

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
BLEDSOE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 7, 2025

The Bledsoe County Board of Education met in regular session on April 7, 2025 at 6:03 p.m. at Bledsoe County Middle School. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. Andy Billingsley with seven members present.

Roll Call:	Mr. Andy Billingsley	-	Present
	Mr. Tim Churches	-	Present
	Mr. Jacob Frady	-	Present
	Mrs. Carolyn Oakes	-	Present
	Mr. Steve Perry	-	Present
	Mr. Charles(Bron) Reece	-	Present
	Mr. Don Snow	-	Present

1. Approval of the Agenda with the following additions:
 - 16a: Request Mrs. Samantha Chancey, Bledsoe County High School Cheer Coach, for the approval of an overnight stay in Gatlinburg, TN on June 18-20, 2025.
 - 16b. Request by Mr. Steve Reel, CTE Director for approval of an out of state and overnight DECA Trip to Orlando on April 25-30th to Orlando, Florida.
 - 16c. Discussion and update to legal ESSER fund extension.
MOTION: Mr. Reece SECOND: Mr. Perry
VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: AYE Mr. Churches: AYE Mr. Frady: AYE
Mrs. Oakes: AYE Mr. Perry: AYE Mr. Reece: AYE Mr. Snow: AYE
2. Approval of the minutes from the March 3, 2025 regular meeting, the March 10, 2025 special called meeting and the March 24, 2025 special called meeting of the Bledsoe County Board of Education.
MOTION: Mr. Reece SECOND: Mr. Churches
VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: AYE Mr. Churches: AYE Mr. Frady: AYE
Mrs. Oakes: AYE Mr. Perry: AYE Mr. Reece: AYE Mr. Snow: AYE
3. Request by Mrs. Kara Walling, Finance Director, to approve monthly financial reports for the month ending February 28, 2025.
MOTION: Mr. Reece SECOND: Mr. Snow
VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: YES Mr. Churches: YES Mr. Frady: YES
Mrs. Oakes: YES Mr. Perry: YES Mr. Reece: YES Mr. Snow: YES
4. Request by Mrs. Kara Walling, Finance Director, to approve amendments #6-8 for fund 141 and Amendment #1 for fund 143.

Amendment # 6	-	141	-	Amend payroll line items
Amendment #7	-	141	-	To amend for Drone Grant Revenue & Expenditures
Amendment #8	-	141	-	Sale of Vocational Equipment
Amendment #1	-	143	-	Plan to spend down fund balance

MOTION: Mr. Perry SECOND: Mr. Reece
VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: YES Mr. Churches: YES Mr. Frady: YES
Mrs. Oakes: YES Mr. Perry: YES Mr. Reece: YES Mr. Snow: YES

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5. Request by Mrs. Kara Walling, Finance Director, to discussion and/or approval of the budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Mr. Perry made a motion to approve the blue draft of the budget with a revision to the raises that were proposed. This draft proposed a 5.5 percent increase for teacher and a 2 percent for all other staff. Mr. Perry's motion was to make the revision that teachers receive a 5.5 percent raise and all other staff a 3 percent raise for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Mr. Reece and Mr. Billingsley expressed concern about not giving all employees' the same amount of increase in salary. Mr. Reece did ask for clarification on who would be included as teachers. Mrs. Walling stated classroom teachers, certified librarians and school counselors.

MOTION: Mr. Perry SECOND: Mr. Churches

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: NO Mr. Churches: YES Mr. Frady: YES

Mrs. Oakes: YES Mr. Perry: YES Mr. Reece: NO Mr. Snow: YES

6. Request by Mrs. Kara Walling, Finance Director, for the approval of the sports supplement equity proposal.

Motion was to approve proposal #1 which would balance out high school head and assistants, add assistants for golf, flag football, cross country, and increase middle school pay.

MOTION: Mr. Billingsley SECOND: Mr. Snow

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: YES Mr. Churches: NO Mr. Frady: YES

Mrs. Oakes: NO Mr. Perry: NO Mr. Reece: NO Mr. Snow: YES

Motion Failed

A motion was made by Mr. Steve Perry to table this item until the May meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Perry SECOND: Mr. Frady

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: AYE Mr. Churches: AYE Mr. Frady: AYE

Mrs. Oakes: AYE Mr. Perry: AYE Mr. Reece: AYE Mr. Snow: AYE

7. Directors Update.

Mary V. Wheeler Elementary

Hosted Stem Innovation, PTO meeting to revamp screen porch, implementing One School One Book Schoolwide.

Pikeville Elementary School

Pre-K raised beds for plants, trip to Nashville for 4th and 5th grade, poster contest, Read Across America.

Rigsby Elementary

Read Across America, Math Night, Parent Night, Dress like Ms. Hannah week, and 54 with perfect attendance.

Bledsoe County Middle School

TCAP Attendance Blitz, PTO catered lunch, 11 going to Tennessee Tech for a math contest, JV District Volleyball game.

Bledsoe County High School

Hosted Stem Innovation visit, SVC Contest, Local Science Fair, AWARE conference in Nashville, Juniors took ACT, Sophomore took Pre-ACT, College and Career Fair, Attendance Challenge for April, job shadowing, community service, college visits, First Lady to visit and supply shoes for students and mock interviews on Thursday.

Career Technical Center

DECA going to Orlando, Stem Visit, building a trailer, ACT day, employability skills, Skills USA Mueller Industry tour and STEM TVA grant, former student to give the presentation.

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8. Discussion and/or update of the Non-Resident policy # 6.204.

The policy committee made the following recommendations:

1. Remove tuition fee and all fee language in current policy
2. Keep application process and add request references from current school.
3. Establish a committee to review applications and make recommendations for acceptance to the director.
4. Add# 3 from TSBA Model Policy – insert 30 days prior to the first day of the upcoming academic school year. If slots are available application will be accepted for Spring semester with a November 15th deadline.
5. Remove or soften language in lines 1-15. Make more welcoming if recruiting students.
6. Keep guidelines in current policy.
7. Add resident students have priority for high demand courses/classes.

Other suggestions were to have references from prior schools on application and for the Director to establish a committee annually to review applicants.

Motion was made for Mr. Howard Upchurch, Board Attorney, to revise the policy to incorporate recommendations.

MOTION: Mr. Perry

SECOND: Mr. Reece

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: AYE Mr. Churches: AYE Mr. Frady: AYE

Mrs. Oakes: AYE Mr. Perry: AYE Mr. Reece: AYE Mr. Snow: AYE

9. Request by Mrs. Farrah Field, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, for approval of science textbook adoption.

Recommendation by the committee members are as follows:

Elementary – SAVVAS (Elevate)

Middle – SAVVAS (Elevate)

9-12 – Accelerate Learning (Stemscope) – Biology, Chemistry, Physics

McGraw Hill – Anatomy & Physiology, Environmental Science

MOTION: Mr. Perry

SECOND: Mr. Frady

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: YES Mr. Churches: YES Mr. Frady: YES

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

10. Request by Mr. Ronny Collier, FFA Sponsor, for the approval for FFA to attend the following:

- TN FFA Forestry Camp and Contest on June 1-6, 2025 and to use 3 buses during the camp.
- TN Leadership Summit. June 22-26, 2025 at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville, TN.
- Livestock Judging Camp at University of Tennessee Knoxville in Knoxville, TN. Dates TBD.
- Officer Retreat at Camp Clements in Doyle TN. Dates TBD.

MOTION: Mr. Snow

SECOND: Mr. Frady

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: YES Mr. Churches: YES Mr. Frady: YES

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

11. Request for approval for the Mutual Aid Agreement between Bledsoe County Board of Education and Bledsoe County Correctional Complex.

MOTION: Mr. Reece

SECOND: Mr. Perry

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: YES Mr. Churches: YES Mr. Frady: YES

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

12. Request by Mrs. Becky Ridley, AWARE Director, for the approval of agreement for Health Connect America.

MOTION: Mr. Reece SECOND: Mr. Perry

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: YES Mr. Churches: YES Mr. Frady: YES

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

13. Request by Mrs. Diane Hannah, Principal Rigsby Elementary, and Mr. Michael McAnally, Principal Wheeler Elementary, for the approval of 5th grade from Rigsby and the 3rd grade from Mary V. Wheeler to travel to Huntsville Space Center in Alabama. This trip is scheduled for May 19, 2025.

MOTION: Mr. Reece SECOND: Mr. Frady

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: YES Mr. Churches: YES Mr. Frady: YES

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

14. Approval of Director of Schools evaluation instrument.

Evaluations are due by June 30, 2025.

MOTION: Mr. Reece SECOND: Mrs. Oakes

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: AYE Mr. Churches: AYE Mr. Frady: AYE

Mrs. Oakes: AYE Mr. Perry: AYE Mr. Reece: AYE Mr. Snow: AYE

15. Old Business

None

16. New Business.

- 16a. Request Mrs. Samantha Chancey, Bledsoe County High School Cheer Coach, for the approval of an overnight stay in Gatlinburg, TN on June 18-20, 2025 for cheer camp.

This request is also for Bledsoe County Schools provided transportation. Mrs. Farrah Fields will also be chaperoning this trip.

MOTION: Mr. Perry SECOND: Mr. Reece

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: YES Mr. Churches: YES Mr. Frady: YES

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

- 16b. Request by Mr. Steve Reel, CTE Director for approval of an out of state and overnight DECA trip to Orlando on April 25-30th to Orlando, Florida. Three students and will be transported by school vehicles.

Mr. Churches stated he did have a conflict of interest.

MOTION: Mr. Perry SECOND: Mr. Reece

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: YES Mr. Churches: YES Mr. Frady: YES

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

- 16c. Discussion and update to legal ESSER fund extension.

Ms. Kara Walling, Finance Director, assured the Board that Bledsoe County Schools had spent all ESSER funds by the deadline and this would not affect any of Bledsoe County Schools funds.

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Date	Meeting	Time	Location
May 5, 2025	Regular Meeting	6:00 p.m.	TBD

May 5, 2025 is a tentative date for county commission to tour schools.

17. Adjourn.

MOTION: Mr. Perry

SECOND: Mr. Churches

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: AYE Mr. Churches: AYE Mr. Frady: AYE

Mrs. Oakes: AYE Mr. Perry: AYE Mr. Reece: AYE Mr. Snow: AYE