

**MINUTES
BLEDSOE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**

1. Election of Board Chairman.

Mr. Don Snow stated that this was the organizational meeting of the Board. He stated that nominations would be taken for chairman and would be elected by majority vote. If a majority is not reached, then another nominate will be selected and voted on until a majority is received.

Mrs. Carolyn Oakes nominated Mr. Vincent Boring for Chairman it was seconded by Mr. Andy Billingsley.

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

Mr. Bron Reece nominated Mr. Ben Farmer for Chairman it was seconded by Mr. Ben Farmer.

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

Mr. Andy Billingsley nominated Mr. Vincent Boring for Chairman it was seconded by Mrs. Carolyn Oakes.

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

Mr. Bron Reece nominated Mr. Ben Farmer for Chairman it was seconded by Mr. Ben Farmer.

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

Mr. Andy Billingsley nominated Mr. Vincent Boring for Chairman it was seconded by Mrs. Carolyn Oakes.

Mr. Frady expressed concerns regarding communication between the Board and the Board Chairman and would like to see an improvement in this area.

Mr. Boring stated that whatever he was missing to let him know and he would try to improve. He also stated that Mrs. Sparkman had been sending out information to the Board.

Mr. Reece stated that Mrs. Sparkman had been sending out information to the Board and was doing a good job, but that was not Mrs. Sparkman job and it was in her contract about communication.

Mr. Farmer also expressed concerns about some passed issues.

Mr. Billingsley commented that he thought the system has made huge improvements under the leadership of Mrs. Sparkman, Mr. Boring and all of the Board and he did not think it should be changed at this time.

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

Mr. Vincent Boring was elected as Board Chairman.

At this time Mr. Don Snow turned the meeting over to Mr. Boring.

2. Mr. Ben Farmer nominated Mr. Don Snow for Co- Chairman it was seconded by Mr. Andy Billingsley.
VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: YES Mr. Boring: YES Mr. Farmer: YES Mr. Frady: YES Mrs. Oakes: YES Mr. Reece: YES Mr. Snow: YES
Nomination Passed.

The Bledsoe County Board of Education met in Regular Session on September 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Bledsoe County Middle School. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vincent Boring with seven members present.

Roll Call:

Mr. Andy Billingsley	-	Present
Mr. Vincent Boring	-	Present
Mr. Ben Farmer	-	Present
Mr. Jacob Frady	-	Present
Mrs. Carolyn Oakes	-	Present
Mr. Bron Reece	-	Present
Mr. Don Snow	-	Present

3. Approval of the Agenda with the following changes:

Removal of Item 11 from the agenda.

18a. Approval to add a teaching position for Kindergarten at Cecil B. Rigsby Elementary.

MOTION: Mr. Billingsley SECOND: Mr. Snow

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

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

Motion Passed

4. Approval of the minutes from the August 14, 2023 regular meeting of the Bledsoe County Board of Education.

MOTION: Mr. Boring SECOND: Mr. Billingsley

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

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

Motion Passed

- 4b. Mr. Frady requested that the minutes be sent out prior to the next monthly agenda Board packet.

Motion was made for the minutes to be sent out by two weeks after the meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Frady SECOND: Mr. Reece

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

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

Voice vote was called:

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: NO Mr. Boring: YES Mr. Farmer: YES Mr.

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

Motion Passed

5. Request by Mrs. Kara Walling, Finance Director, to approve monthly financial reports for the month ending July 31, 2023.

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

6. Request by Ms. Dianne Campbell, Food Nutrition Director, for the approval of the school nutrition excess balance plan.

This plan included extra labor, insurance, extra food cost, small ware, cafeteria tables, computers, maintenance and repairs, retention bonuses, exhaust hoods, and pass thru warmers.

MOTION: Mr. Billingsley 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

7. Request by Mr. Mark Oxner, Grant Manager, of the ESSER 3 budget proposal.

There is approximately 4.2 million left in ESSER 3 Funds.

It is proposed that any funds not used this year in ESSER 3 to be moved to General Purpose Funds through approved bill back expenses.

MOTION: Mr. Snow SECOND: Mr. Billingsley

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. Approval of Safety Coordinator job description and qualification.

A new job description with qualifications was presented to the Board.

There was a lengthy discussion on different aspects of the position.

Some of the discussion was as follows:

- Questioning would this be a standalone position or a paired position with an existing position and if we had anyone with the qualifications or experience employed in the system presently. Ms. Sparkman stated that it would be a paired position. Mr. Farmer expressed concern that this position seems to be a full time position and could possibly be overburdened if it is a paired position. Mrs. Sparkman referred to Mr. Mark Oxner and he responded that he did not have a degree in the area, but had run several companies and did have some experience.
- Mr. Reece questioned who wrote the job description. Ms. Sparkman answered Mr. Oxner, myself and Sharlene.
- There was some discussion on salary, as there is \$65,000.00 allotted in the budget for this position that can be used or revised.
- Ms. Sparkman was asked in her opinion the way this was written and the plan that she has in place, did she think this could be carried out under this plan knowing this is a moving target, and if it gets too big then it can be re-advertised and hire someone in the future or hire the person we have full time and then hire for the paired position and does she feel comfortable with that. Ms. Sparkman responded that she does feel comfortable with this.
- The question was asked if this had been shared with the county commission. Chairman Boring responded that it had not, but would be if approved it would be shared with the county commission and the sheriff.
- Mr. Frady questioned if he was voting that this is the description or we are voting that we are going to move forward on the position. Mrs. Sparkman state you are voting for the description for what we would want to hire someone for. Mr. Frady stated a starting place... Mrs. Sparkman stated exactly.
- Chairman Boring expressed that he had confidence in Mrs. Sparkman to come back in three months and if this position requires full time attention, then she will come back and indicate that.
- Chairman Boring stated that the job description itself is what we are looking at.
- Mr. Reece asked who would be taking this to the County Commission and the Sherriff. Chairman Boring affirmed that he would be doing that. Mr. Snow stated that anyone that wants to go can, the more that go the better. Chairman Boring stated he would let everyone know.

MOTION: Mr. Snow 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

9. Request by Mr. Mark Cagle for approval of an out of state field trip to Williamsburg in May of 2024 for 8th grade.

MOTION: Mr. Boring SECOND: Mrs. Oakes

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: YES Mr. Boring: YES Mr. Farmer: (stepped out of meeting) Mr.

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

*The itinerary for the trip scheduled a stop at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, VA.

Mr. Reece asked prior to his vote who owned Busch Gardens: Mr. Cagle answered he was not sure, but it had the same spelling as Anheuser-Busch

Motion Passed

10. Request by Mrs. Ethanie Cagle for approval of an of state field trip for Bledsoe County High to New York/Washington DC in October of 2024.

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

10a. Approval of a day trip to Georgia for a day conference September 13, 2023 for a Jostens training and will be using a bus for transportation

MOTION: Mr. Billingsley 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

11. Request by Dr. Becky Ridley, Aware Coordinator for the approval of the Stronger Connections Grant contracted service and job description modification. This item was deleted from the agenda.

12. Approval of the Gallagher Business Services Agreement.

Mr. Howard Upchurch, Board Attorney, reviewed the service agreement and advised that a term limit of one year be added to the agreement and the term end date be June 30, 2024. A new agreement would be presented next year for July 1, 2024 thru June 30, 2025.

Motion to approve with the changes as recommended by Mr. Upchurch.

MOTION: Mr. Billingsley 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

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

Mr. Corey Garrett, Special Education Supervisor addressed the Board and gave an update on Special Education training. He stated that there are 398 students receiving services.

This year "Thoughtful Tuesdays" have been implemented. This is where people from the state come in, other people and internal training opportunities are provided.

Most recently private notice was discussed. It is something that is received at the end of a meeting with an IEP. Different components of a private notice was discussed and what is required of the notice and how to improve our notices. Section starters were provided to build on.

There has also been training in Gold Book, which is an IEP plan. Gold Book provides support on information you give on the student and helps with building an IEP appropriately.

Tennessee has changed their IEP database from Easy IEP to Tennessee Pulse, which is an updated version of Easy IEP, but did take intensive training. Administrators and special education staff were provided a half of a day training on Tennessee Pulse that was provided by the state.

Mr. Garrett stated he had created an editable syllabus for teacher to go into and improvising for a variety of questions that addresses and accesses areas which can disrupt or interfere with learning. It also provides links for reading, math and for different instruction. They can click on links that take them to websites for additional information and strategies.

Inspire training is an intensive reading intervention program. Every staff member has been provided training in a quality, research-based intensive reading program. Math is being scheduled. More intervention training has been provided.

Mr. Garrett expressed his appreciation of the team and thankful for the administration and staff and that he would continue to provide updates to the Board as requested.

14. Request by Mr. Brian Turner for the approval to purchase a 78 passenger IC bus using Sourcewell pricing.

The pricing for the bus from Sourcewell is \$112,357.49

MOTION: Mr. Boring 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

15. Request by Mr. Brian Turner for the approval of specifications for sprinkler system.
Discussion was to do a price comparison for grass vs. turf surface.
Mr. Billingsley made the motion to go ahead and send out the invitation to bid for sprinklers.
MOTION: Mr. Billingsley SECOND: Mr. Snow
VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: AYE Mr. Boring: AYE Mr. Farmer: AYE Mr. Frady: AYE Mrs. Oakes: AYE Mr. Reece: AYE Mr. Snow: AYE
Motion Passed

16. Approval of updated policies from TSBA as revised by Mr. Howard Upchurch, Board Attorney.
Policy # 1.402 Notification of Meetings
Policy # 1.404 Appeals to and Appearances before the Board
Policy # 6.309 Zero Tolerance Offenses
Policy # 6.314 Corporal Punishment
Policy # 6.319 Alternative Education
Motion to table policies to the October meeting.
MOTION: Mr. Snow 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

17. Old Business. – No Old Business

18. New Business.

18a. Request for approval to add a teaching position for Kindergarten at Cecil B. Rigsby Elementary.
The addition of this position is due to the enrollment in the Kindergarten class exceeding the state maximum class size for this grade.
MOTION: Mr. Frady 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


19. Director's update.

Ms. Sparkman asked everyone to stand. Ms. Sparkman said she hoped everyone had seen the video that was release regarding Bledsoe County Schools being a Level 5. Ms. Sparkman stated she wanted to recognize everyone who makes this work happen each and every day and Board members as well.

Date	Meeting	Place	Time
October 2, 2023	Regular Meeting	Bledsoe County Middle School	6:00 p.m.

20. Adjourn

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


Board Chairman


Director of Schools