

Blissfield Community Schools

2024-2025

Regular Meeting

November 18, 2024

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Blissfield Community School District was held Monday, November 18, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the High School Media Center. Board President, Brewer called the meeting to order. Members present: Craig Bettis, David Brewer, Andrew Borchardt, Vicki Lombard, Denise Mallory and Jennifer Stutzman. Absent Members: Terence Weigand. Others present: Superintendent Riley, Executive Assistant Kayla Graf and members of the public.

It was moved by Lombard and supported by Borchardt to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda.

Approval of Agenda

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Borchardt and supported by Bettis to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 21, 2024 and the Special Meeting held on November 6, 2024.

Approval Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion Carried.

Student Council President, Chloe King provided updates on student council activities at Blissfield High School. The Student Council is organizing a spirit week in December to celebrate the holiday season. A blood drive is also scheduled for December, with proceeds going towards scholarships for BHS seniors. The Big Buddies Program continues to make an impact with visits to the middle and elementary school to foster mentorship. A successful play production has concluded and the feedback has been wonderful. HOSA is planning a community paint night to raise funds for t-shirts and state competition expenses, as grant funding does not cover the full cost. The Robotics Team is exploring a bowling fundraiser to support its program, and the Interact Club is preparing an upcoming luncheon. The FFA participated in a broiler chicken competition. They have chickens available for purchase at \$15 each (weighing 6-7 lbs). Lastly, the E-Sports program proudly reports two fully rostered teams.

Student Council Update

The Board of Education recognized Rachael Farber as the “District Employee of the Month” for her outstanding efforts and continual service to Blissfield Community Schools. Rachael was nominated by her colleague Katie Heineman.

Educational Highlights

Cross Country Highlights

Mr. Riley expressed his admiration for the boys' and girls' cross-country teams, highlighting their remarkable achievements this season. Coach Bills, whose leadership earned him the title of **County Coach of the Year**, shared highlights from both teams' impressive performances. The boys' team had a standout season, crowned **LCAA Champions** for the first time since 1974. Individual honors included Ian Waddell, named 1st Team All-County, 1st Team LCAA, and Academic All-State, with an 84th-place finish at the state level; Michael Weidmayer, who earned 2nd Team All-County and 2nd Team LCAA honors, finishing 117th at the state level; and Noah Sills, who received Honorable Mention All-County and 2nd Team LCAA recognition.

The girls' team also excelled, achieving multiple milestones, including being named **LCAA Champions** and **Regional Champions**. During the regular season, they secured 1st place in 8 of 12 meets, ultimately finishing 11th out of 27 teams at the state competition. Their exceptional academic performance earned them the **Academic All-State Team Award** with an impressive average team GPA of **3.995**. Individual accolades included Anna Hallett (2nd Team All-County, 1st Team All-League, Academic All-State with a 4.0 GPA), Kaleea Braun (2nd Team All-County, 2nd Team All-League, Academic All-State with a 4.0 GPA), Haley Sills (2nd Team All-County, 1st Team All-League, Academic All-State with a 4.0 GPA), and Hope Miller (1st Team All-County, 1st Team All-League, 12th place finish at the state meet, and Academic All-State with a 4.0 GPA).

Both teams exemplified dedication, talent, and excellence, bringing pride to their school and community. Coach Bills' guidance and commitment were instrumental in these accomplishments, making his recognition as County Coach of the Year well deserved.

Technology Highlights

Technology Director, Sheri Peterson provided an overview of the district technology department. Peterson reports the district is continuing its 10-year technology plan with significant progress. The middle school staff has been fully equipped with new laptops. This summer, the focus will shift to high school staff technology updates. Kindergarten students received new iPads this year, with plans to update iPads for first graders next year. The replacement of the PA systems across all 3 buildings is also being prioritized, with the goal of addressing 1-2 buildings this coming summer, although the exact time frame is still to be determined. Additionally, the district has successfully acquired new network equipment through federal funding.

Kara Staelgraeve and Annie Scharer shared exciting details about their FFA trip to the National Convention in Indianapolis. Nine students attended, with four competing on the food science team. During the trip they visited UNOH, toured a manufacturing plant, and learned about aquatic science at the Ozark Fishery. The food science team earned a bronze medal, with individual awards going to Kayleigh (gold), Nathan (silver) and Lia (bronze). The convention offered numerous opportunities for networking, college exploration and team-building activities.

FFA Highlights

Renee Palacios presented Inclusion Awards on behalf of the LISD Parent Committee. The committee received eight nominations for Blissfield educators. **Mrs. Ylisse Yopez** was recognized as an exceptional teacher who values all students, naturally accommodates diverse needs and focuses on building skills. **Mrs. Cindy Campbell** was praised for her extraordinary skills and dedication to supporting colleagues and bringing extensive knowledge and expertise to her role. Lastly, **Mrs. Nicole Lundquist** was recognized. Lundquist received the most nominations. She was acknowledged for embracing diversity, never letting students' challenges hinder their learning potential and passionately advocating for inclusion. Her "Every Monday Matters" initiative, now rebranded as "Every Royal Matters," demonstrates her commitment to including all students, regardless of their abilities.

BCS Inclusion Award

It was moved by Bettis and supported by Borchardt to approve the payment of the General Fund bills in the amount of \$1,088,207.63

Items of Business

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Bettis and supported by Boarchart to approve the hiring of Kelly Truax for the position of middle school science teacher for the 2024-2025 school year.

Personnel

Motion Carried

It was moved by Lombard and supported by Bettis to approve the hiring of Siara Niner for the position of middle school aide for the 2024-2025 school year.

Motion Carried.

The Finance Committee will meet on December 12th at 7am.

Committee Reports

Mrs. Linda Mueller shared two awards being presented to Kelly Seidl and Tricia White. Kelly Seidl was nominated and awarded the Excellence in Education Award through the Michigan Lottery. Kelly will be featured in an upcoming news segment, she received a personalized plaque along with a check for \$2,000. Tricia White was nominated and awarded the Amazing Teacher Award through McDonald's. Tricia received a personalized plaque and a check for \$5,000.

Comments from Audience

Superintendent Riley provided a DIT update along with a goals update. Highlights include; special board meeting on December 2nd at 6pm to discuss the post-bid process for the bond project. A Destination District meeting will be held on December 12th at 6pm.

Superintendent's Report

It was moved by Bettis and supported by Borchardt to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 pm.

Adjournment

Motion Carried.

Secretary