

Blissfield Community Schools

2024-2025

Regular Meeting

May 19, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Blissfield Community School District was held Monday, May 19, 2025 at 7:00 pm in the High School Media Center. Board President, Brewer called the meeting to order. Members present: David Brewer, Andrew Borchardt, Denise Mallory and Terence Weigand. Absent Member: Craig Bettis, Vicki Lombard and Jen Stutzman. Others present: Superintendent Riley, District Executive Assistant Kayla Graf and members of the public.

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

Approval of Agenda

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Borchardt and supported by Mallory to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 21, 2025.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion Carried.

Student Council President Chloe King provided an update on recent and upcoming student council activities at BHS. This was her second-to-last meeting as class president; the newly elected president will be introduced at the next meeting. The council is currently planning for Teacher Appreciation activities. Additional updates included the NHS Color Run scheduled for May 3rd and Thespian Society inductions taking place next week. Lily Smith recently competed in a state HOSA event, and results are pending. The Interact Club attended/helped at the Rotary Auction, and FFA has elected new officers. FFA is also preparing for "Drive Your Tractor to School Day" next week along with Ag Day.

Student Council Update

The Board recognized Jane Puszczewicz as the "District Employee of the Month" for her outstanding efforts and continual service to Blissfield Community Schools.

Educational Highlights

Student Loan Coordinator, Laura Bader, provided an update on the status of student loans. She presented a breakdown of loan funds and noted that while the collection of delinquent loans becomes increasingly challenging over time due to the aging of account information, progress continues to be made. The number of alumni

Student Loan Update

applying for new loans has declined. Laura dedicates a significant amount of time to communicating with borrowers, offering guidance and maintaining strong relationships. She emphasizes the importance of educating recent graduates during their one-year grace period about the six-year repayment timeline. Additionally, she is working closely with the bank to streamline payment processes through ACH, allowing borrowers to easily set up automatic monthly payments.

Carrie Atkinson and Danielle Ford provided an overview of the MS PLTW program, highlighting the five courses offered: Flight and Space, Design and Modeling, Medical Detectives, Robotics and Intro to Engineering and Design. PLTW builds critical thinking, problem-solving and communication skills. This program has shown that it helps prepare students for future academic and career success in STEM fields.

[PLTW Overview](#)

Elementary principal, Linda Mueller, provided an overview of events at the elementary school for the 24/25 school year. She highlighted a continued focus on academics, personnel updates, leadership development, school culture and learning environment, PBIS initiatives, and special services. Mrs. Mueller also emphasized the importance of community engagement, Career Week activities, and the *Every Monday Matters* program to support student growth and development.

[Elementary Overview](#)

It was moved by Bettis and supported by Mallory to approve the payment of the General Fund bills in the amount of \$1,351,144.71. Brewer Abstained.

[Payment of Invoices](#)

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Bettis and supported by Borchardt to continue participation as a “School of Choice” district during the 2025-2026 school year under Section 105 and 105C.

[School of Choice Resolution](#)

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Stutzman and supported by Mallory to approve the Blissfield High School FFA officers to participate in a two-day camp experience in Hillsdale, MI.

[FFA Camp](#)

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Bettis and supported by Borchardt to accept the bid from Advanced Specialty Buildings for \$81,125.00 for the Ag barn.

Ag Barn

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Bettis and supported by Stutzman to accept the resignation of Jennifer Staelgraeve from her position as elementary school administrative assistant.

Personnel

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Bettis and supported by Borchardt to hire Tracy Richard for the position of elementary school administrative assistant. Weigand Abstained.

Motion Carried.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee met regarding phase II nearing completion. The Finance Committee will be meeting soon regarding 25/26 projected budgets.

Committee Reports

Kellie Shirey shared concern over bullying policies and procedures at the middle school.

Comments for the Audience

Superintendent Riley shared that the upcoming LISD 25/26 budget review meeting was approaching and the legislative breakfast is scheduled for May 9th. He reminded the board and audience of the upcoming BFEE derby on May 3rd. He also walked board members through the high school office to show progress.

Superintendent Report

It was moved by Bettis and support by Borchardt to enter closed session at 8:14pm per Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act allows a school board to meet in Closed Session for the consideration of a periodic personnel evaluation of a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent.

Entered into Closed Session

Ayes: Bettis, Brewer, Borchardt, Mallory, Stutzman, Weigand

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Stutzman and supported by Borchardt to reconvene into open session at 10:28pm.

Re-enter Open Session

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Stutzman and supported by Bettis to adjourn the meeting at 10:28pm.

Adjournment

Motion Carried.

Secretary