

MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
BLEDSOE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
April 1, 2024

The Bledsoe County Board of Education met in regular session on April 1, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Bledsoe County Middle School. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. Vincent Boring with seven members present.

Roll Call: Mr. Vincent Boring, Chairman - Present via zoom  
Mr. Don Snow, Co-Chairman - Present  
Mr. Andy Billingsley - Present via zoom  
Mr. Ben Farmer - Present  
Mr. Jacob Frady - Present  
Mrs. Carolyn Oakes - Present  
Mr. Charles(Bron) Reece - Present

1. Approval of the Agenda with the following additions:

21a. Request for the approval to accept the Innovate Grant

21b. Request for the approval of the Bledsoe County Correctional Facility Emergency Evacuation agreement to use Bledsoe County Schools buses in case of an emergency.

MOTION: Mr. Snow SECOND: Mr. Frady

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

**Motion Passed**

2. Approval of the minutes from the March 4, 2024 regular meeting of the Bledsoe County Board of Education.

MOTION: Mr. Billingsley SECOND: Mr. Farmer

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

**Motion Passed**

3. Director's update.

Mrs. Sparkman stated that she would like to thank everyone for their prayer, calls and text during the illness of her daughter.

Mary V. Wheeler

PTO Basketball season ended. It raised approximately \$15,000.00

PTO Hosting a Fun Day in May

Students will be getting pizza for being a Reward School.

AR Challenge where students read a 1000 books and they could tape the Principal to the Wall.

Outside library was installed in memory of Mrs. Etta Stephen

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Pikeville Elementary

Read Across America Dress up  
Stick Man from US101 came and read Green Eggs and Ham to students  
Pre-K took a trip to the Discovery Museum and had a parent involvement meeting.  
5<sup>th</sup> grade made clay sculptures through the Tennessee Art Grant  
Title I night Creative Discovery Museum was present, the Book Bus and the Aware Program was also present.

Cecil B. Rigsby

Family Reading night.  
Discovery Museum  
Dr. Seuss Dress Up Days  
Mastery Connect  
Fifth grade traveled to Pikeville Elementary to participate in the Art Grant  
Pre-K Parent Involvement  
PTO Egg Hunt

Bledsoe County Middle School

Sixth grader won Art Contest  
Yearbook Cover Art Contest. Winner will receive a free yearbook and others got free art supplies  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade went to Bledsoe County High for a career fair and tour of high school and CTE  
Celebrated Rewards School with a cookout and Wendy's Frosties.  
On Thursday 12 will go to a state wide math competition.

Bledsoe County High School

Plan for ACT to be at 19 by 2026. This year it is at 18.6 which is close to the goal of 19.  
Rock, Paper, Scissor challenge final. Student winner smashed pie in principals face.  
Staff vs Student volleyball game  
College and Career Fair. 54 businesses and colleges  
College Planning night  
Gave away a 1000.00 scholarship  
Mrs. Bridget Loyd held a science fair. Winners will go on to compete at state level  
Spring sports: Softball 6-3, Soccer 4-1-1, Baseball 4-7

CTE

FFA took 17 students to competition over spring break.  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade toured the schools. Students did presentations.  
Bledsoe County FFA won Golden Plow Award and Superior Chapter

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CTSO are getting ready to compete

4. Request by Mrs. Kara Walling, Finance Director, to approve monthly financial reports for the month ending February 29, 2024

MOTION: Mr. Farmer                      SECOND: Mr. Boring

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

**Motion Passed**

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

Amendment #10 Benefit Line Item Amendments

Amendment #11 Salary Line Item Amendments

Amendment #12 To Amend Overspent Line Items

Amendment #13 Public School Security Grant

Amendment #14 Healthcare Resiliency Program Grant (Nov-June Exp)

MOTION: Mr. Billingsley                      SECOND: Mr. Boring

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

**Motion Passed**

6. Request by Mrs. Kara Walling, Finance Director, for discussion and/or approve of budget for the 2024-25 school year.

Mrs. Walling presented the Board with 3 draft budgets. A base line draft, a 2% raise draft and a 4% raise draft. All drafts did include the bill backs from the ESSER Grant.

Motion was made to set a Special Called meeting to discuss the budget further.

MOTION: Mr. Billingsley                      SECOND: Mr. Farmer

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

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

**Motion Passed**

7. Discussion of upcoming capital projects and review of capital projects plan.

Mrs. Walling and Mr. Turner presented an updated facilities plan.

Total Capital Projects Funds Available: \$1,482,117.51

Schedule for 24-25 includes PES – Roof Replacement, Floor Repairs, Athletics – Irrigation, Laser Grade and Re-sow outfield, and Shipping/Receiving Building.

Schedule for 25-26 – PES- HVAC Units, Floor tile, CBR – Awning in bus Loop, Sidewalk Repairs, and site drainage. BMS – Repair soffit/moisture Issues.

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Schedule for 26-27 – Lighting Sports Fields, CBR - ADA Access to Stage/  
Stage Remodel.

Schedule 27-28 – Lighting BB, 2 HVAC Units – CBR, Insulate Openings in  
Café – CBR.

Motion to move forward with the process for roofing project.

MOTION: Mr. Reece           SECOND: Mr. Farmer

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

**Motion Passed**

8. Request by Mr. Brian Turner, Maintenance Supervisor, for the approval of  
bids for irrigation for BCHS football field and BCHS baseball field.  
One bid was received from Woody’s Agricultural Services in the amounts as  
follows:  
Bid Amounts - \$19,829.97 for Football Field  
                  \$34,829.67 for Baseball Field  
Not included is a 2” water meter. Training is included.

MOTION: Mr. Reece           SECOND: Mr. Frady

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

**Motion Passed**

9. Request by Mr. Brian Turner, Maintenance Supervisor, for the emergency  
purchase for drain line repairs for Mary V. Wheeler. The bid is not to exceed  
\$68675.00 from Grays Plumbing, LLC

MOTION: Mr. Reece           SECOND: Mr. Frady

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

**Motion Passed**

10 minute break at 7:19 p.m.

10. Request by Mr. Brian Turner, Maintenance Supervisor, to approve bids for  
laser grading and reseeded of the baseball fields. One bid was received in  
the amount to not exceed \$95,000.00 from Woody’s Agricultural Services,  
Inc.

MOTION: Mr. Farmer           SECOND: Mr. Reece

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

**Motion Passed**

11. Request by Mr. Jason Reel, Athletic Director, for the approval of early release for  
baseball on the following dates:



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15. Request by Mr. Ronny Collier, FFA Sponsor for permission for two FFA members to attend Washington Leadership Conference this summer in Washington D. C. transported by school vehicle.

MOTION: Mr. Frady SECOND: Mr. Reece

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

**Motion Passed**

16. Approval of mowing contract for Oakes Lawn Care.

MOTION: Mr. Frady SECOND: Mr. Reece

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

**Motion Passed**

17. Discussion and/or approval of resolution on 4<sup>th</sup> grade retention.

Mr. Upchurch drafted a resolution on March 26, 2024 on the Boards behalf to address the 4<sup>th</sup> grade retention law to present to the Tennessee General Assembly

Motion to approve the resolution as drafted by Mr. Upchurch.

MOTION: Mr. Billingsley SECOND: Mr. Frady

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

**Motion Passed**

18. Request by Mr. Matthew Ridley, Principal Bledsoe County High School, for the approval of contract with Coke. Mr. Upchurch reviewed the contract for approval.

MOTION: Mr. Farmer SECOND: Mr. Reece

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

**Motion Passed**

19. Discussion of Community Use of Facilities and fee schedule.

Mr. Reece expressed his concerns regarding the Use of Facilities Fee Schedule and fees being charge to groups for use of the school facilities.

Mrs. Rachel Bruning – Mary V. Wheeler PTO President addressed the Board and wanted clarification that the PTO did not have to pay for the use of school facilities. She was informed that the PTO was exempt from fees for use of building for activities.

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Mrs. Elizabeth Turner and the President of Little Blue also expressed their concerns about being charged for using school facilities.

After a lengthy discussion. Board members, Mrs. Sparkman and Principals expressed their concerns and also concerns that had been discussed with them from other community members.

Motion was made to suspend the fee schedule associated with the Use of Facilities application for now and for parties to meet with Mr. Upchurch, Board Attorney, and bring policy back for further review.

MOTION: Mr. Reece

SECOND: Mr. Billingsley

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

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

**Motion Passed**

20. Old Business.

21. New Business.

21a Request for the approval to accept the Innovate Grant. This grant will pay for a full time athletic trainer for three years

MOTION: Mr. Frady

SECOND: Mr. Reece

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

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

**Motion Passed**

21b. Request for the approval of the Bledsoe Correctional Facility Emergency Evacuation agreement to use Bledsoe County Schools buses in case of an emergency.

MOTION: Mr. Billingsley

SECOND: Mr. Reece

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

Mr. Frady: YES Mrs. Oakes: YES Mr. Reece: YES

Mr. Snow: YES

Motion was made to change from a Special Called Meeting to discuss and/or approve Budget for the 2024-25 school year to a recessed meeting

MOTION: Mr. Reece

SECOND: Mrs. Oakes

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: AYE Mr. Boring: ABSENT Mr. Farmer: AYE

Mr. Frady: AYE Mrs. Oakes: AYE Mr. Reece: AYE

Mr. Snow: AYE

Motion was made to recess meeting until April 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Reece

SECOND: Mr. Billingsley

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

DATE	MEETING	PLACE	Time
May 13, 2024	Planning Meeting	Bledsoe County Middle School	5:30 p.m.
May 13, 2024	Regular Meeting	Bledsoe County Middle School	6:00 p.m.

Meeting recessed to April 8, 2024