

**Benton School District**

Meeting Minutes  
Printed : 2/4/2015 1:43 PM CST

**Benton Board of Education-Lunch  
with Board  
1/9/2015 11:30:00 AM  
Ringgold Elementary School  
536 River Street**

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**Attendees - voting members**

Jeff Morrow Board Member  
Jonathan Woolbright Board Member

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Establishment of Quorum**

Members absent:

Paul Viner  
Heath Nix  
Wade Goodwin  
Jackie Sasfai  
Jarrod Hambric

Administrators present:

Jeff Collum  
Randy McFarlin  
Michael Armstrong  
Gwen Walker

**III. Information Items and Reports**

- A. Board Luncheon with Faculty  
Board members and administrators had lunch and took a tour of the classrooms with Principal Beverly Overturf.

**IV. Adjournment**

Lunch meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

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President

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Secretary

**Attendees - voting members**

Paul M Viner	Chair
Jarrold Hambric	Board Member
Jeff Morrow	Board Member
Jonathan Woolbright	Board Member
Wade Goodwin	Secretary

**I. Call to Order - Paul Viner, President**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**II. Establishment of Quorum**

Members absent:

Heath Nix  
Jackie Sasfai

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

**IV. District News - Superintendent/Panther Pride**

- A. Panther Football Team Recognition - Randy McFarlin
- B. David Zhang , Chess Champion - Mark McDougal
- C. Data Dashboards Update - Jeff Collum
- D. School Board Recognition/Appreciation - Jeff Collum  
January is National School Board Recognition/Appreciation Month and all board members were thanked for their service. PDC walls were covered with artworks of appreciation from the elementary schools. One campus made little keepsakes for each board member. Paul Viner and Wade Goodwin received pins for being recognized by the Arkansas School Boards Association as Outstanding Board Members.

**V. Action Items**

- A. Approval of Gifts/Donations  
5:44 p.m. - Jarrod Hambric made a motion that was seconded by Wade Goodwin to approve the gifts/donations as

presented. Motion passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

- B. Request to Redirect Playground Equipment Funds - Michael Armstrong  
Elementary PTOs award \$5,000 (annually) to their respective campuses and the district allocates a matching \$5,000, and these monies are set aside to purchase playground equipment. Last year we equipped the campuses with playground equipment so there is no need to purchase more this year. Ringgold Elementary (specifically) requested that they be allowed to redirect their matching funds to purchase technology. Other campuses have the same right to request their matching monies be redirected. Rather than each campus bringing individual requests to the board, district administration is requesting the board approve ALL campuses be allowed to redirect funds.

5:46 p.m. - Jeff Morrow made a motion to redirect playground equipment (matching) funds for all elementary campuses. Motion was seconded by Jarrod Hambric. Motion passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

- C. Bond Payments - Michael Armstrong  
P&I due for bond payments. We follow Act 110 which states payments will be made 15 days before the actual payment is due.

5:49 p.m. - Jeff Morrow made a motion that was seconded by Jonathan Woolbright to approve the bond payments as presented. Motion passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

- D. Proposed Policy Change (30-day read) - Mary Morgan  
In preparation for the upcoming Standards Review visit, we have added to the Student Discipline policy a minimum and maximum penalty statement. Information from other districts that have had the visit indicated that Standards was adamant about including the minimum/maximum penalty in the district's policy. This information is already in the handbooks, but we will now include it in the policy. Administration requested a suspension of the 30-read rule.

5:51 p.m. - Jarrod Hambric made a motion to suspend the 30-

day read. Motion was seconded by Wade Goodwin. Motion passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

5:52 p.m. - Jeff Morrow made a motion to approve the proposed policy change as presented. Jarrod Hambric seconded the motion. Motion passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

- E. Transfer of Student Request - Mary Morgan  
5:53 p.m. - Jarrod Hambric made a motion that was seconded by Jonathan Woolbright to approve the student transfer request as presented. Motion passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

## **VI. Department Reports**

- A. Facilities Report - Kevin Chastain  
The Facilities Report was pulled to discuss renovations at Cook Fieldhouse. We have begun the process of upgrading the windows and doors. This money (\$200,000) was already budgeted in our facilities projects. This is Phase I and only includes windows and doors at this time.
- In the upcoming days we will schedule a Facilities Long-Range Plan workshop. The board will be informed as soon as that date is set.
- B. Curriculum & Instruction - Karla Neathery
- C. Athletics Report - Randy McFarlin  
The Athletics Report was pulled to discuss:  
\*We need to insure that new kids moving into the district and wanting to play sports are eligible.  
\*Guidelines for credit card use  
\*We need to establish who can supervise school sanctioned activities at our district facilities. District facilities cannot be opened without supervision. Coach McFarlin will be meeting with principals to discuss. McFarlin also asked the board for recommendations.
- D. Transportation - John Thompson
- E. Food Service/Child Nutrition - Martha Nehus

- F. Personnel/Student Services - Mary Morgan
- G. Technology - Sherri Fite
- H. Special Education - Dr. Cindy Rogers
- I. Academic Services (CTE/GT/Special Programs) - Mark McDougal

**VII. Department Presentation - Transportation - John Thompson**

**VIII. Consent Agenda**

At 6:07 p.m., the board recessed into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the employment of a district employee. They reconvened in Open Session at 6:34 p.m.

Under the Consent Agenda, included in the Personnel Recommendations, was the extension of the superintendent's contract. There was no opposition to extending the contract for an additional year.

6:35 p.m. - Jeff Morrow made a motion that was seconded by Jarrod Hambric to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

- A. Reading of Previous Minutes
- B. Personnel Recommendations/HR Report
- C. Financial Reports - Michael Armstrong

**IX. Superintendent's Report**

- A. Biblical Class as an Elective  
We are exploring the possibility of Benton School District offering a Bible class as an elective. It would be in conjunction with a history class.

Jarrold Hambric spoke with a Representative and he is very interested in exploring it. It's a good "positive step" forward.

Jeff Morrow thinks it might open "Pandora's Box" for other religions.

All of this would be vetted out before implementing it. Mr.

Collum will talk with parents, administrators, and students before a decision is made. We would probably start at the high school and "work our way down."

- B. Upcoming Legislative Sessions
- C. Special Meeting for Facilities Master Plan Hearing
- D. January 31, 2015 - Statement of Financial Interest Due
- E. February 6, 2015 - Lunch with the Board at 11:30am - Angie Grant Elementary
- F. February 9, 2015 - Regular Board Meeting

**X. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

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President

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Secretary

**Benton School District**

Meeting Minutes  
Printed : 2/5/2015 9:14 AM CST

**Benton Board of Education-  
Facilities Long Range Master Plan  
Workshop  
1/30/2015 11:30:00 AM  
Chenault Administration Building  
207 W. Conway Street  
Benton, AR 72015**

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**Attendees - voting members**

Heath J Nix	Vice Chair
Jarrold Hambric	Board Member
Jeff Morrow	Board Member
Jackie C Sasfai	Board Member
Jonathan Woolbright	Board Member

**I. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. by Heath Nix, Vice President.

**II. Establishment of Quorum**

Members absent:  
Paul Viner  
Wade Goodwin

Jonathan Woolbright left the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Administrators present:

Jeff Collum  
Mark McDougal  
Kevin Chastain  
Michael Armstrong  
Mary Morgan  
Karla Neathery

Guest present:

Leslie Dyess

**III. Information Items and Reports**

- A. Facilities Long Range Master Plan Discussion - Jeff Collum/Kevin Chastain  
The long range master facilities plan was reviewed. We plan to move forward with the middle school expansion project. We will know (for sure) about partnership funding by May 1, according to Leslie Dyess who works with the co-op and she sat in on the meeting. FEMA pays for 75% of the "shell" of the shelter.

We need to take this plan to the community and parents, but we don't want to do that until we know for sure about funding.

We are still looking at adding 7th grade athletics. We might look at setting up a workshop to discuss this subject in the near future.

The situation is more "dire" than the capacity report shows. What that report shows is the possible number of students each facility can hold, but it is in no way practical.

Staggered start times to alleviate traffic problems was suggested.

The ROTC tower needs to be addressed. Presently, it is a huge liability, and it needs to be moved and redesigned.

The baseball field has issues that need to be addressed.

If growth continues, after we reach capacity with the 5th grade expansion, we must look at moving 9th grade to the high school. Growth will eventually push us in that direction. A 9th grade academy helps graduation rates.

What do we say to parents?

1. We didn't know that we were going to get funding
2. This is what the district can afford
3. This is in the best interests of our kids
4. We can pay cash (no millage increase!)

B. Cook Fieldhouse Windows/Doors Project Drawings - Kevin Chastain

#### **IV. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

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President

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Secretary