

**Benton School District**

Meeting Minutes

Printed : 5/26/2015 10:26 AM CST

**Benton Board of Education-Lunch  
with Board**

**5/8/2015 11:30:00 AM**

Howard Perrin Elementary School  
1201 Smithers Drive  
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**

Lunch meeting convened at 11:35 a.m.

**II. Establishment of Quorum**

Members absent:

Paul Viner

Wade Goodwin

**III. Information Items and Reports**

A. Board Luncheon with Faculty

**IV. Adjournment**

Lunch meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

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President

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Secretary

Benton School District

Meeting Minutes

**Benton Board of Education-  
Facilities/Finance Workshop  
5/8/2015 12:30:00 PM**  
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 12:34 p.m., by Heath Nix, Vice President.

**II. Establishment of Quorum**

Members absent:

Paul Viner  
Wade Goodwin

**III. Information Items and Reports**

A. Facilities Plan

We were recently notified that we will receive over \$3 million from state partnership funding, which is a little more than 50% of the middle school expansion project cost. We must have the money in the bank because we will pay for the project up front and get reimbursed on the back side. We are just waiting on the contract from the state.

We were not approved for FEMA funds for a gym. The cost of a "storm shelter" gym is approximately \$2.2 million. Because we were not approved for FEMA funds, other options to address gym space are:

1. Build a conventional gym (not storm safe) at a cost of approximately \$1.2 million.
2. Build a storm shelter gym (without FEMA funding) at a cost of approximately \$2 million.
3. Secure a deal with the Boys and Girls Club to lease that

facility (we would pick up 2 gyms in this transaction).  
4. Restructure Cook Fieldhouse.

Currently we don't have a (firm) commitment from the Boys and Girls Club. We need to pursue this avenue until we have an answer.

There are a couple of items on the Facilities Project List that need to be addressed. At the next board meeting, Kevin Chastain will ask for approval to begin interior work/paint upgrades Angie Grant and Benton Middle schools.

The Middle School Expansion project will start this summer, and the 15-18 month project should be finished around January 2017.

**B. Financial Plan**

We will be able to give a bonus to all employees. Raises are off the table because of the ongoing costs associated with a raise. Enrollment increased and we will utilize the growth funds from that.

We will give a 1% bonus across the board that will be based on base salaries (this makes it "fair"). We will give a flat \$500 across the board to all employees (this makes it "equitable"). The total fiscal impact is \$769,405.92.

All board members present were very supportive of the bonuses being distributed in this manner. The board will do a resolution to exclude Mr. Collum from the bonus (at his request).

**IV. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 1:38 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
Jackie C Sasfai	Board Member
Jonathan Woolbright	Board Member

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

**II. Establishment of Quorum**

Members absent:

Wade Goodwin  
Heath Nix

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

- A. Caldwell Elementary Awarded Grant
- B. Benton Jr. High Science Olympiad Wins Gold
- C. Benton Jr. High - Winners of Stock Market Game
- D. The Greening of Benton Jr. High
- E. BHS Chess Team - 6A State Champions
- F. BHS Quiz Bowl Team - 6A State Champions

NOTE: The Quiz Bowl team was presented with their checks for winning the state championship, along with their Panther Pride certificates.

- G. BHS Chamber Choir - Best in Class
- H. BHS Jazz Choir - Best in Class
- I. Anastasia Mills - Chemistry Olympiad Finalist
- J. Trent Williams - Woodman of the World Award
- K. Laura Baber - Graduate of Master Principals Institute
- L. Superintendent's Student Advisory Council
- M. Jessica Herring - Apple Distinguished Educator

**V. Consent Agenda**

5:56 p.m. - Jeff Morrow made a motion that was seconded by Jackie Sasfai 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

**VI. Information Item**

- A. School Report Cards - Overall Averages  
Benton continues to rise to the top academically in Arkansas. We received an overall letter grade of "B."

**VII. Action Items**

- A. Approval of Gifts/Donations - Randy McFarlin  
5:58 p.m. - Jarrod Hambric made a motion to approve the gifts (baseball pants) as presented. Motion was seconded by Jonathan Woolbright. Motion passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.
- B. Benton Cheer Legacy Club - Randy McFarlin  
Formation of the Benton Cheer Legacy Club is consistent with other booster clubs that have been approved.

5:59 p.m. - Jeff Morrow made a motion to approve the Benton Cheer Legacy Club as presented. Motion was seconded by Jarrod Hambric. Motion passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

- C. Approve Proposed Board Policy Changes - Mary Morgan  
Mark McDougal presented this item in Mary Morgan's absence. Board has had these policies to review/read for 30 days. Administration is now requesting approval.

6:00 p.m. - Jackie Sasfai made a motion that was seconded by Jarrod Hambric to approve the proposed policy changes as presented. Motion passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

- D. Approve Proposed Classified Salary Schedule Changes - Mary Morgan  
Mark McDougal presented this item in Mary Morgan's absence. The Board has had these changes to review for 30 days. Administration is now requesting approval.

6:01 p.m. - Jeff Morrow made a motion to approve the proposed classified salary schedule changes as presented. Motion was seconded by Jarrod Hambric. Motion passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

- E. Approve Proposed Handbook Changes - Mary Morgan  
Mark McDougal presented this item in Mary Morgan's absence. Board has had these proposed handbook changes to review/read for 30 days. Administration is now requesting approval.

6:02 p.m. - Jarrod Hambric made a motion to approve all proposed handbook changes as presented. Motion was seconded by Jonathan Woolbright. Motion passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

1. Elementary Schools
2. Benton Middle School
3. Benton Junior High
4. Benton High School

- F. Expulsion Recommendations - Mary Morgan  
Mark McDougal presented this item in Mary Morgan's absence. There are 4 students recommended for expulsion. All 4 students are between the ages of 13 and 14 years old. Mr. Morrow asked about the punishment (expulsion for the remainder of the 2014-2015 year) and questioned the rationale for the short punishment for such egregious offenses. Mr. Collum explained that we cannot automatically assign them to the ALC when they return for the 2015-2016 year.

The question was also raised about why are these students all in the middle school/junior high age range. Mr. Collum and Mr. Barger attributed it to a few things (1) the administration and SROs are very "in tune" and they do a great job monitoring and enforcing (2) typically this age group is also starting to experiment and the maturity level needs to be addressed (3) other students are urged (and do) bring information to the administrators/SROs.

Mr. Morrow stated that we would let the good students know that "we have their backs," and stressed that we will continue to scrutinize these offenses.

6:10 p.m. - Jeff Morrow made a motion to approve the expulsion recommendations as presented. Motion was seconded by Jackie Sasfai. Motion passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

- G. Proposed Policy Changes (30-day read) - Mary Morgan

No action taken on this item. Presented for 30-day read only.

- H. Contract Disclosures - Michael Armstrong  
Contract Disclosures were voted on separately.
  - 1. Disclosure - Sasfai

Board member, Jackie Sasfai, is the vendor on this disclosure. She excused herself from the room at 6:11 p.m. while the vote was taken. She returned to the room at 6:13 p.m., which was after the vote.

6:12 p.m. - Jarrod Hambric made a motion that was seconded by Jonathan Woolbright to approve the Contract Disclosure involving Jackie Sasfai. Motion passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

- 2. Disclosure - Winne

6:13 p.m. - Jarrod Hambric made a motion to approve the Contract Disclosure as presented. Motion was seconded by Jeff Morrow. Motion passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

- I. Request to Redirect Funds (Caldwell) - Michael Armstrong  
Caldwell Elementary would like to redirect their matching funds (\$5,000) set aside for playground equipment to purchase a running/walking track. These funds are matched by the PTO.

6:14 p.m. - Motion made by Jarrod Hambric and seconded by Jonathan Woolbright to approve the request to redirect funds as presented. Motion passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

- J. Facilities Project Approval - Kevin Chastain  
Facilities projects were reviewed at the May 8th Facilities/Finance Board Workshop. Some projects are ongoing and others will be addressed at a later time. Administration is now requesting approval for renovations/upgrades on the Benton Middle School and Grant Elementary School campuses.

6:18 p.m. - Jackie Sasfai made the motion that was seconded by Jarrod Hambric to approve the facilities projects as presented. Motion passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

### **VIII. Department Reports**

- A. Facilities Report - Kevin Chastain
- B. Curriculum & Instruction - Karla Neathery
- C. Transportation Report- John Thompson

- D. Athletics Report - Randy McFarlin
- E. Personnel/Student Services - Mary Morgan  
The Personnel/Student Services report was pulled and reviewed. Based on school choice applications received, the Benton School District should see a net increase of 82 students from this process.
- F. Child Nutrition/Food Service Report - Martha Nehus
- G. Special Education - Dr. Cindy Rogers
- H. Technology - Sherri Fite
- I. Academic Services (CTE/GT/Special Programs) - Mark McDougal

**IX. Campus Spotlight - Angie Grant Elementary - Laura Baber**

**X. Superintendent's Report**

- A. Accreditation Update
- B. Panther Patrons Council Update
- C. May 19, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m. - Senior Awards Assembly
- D. May 21, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m. - Benton High School Graduation
- E. June 1, 2015 @ 5:30 p.m. - Regular Board Meeting
- F. June 5, 2015 - Last Day of School
- G. June 17, 2015 - Crisis Safety Response Drill

**XI. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

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President

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Secretary