

MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
BLEDSOE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
August 12, 2024

The Bledsoe County Board of Education met in regular session on August 12, 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  
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 addition:  
15a. Request by Mr. Ronny Collier, FFA Advisor, for the approval of an overnight trip to Camp Clements for the Future Farmers of America Conference on September 3-6, 2024.  
MOTION: Mr. Snow SECOND: Mr. Reece  
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 July 8, 2024 regular meeting of the Bledsoe County Board of Education.  
MOTION: Mr. Farmer SECOND: Mrs. Oakes  
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. Request by Mrs. Kara Walling, Finance Director, to approve monthly financial reports for the month ending June 30, 2024.  
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**
4. Request by Mrs. Kara Walling, Finance Director, to approve quarterly financial reports for the quarter ending June 30, 2024.  
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**

5. Request for the approval of health insurance premiums for the 2025 plan year.  
The increase for the 2025 plan year will be 5.1%. The Bledsoe County Board of Education will pay a range of 75%-100% of premiums depending on plan. HSA contributions will remain the same.  
MOTION: Mr. Billingsley      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**

6. Update by Mr. Alan Jones on projects.  
Mr. Jones gave an update of projects starting with the Agricultural site and building. The building package is pretty much completed. The slab has been poured. The interior buildup was started and progress is continuing. They are working on the interior framing, electrical and water is in place. The site contractor said their goal was to be finished by the end of the week.

Mr. Jones stated he would probably do a final walk through tomorrow or Wednesday and he would send the final report to Mrs. Sparkman and Mr. Boring on that project.

Mr. Jones gave a summary of some of the projects that have been completed over the past four years.

First the softball field improvements an overall project budget scope. The initial contract for Angel's Construction was \$372,000.00. During construction there were some field changes for cost savings. The final payment was \$358,000.00 the total project cost was \$382,000.00. Softball Building originally was to be put out for a traditional bid. The numbers were coming in from \$500,000 to \$550,000 range and so the Board wanted to move forward with looking at different means of delivering that building with Brian Turner and partnering with TCAT. With that, you know, the Board gave Mr. Turner up to \$300,000 to get the building constructed. The building was done for \$220,961.00. This project came in well under budget. If you count the site cost, the total building package and design professional fees. The total price was around \$362,000.00. The entire was still less than the original bid for just the building. L

Football locker room renovations, the women's large restroom and the women's small rest and the men's restroom. Total budget approved by the Board was \$185,000.00 for those renovations. Total cost came in at \$147,696.00 for the projects.

Request to look at options for a practice facility for the soccer team and potentially flag football in the future. Several options were discussed.

A motion was made to for Mr. Jones to schedule concept and opinion of probable cost for September for approval by the Board. Construction documents approved to bid by January Board meeting. Contractor under contract in March of 2025

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

**Motion Passed**

7. Directors updates:  
Mrs. Sparkman, Director of Schools, stated that on the first day of school and SRO was hit by a car. She reported that the officer was doing well, but was sore.  
Mrs. Sparkman reported that the students came back happy and the teachers were prepared for their return.

**Pikeville Elementary**

Open House Night  
Phase in for Pre-K and Kindergarten  
Will be doing Aims Web Benchmark testing

**Cecil B. Rigsby**

Teachers are happy  
Enrollment up in Kindergarten and First Grade  
Will be doing Conscious Discipline

**Mary V. Wheeler**

The opening has been great  
Enrollment is up  
Great Teacher Meet and Greet  
Benchmark Aimsweb testing soon  
AR Kick off  
Mary V. Wheeler will be celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> year  
Students will be celebrating with grooving to the 60's, mash potato in the gym, 60's books,  
The school will have a 60<sup>th</sup> year celebration on September 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Bledsoe County Middle School**

Had a Meet and Greet, attendance was great  
Have had new students  
Fully staffed  
New teachers doing a good job  
Workshop to think about what school is to represent  
House system – New students for house system and drew for new houses  
Pep Rally  
Football scrimmage won against Dayton City  
August 29<sup>th</sup> homecoming  
Softball 2<sup>nd</sup> in tournament  
Cross Country team has been chosen and started practice  
CDC class started a Sunshine Club

**Bledsoe County High School**

Student worker worked in the summer  
Custodian have worked hard getting buildings ready  
Teacher in service activities last week  
Learned about teaching all students with complex needs  
Jamboree Friday  
BCHS will host Sequatchie County

Soccer and Volleyball started  
Open House was a success  
Senior Parents Night August 15<sup>th</sup>  
Fifteen students in work base learning  
New Stem teacher and will be floating to the elementary schools  
Fiber Splicing class through BTC  
Back to School celebration  
Getting feedback on student's participation in extracurricular activities for non-sports.  
Students will lead to recruit for clubs

**Board Accomplishments:**

4/5 Reward Schools  
1 of 12 districts in the state that was named and Exemplary School District  
Added the MEP Program  
Grant Program - BTC fiber on how to do fiber.  
Implemented a student, parent and teacher advisory board  
Implemented Stem and Coding  
Hired additional personnel to help with attendance  
Community CTE updates  
Communication Plan  
Teaching as a profession class  
Established a new teacher mentor program  
Outside group evaluated our salary structure and raised salaries  
Veteran teachers increased steps  
Increase opportunity for bonuses  
Implemented an evaluation for certified and non-certified staff for central office.  
Created a systematic hiring system  
Teacher now receive a letter of intent and contracts  
Formed and Aspiring Leaders group  
Created a 5 year Capital Improvements Plan  
Created an annual report  
New Softball facility  
Upgraded Soccer field, football and baseball facilities  
Auditorium seating  
Roofs high school and middle schools  
Upgraded science lab  
New electric buses  
Baseball hitting facility  
Upgraded Press Box  
Irrigation System on sports fields  
Barn for Agriculture Program  
Gym Floors  
Health Clinic  
AWARE Grant  
ACT scores increases  
Assistants on buses  
SRO's in schools.

Mrs. Sparkman thanked Mr. Boring and Mr. Farmer for all of their hard work and presented each with a plaque for their service to the Bledsoe County School System

8. Request by Mr. Jason Reel, Athletic Director, for the approval of early dismissal for sports.  
Cross Country – High School will need to leave before 2:45 on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and October 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
Golf – August 15<sup>th</sup> in Alabama out of state match, August 20<sup>th</sup>, September 5<sup>th</sup> in Alabama out of state match, September 12<sup>th</sup> departure time will be at 1:50 p.m.  
September 16<sup>th</sup> all day for District Tournament  
Football – October 11<sup>th</sup>, October 31/November 1<sup>st</sup> prior to 2:45 p.m.  
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  
**Motion Passed**
9. Request by Mr. Corey Garrett, Special Education Supervisor, for the approval to accept the Differentiated Instructional Support Teacher grant. This grant will be from 3-5 years which will cover the cost of the teacher.  
MOTION: Mr. Boring 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  
**Motion Passed**
10. Approval of surplus property. Request by Mrs. Diane Hannah, Principal Cecil B. Rigsby Elementary, to surplus outdated and obsolete technology equipment.  
MOTION: Mr. Farmer SECOND: Mr. Reece  
VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: ABSENT Mr. Boring: YES Mr. Farmer: YES Mr. Frady: YES Mrs. Oakes: YES Mr. Reece: YES Mr. Snow: YES  
**Motion Passed**
11. Presentation by Mr. Mark Oxner on the Fiber Optic Technician Grant. Grant has not been finalized; Mr. Oxner requested to start buying supplies for the grant. Approximately \$20,000.00  
MOTION: Mr. Frady 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  
**Motion Passed**
12. Request to add a position for a general assistant for Bledsoe County Middle School.  
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  
**Motion Passed**
13. Approval of TSBA recommended policy updates:  
Policy 1.501- Visitors to the Schools- Tabled  
Policy 1.800 – School Calendar  
Policy 2.403 – Surplus Property Sales  
Policy 2.806 – Bids and Quotations - To be set at \$25,000.00.  
Policy 3.202 – Emergency Preparedness Plan  
Policy 3.205 – Security

Policy 3.400 – Student Transportation Management  
Policy 4.213 – Family Life Curriculum  
Policy 4.214 - Use of Artificial Intelligence Programs - Tabled  
Policy 4.403 – Library Materials  
Policy 4.603 – Promotion and Retention  
Policy 5.307 – Physical Assault Leave  
Policy 5.701 – Substitute Teachers-  
Policy 5.802 – Qualifications and Duties of the Director of Schools  
Policy 6.409 – Reporting Child Abuse  
Policy 6.4052 – Opioid Antagonist

Policies were approved as recommended by TSBA except for policy 1.501 and policy 4.214 which was tabled.

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

**Motion Passed**

14. Old Business – No old business.

15. New Business.

15a. Request by Mr. Ronny Collier, FFA Advisor, for the approval of an overnight trip to Camp Clements for the Future Farmers of America Conference on September 3-6, 2024. The motion is also for Bledsoe County Schools to provide transportation for the conference.

MOTION: Mr. Frady                      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

**Motion Passed**

**Next meeting of the Bledsoe County Board of Education will be on September 3, 2024.**

**Mr. Boring, Chairman of the Board, stated that it has been an honor to serve on the Bledsoe County Board of Education for the last 8 years and he appreciated all everyone has done.**

**Mr. Farmer stated he would like to say thank everyone for the opportunity to serve.**

16. 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: AYE Mr. Snow: AYE

**Motion Passed**

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**Chairman**

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**Director of Schools**