370.40 for Pre-K bus assistants

Increases for these items will be taken from Indirect Cost and the funds for the TN All Corp Program which is under budget.

MOTION: Mr. Farmer

SECO

SECOND: Mr. Frady

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: ABSENT Mr. Boring: YES Mr. Farmer: YES Mr. Frady: YES Mrs. Oakes: YES Mr. Reece: YES Mr. Snow: YES

8. Request by Mrs. Michelle Rains, Coordinated School Health Director, for the approval to accept the Tennessee Department of Health Healthcare Resiliency Grant and all positions in the grant including the new Program Administrator position.

MOTION: Mr. Frady

ady

SECOND: Mr. Farmer

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: ABSENT Mr. Boring: YES Mr. Farmer: YES Mr. Frady: YES Mrs. Oakes: YES Mr. Reece: YES Mr. Snow: YES

9. Request by Mrs. Michelle Rains, Coordinated School Health Director, for the approval of the Consulting Physician Memorandum of Understanding that will be funded by the Tennessee Department of Health Healthcare Resiliency Grant.

Mrs. Rains informed the Board that Dr. Jennifer Alvarez has agreed to be the consulting physician for Bledsoe County Schools.

MOTION: Mr. Snow

SECOND: Mr. Frady

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: ABSENT Mr. Boring: YES Mr. Farmer: YES Mr. Frady: YES Mrs. Oakes: YES Mr. Reece: YES Mr. Snow: YES

10. Request by Mrs. Michelle Rains, Coordinated School Health Director, for the approval to accept the Opioid abatement money from Bledsoe County General Funds to hire a health educator. Mrs. Rain informed the Board that this money would be coming in over an 18 year period. The estimated amounts are provided, but could fluctuate.

Mrs. Sparkman added she would like to thank Mayor Ridley and the County Commission for approving the funds to be given to the school system and their support.

MOTION: Mr. Farmer

SECOND: Mr. Frady

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: ABSENT Mr. Boring: YES Mr. Farmer: YES Mr. Frady: YES Mrs. Oakes: YES Mr. Reece: YES Mr. Snow: YES

11. Request by Mr. Ronny Collier, FFA Advisor, for the approval to attend the Cultivate/Emerge Conference at Camp Clements in Doyle, TN on November 17-18, 2023. Students will be departing at the end of fifth period and will be transported by school vehicle. Five students will be attending and will be chaperoned by Mr. Collier.

Garrett Johnson, FFA President, gave an update on Lily Cagle a former student at Bledsoe County High School winning national level for her Ag. Education project.

MOTION: Mr. Snow

SECOND: Mrs. Oakes

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: ABSENT Mr. Boring: YES Mr. Farmer: YES Mr. Frady: YES Mrs. Oakes: YES Mr. Reece: YES Mr. Snow: YES

12. Request by Mr. Jason Reel, Athletic Director, for the approval of a potential early dismissal for the football team on Friday, November 10, 2023 pending outcome of the game between Bledsoe County and South Greene on Friday, November 3, 2023.

This approval is for early release of the Football Team and Coaches for November 10, 2023 as they will be leaving around 9:45 a.m. to travel to South Greene. The team will travel by Charter bus.

MOTION: Mr. Reece SECOND: Mr. Farmer

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: ABSENT Mr. Boring: YES Mr. Farmer: YES Mr. Frady: YES

Mrs. Oakes: YES Mr. Reece: YES Mr. Snow: YES

13. Request by Mr. Jason Reel for the approval of the application for facility use and fee schedule. Mr. Howard Upchurch, Board Attorney, stated he had drafted an opinion letter on this in September and would send that to all Board members.

The law now states that if a door is open then there has to be a school employee or and SRO at the door and this would need to be taken into consideration.

Mr. Farmer asked that all fee and cost be considered such as cleaning, administrative or SRO, facilities use and bundled it into one fee schedule and posted on the website for access.

Mr. Oxner was asked to check with Sheriff Morris for the cost of an SRO.

Tabled No Action Taken

14. Request by Mr. Brian Turner, Transportation Supervisor, for permission to allow Cumberland International to apply for a grant for three electric school buses on Behalf of Bledsoe County Board of Education.

Mr. Turner explained that Cumberland International would be applying for a grant for three new electric buses.

Mr. Snow expressed his concern about adding more electric buses to the fleet.

Mr. Reece questioned the warranty on the batteries as Cumberland had extended that to 15 years in the past. Mr. Turner stated that would not be the case on these buses, it would only be eight years.

Request to for the approval to apply for the grant for the buses. This item would be brought back to the Board if the grant is awarded for the Board to approve the acceptance of the grant.

MOTION: Mr. Frady SECOND: Mr. Farmer

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: ABSENT Mr. Boring: YES Mr. Farmer: YES Mr. Frady: YES Mrs. Oakes: YES Mr. Reece: NO Mr. Snow: NO

15. Request by Brian Turner, Maintenance Supervisor, for the approval of irrigation bid. Only one bid was received from Rain Bird and was opened at the October meeting. The bid states it is good for 30 days. If approval is not granted within a time frame the company would honor, then the project would be re-bid. No Action Taken

15a.Mr. Allen Jones gave an update on facilities as follows:

Softball Concession Building

The progress is good. The rough electrical and the rough plumbing are almost completed. The exterior has been painted. The roof materials are onsite and they started the roofing today. There has been about \$150,000.00 spent on the concession building. The original estimate was around \$300,000.00 so they are on target for that number.

There is still the \$80,000.00 for Angel's Construction left in their contract to finish the demo. Still waiting on communication from Angel's Construction on if they are going to complete the work.

Two items that were labeled as not in contract were the lockers and the drink cooler for the concession building. Lockers would be around \$9,000.00. The drink cooler, may be provided by drink vendor. Another item was the flooring; the flooring will be concrete epoxy flooring in all of the building except the locker room because of the girls with cleats and for safety issue.

Mr. Brian Turner, Maintenance Supervisor, stated that he thought that the flooring and the lockers could be purchased from saving on the concession building. Estimated completion date is early February.

The Softball Booster questioned if there would be rubber flooring in the locker room. Mr. Turner thought the budget would be low enough for the flooring to be included.

Football Locker Room:

Phase two for the locker room.

Bring in 55 new lockers, taking the old weight room in the middle and converting that into the new locker room. Putting in new rubber flooring. The old locker room will be converted into a film room along with shelving units along the wall. In the coach's room, new countertops with some overhead cabinets for storage and new vinyl flooring. New paint throughout the whole four rooms, updating the light fixtures. Total estimated budget \$85,000

Agriculture Building:

The site plan has been refined to accommodate the foot print of the building and some of the particulars of the building. The plans are still for a 40' x 60' building with a 121' shed roof on the front and the back. The back section would be for animal stalls, the front section would be for spill out space for outdoor classroom. Estimated cost for this project is about \$200,000.00. That does not include the water and power service.

The idea and concept is to leave a 16' wide space inside the building that will be framed out for competed classroom space and for restroom facilities. Still waiting on the septic to see if a small septic can be placed on site from Justin Green.

Asphalt is a large part of the budget. Could bid as an alternate and could always put gravel if budget runs tight and asphalt later.

The security fencing will be based on how the livestock fencing is done and how that is going to tie in with that.

Mrs. Sparkman, requested quotes for gates that would be for security for vehicles or pedestrians.

The grant total is \$270,000.00. The Board requested Mr. Jason Morris be contacted to get a total budget, put together from the total project including completion of interior of the building. Would like to have the budget by the December meeting if possible.

Concrete for the front of Football Facility estimated at between \$75,000.00 to \$100,000.00 dollars.

Mr. Turner reminded the Board that we have added several facilities over the past few year and the cost of maintaining facilities, but the budget had not been increase to include these facilities.

Recessed meeting at 7:46 p.m. and called back to order at 7:59 p.m. Mr. Reece left meeting

16. Mr. Corey Garrett, Special Education Supervisor, to give a Special Education update.

Mr. Corey Garrett, Special Education Supervisor, and Mrs. Bethany Frady, Special Education Coordinator, on trainings for Special Education.

They reported that the Special Education teachers had training on how to improve on writing IEP's and how to write a high quality IEP.

Mr. Garrett stated that there had been other trainings just to support students, families, teachers and staff. Another training was held on the importance of addressing underlying issues that can negatively interfere with instruction.

Special Education has started a newsletter blog that can be found on the school system website. This will be updated approximately every two months.

Mrs. Sparkman added that with all of the adversity that had happened last year, staff at the schools did a really good job. When data came back, overall our special education students scored a three which is where they should have been. It is a yearly progress and showed they were keeping up with their peers across the state.

17. Discussion of School Board Communication.

Mr. Snow stated he thought communication was meeting expectation. Mr. Frady and Mr. Farmer agreed. Mr. Snow suggested a backup for communication in case of an emergency. Chairman Boring stated that would be Mr. Snow.

Chairman Boring stated that if there the he can do, if anyone needs to know or wants to know something just let him know.

18. Approval of updated policies.

Policy # 1.900 Charter Schools Authorizing Principles-Recommended to Table by Mrs. Sparkman, Director of Schools

Policy # 1.901 Charter Schools Applications-Recommended to Table by Mrs. Sparkman, Director of Schools

Policy # 1.902 Charter School Agreements-Recommended to Table by Mrs. Sparkman, Director of Schools

Policy # 1.903 Charter School Oversight-Recommended to Table by Mrs. Sparkman, Director of Schools

Policy # 1.904 Charter School Intervention-Recommended to Table by Mrs. Sparkman, Director of Schools

Policy # 1.905 Charter School Renewal-Recommended to Table by Mrs. Sparkman, Director of Schools

Policy # 1.906 Charter School Revocation- Recommended to Table by Mrs. Sparkman, Director of Schools

Recommended to table pending upcoming information and guidance to be released at a future date.

Policy # 3.205 Security- Approved with recommend change by Mr. Mark Oxner, Security Coordinator

Policy # 4.204 Summer School- Reviewed by Policy Committee

Policy # 6.200 Attendance- Reviewed by Policy Committee

Policy # 4.700 Testing- Reviewed by Policy Committee

Policy # 4.205 Enrollment in College Level Courses- Reviewed by Mr. Upchurch

Policy # 4.603 Promotion and Retention- Reviewed by Mr. Upchurch

Policy # 4.605 Graduation Requirements- Reviewed by Mr. Upchurch

Motion to approve policies excluding polices on Charter Schools with recommended changes by reviewers.

MOTION: Mr. Boring

SECOND: Mr. Farmer

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: ABSENT Mr. Boring: AYE Mr. Farmer: AYE Mr. Frady: AYE Mrs. Oakes: AYE Mr. Reece: ABSENT Mr. Snow: AYE

19. Old Business, No Old Business

20. New Business. No New Business

21. Director's update.

Mrs. Sparkman stated that she would like to thank the businesses and community for participating in the business luncheon in October giving her the opportunity to share information on the schools budget and where we are headed in our vision and also to receive information back for things that they would like to see of a Bledsoe County graduate. Mrs. Sparkman announced that she is now on Twitter at SuptSparkman if anyone would like to follow.

Pikeville Elementary

Kindergarten dress up as favorite storybook character after completing their fairy tale units for ELA Pre-K took a field trip to the Pumpkin Patch

Successful Book Fair and Red Ribbon week.

Third grade made models of habitats

Fourth grade worked in the science lab working with potential and kinetic energy

Fifth grade worked in the science lab on states of matter

Students are reading more and more to get the opportunity to get the librarian of the month award

Rigsby Elementary

Had a successful Fall Festival Parent Teacher Conference Red Ribbon Week Dressed up for Halloween Math Night Discovery Museum Presentation from Oilie Otter on seatbelt safety

Will be having Veterans Program on November 8, 2023

Highlighting Perfect Attendance

Mary V. Wheeler Elementary Celebrated Perfect Attendance Taco Bell night where the schools earns 10% of sales on this night

Book Fair

Fall Festival

Veterans Day Program

Bledsoe County Middle Schools

House Program doing community projects

First semester project is a Food Drive

Boys Basketball just won over Sequatchie County

Middle School Students get in Ballgame for free on Thursday

Perfect Attendance Awards

Math night during Parent Teacher Conference

Donut sale went well

Academic Bowl through House Program

PTO purchase a new program called Smart Path for tracking students in the hallways

Bledsoe County High School

Student of the Month

Building Better Warrior Week

ACT Scores and scores have increased

100 percent of Seniors qualify for Tennessee Promise

Trip to MTSU

Gifted Program visited Lincoln Memorial University

116 College applications have been submitted

Second round of Football playoffs on Friday night at South Greene

Veterans Day Program

Bledsoe County Career Technical Center

Parent Teacher Conference and Program Competitions

Health Science fieldtrip to Erlanger to Blood Assurance

Mr. Palmer and STEM student's fieldtrip to Oak Ridge to Science and Energy Center

DECA went to Fall Leadership Conference in Knoxville

Mr. Palmer spoke at the STEM Conference in Murfreesboro

Mr. Palmer has worked with after school at elementary and middle with STEM

Had a visit from Auto Diesel College

Working on attendance and attitude

Work based learning dual enrollment going to elementary school to volunteer

Four teacher attended state professional development

Advisory Meeting next week

Mr. Palmer and STEM students will be continuing with the NASA Manned Rover in Huntsville in the Spring

Mrs. Sparkman informed the Board that we are having the inspiring leaders program again this year and would like to recognize the principals and what a good job they are doing in their schools and how much she appreciates the work they do.

Chairman Boring thanked Mr. Snow and Mr. Reece for their service and all Veterans.

Date	Meeting	Time	Place
December 12, 2023	Planning Session	5:00 p.m.	Bledsoe County Middle School
December 12, 2023	Regular Meeting	6:00 p.m.	Bledsoe County Middle School

Mr. Farmer asked if the recommended budget number for Capital Projects could be sent out in advance. Outlining reoccurring expense and then have a bottom number so we will know how the 4.2 number is getting reduced down.

22. Adjourn.

MOTION: Mr. Frady

SECOND: Mrs. Oakes

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: ABSENT Mr. Boring: AYE Mr. Farmer: AYE Mr. Frady: AYE Mrs. Oakes: AYE Mr. Reece: ABSENT Mr. Snow: AYE

Board Chairman

Director of Schools