

Beecher Community School District

A regular meeting of the Beecher Board of Education was held on April 1, 2015 in the Coates Administration Building Board Room, 1020 W. Coldwater Road, Flint, MI 48505 and was called to order at 6:00 PM by Board President, Michele Loper.

Member in attendance were: Joyce Jackson, LaSonya Larry, Michele Loper, Reginald Mays, Mary Rankins, Marvin Smoot and Ocelar Denson Watson.

Mrs. Loper asked board members and the audience for a moment of silence in memory of Dale Brust, retired Beecher teacher, who passed away on Thursday, March 19, 2015; and Juan Rodriguez, father-in-law of Sheila Thorn-Reuda, who passed away on Tuesday, March 24, 2015.

April 2015 Recognitions

Mrs. McWilliams recognized the following individuals:

Molly Lane, Beecher High School/Beecher Middle School Academy Teacher, for the following: Ms. Lane is an instrumental part of the middle school and high school team. She has helped to organize the buildings testing schedule for the ACT, put together what the other grade levels would focus upon (Mock ACT), set up the times, and create the evaluations for teacher reference. Ms. Lane continues to spend additional time dedicated to the students' success and is an integral part in why we stand proud when we move our students forward. We are proud to have her as part of our team.

Walter Janeczek, Sodexo General Manager, for the following: Beecher High School wants to give a giant thank you to the food service group for the work they put in for our GAC Student Council Meeting held in February. Everything that was served was done so tastefully, on time, on temperature, and delicious. Several of the students and adults from other schools remarked on how good everything was and could not believe that our food service was able to provide such excellent quality. We could not have received better service than Wally and his people provided.

Old Business

A. Minutes of March 4, 2015 (Regular Meeting) – Board Secretary Smoot

Motioned by Mr. Smoot supported by Mrs. Rankins to approve the Minutes of March 4, 2015 (Regular Meeting).

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Mr. Mays, Ms. Larry, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Rankins, Ms. Watson, and Mrs. Loper).

Motion carried.

B. Old Business – Board Members

Mr. Mays – None

Ms. Larry discussed the following – Kudos to the parent group for the Title I Breakfast and for the Title I Extravaganza.

Ms. Jackson – None

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Mr. Smoot – None

Mrs. Rankins discussed the following: Mr. Smoot asked for the contract between the church and school several meetings ago and we still haven't received it; has anyone heard from the church? Today is April 1 and today is the deadline for them to have their money in to purchase the land (*Discussion between Mrs. Rankins and Mrs. Loper regarding the church purchasing the Buell property, if the check was received; follow-up communication; the board staying true to the agreement regarding the deadline; no communication; things going over the board's head; etc.*)

Ms. Watson – None

(Discussion between Ms. Larry and Mrs. Loper regarding the sale of the property to someone else; no one else came forward to purchase the land; it will be put back on the market if the payment is not received; the length of time it has taken to close the deal, protecting the interest of the school; Dr. Talison being absent; Mr. J. Hawkins not being present; etc.)

(Discussion between Ms. Jackson and Mrs. Loper regarding the certified letter notifying the church of the sale, which a copy was not in the board packet; the courtesy letter that was sent to the church and the timeliness of it; the deadline letter for the purchase of the property; the length of time it is taking to close the deal; and not excepting excuses as to why they haven't followed through, etc.)

Mrs. Loper – None

New Business

A. Public comments on agenda items only

None

B. Authorization for Payment of Bills – Board Treasurer Mays

Motioned by Mr. Mays supported by Mrs. Rankins to approve the Authorization for Payment of Bills totaling \$1,080,126.18 for the period ending April 1, 2015.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Mr. Mays, Ms. Larry, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Rankins, Ms. Watson, and Mrs. Loper).

Motion carried.

C. Business from Central Office/Informational Items – Mrs. McWilliams, Director of State & Federal Programs

Mrs. McWilliams asked for the following motions:

- 1) Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Ms. Watson to accept the letter of resignation from Rhonda Breckon, Administrative Assistant at Beecher Adult/Alternative Education, effective Tuesday, June 30, 2015.

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All present voted yes on roll call vote (Mr. Mays, Ms. Larry, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Rankins, Ms. Watson, and Mrs. Loper).

Motion carried.

- 2) Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Mays to accept the letter of resignation from Walter Robison, 7th/8th Grade Social Studies Teacher at Beecher Middle School Academy, effective Wednesday, March 11, 2015.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Mr. Mays, Ms. Larry, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Rankins, Ms. Watson, and Mrs. Loper).

Motion carried.

- 3) Motioned by Ms. Watson supported by Mr. Mays to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS: On March 4, 2015 this Board of Education passed a motion establishing that it was considering the nonrenewal of the administrative contract of Kevin Brock.

WHEREAS: This Board of Education believes that the administrative contract should not be renewed for the reasons set forth in the letter to him dated March 3, 2015 which are incorporated herein by reference.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The administrative contract of employment of Kevin Brock be nonrenewed for the reasons set forth in the letter to him dated March 3, 2015 which are incorporated herein by reference.
2. The Superintendent, or his designee, is directed to provide Kevin Brock with written notice of this action.
3. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Mr. Mays, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Rankins, Ms. Watson, and Mrs. Loper; Ms. Jackson and Ms. Larry voted no).

Motion carried.

- 4) Motioned by Ms. Watson supported by Mr. Mays to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS: On March 4, 2015 this Board of Education passed a motion establishing that it was considering the nonrenewal of the administrative contract of Patricia Hillaker.

WHEREAS: This Board of Education believes that the administrative contract should not be renewed for the reasons set forth in the letter to her dated March 3, 2015 which are incorporated herein by reference.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The administrative contract of employment of Patricia Hillaker be nonrenewed for the reasons set forth in the letter to her dated March 3, 2015 which are incorporated herein by reference.
2. The Superintendent, or his designee, is directed to provide Patricia Hillaker with written notice of this action.

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3. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

(Discussion from Mrs. Rankins and Mrs. Loper regarding individuals being nonrenewed if they will have a chance to go back into the union; due to financial issues we have to make this motion; both persons have done an outstanding job and it is hard to have this motion; it is no way a reflection of the services they have given to Beecher Community School District)

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Mr. Mays, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Rankins, Ms. Watson, and Mrs. Loper; Ms. Jackson, Ms. Larry, and Mrs. Rankins voted no).

Motion carried.

- 5) Motioned by Ms. Watson supported by Mr. Smoot to approve the 2015-2016 Early Head Start grant budget and proposal.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Mr. Mays, Ms. Larry, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Rankins, Ms. Watson, and Mrs. Loper).

Motion carried.

- 6) Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Smoot to accept the donation of 80 pounds of Salt Water Taffy from Seth O'Connor, Social Worker at Tucker Elementary, to the Tucker PTA to be used for the purpose of fundraising for activities, positive behavior incentives, attendance incentives and other activities and items which will directly benefit the children attending Tucker Elementary.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Mr. Mays, Ms. Larry, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Rankins, Ms. Watson, and Mrs. Loper).

Motion carried.

- 7) Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Smoot to accept the donation of \$50 from Zenders for Dailey Elementary to be used for special activities.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Mr. Mays, Ms. Larry, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Rankins, Ms. Watson, and Mrs. Loper).

Motion carried.

- 8) Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Mays to accept the donation of the following items from Dollar General for Beecher Early Head Start:

back pack; assorted Christmas decorations; crayola crayons; erasers; pencil grips; safety scissors; washable tattoos; and multicolored sharpies

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Mr. Mays, Ms. Larry, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Rankins, Ms. Watson, and Mrs. Loper).

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Motion carried.

Mrs. McWilliams stated please note that the Beecher Early Head Start monthly reporting information for December 2014 & February 2015 is in your packet, which includes the Enrollment Counts, Home Visit Socialization Completion/Meal Counts, Financial Reports, Office of Head Start Communications, and Parent Policy Committee Meeting Agenda and Minutes.

D. Field Trip Approval

1) Beecher Alternative Education

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Smoot to approve the 9th-12th grade field trip to Bay Sail in Bay City, MI departing Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 8 AM and returning at approximately 3:00 PM. A tentative roster is attached with the final roster to be on file prior to departure.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Mr. Mays, Ms. Larry, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Rankins, Ms. Watson, and Mrs. Loper).

Motion carried.

2) 21st Century After School Programs

- Motioned by Mr. Smoot supported by Ms. Jackson to approve the 7th-12th grade field trip to Saginaw Valley State University in Saginaw, MI departing on Monday, April 13, 2015 at 7:15 AM and returning at approximately 4:15 PM. A tentative roster is included with the final roster to be on file prior to departure.

(Discussion from Mrs. Rankins and Mrs. Loper regarding the cost of transportation for the trip; who is paying for the transportation; why the district is paying for it and our drivers aren't being used, etc.)

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Mr. Mays, Ms. Larry, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Rankins, Ms. Watson, and Mrs. Loper).

Motion carried.

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Smoot to approve the 7th-12th grade field trip to Ferris State University in Big Rapids, MI departing on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 7:15 AM and returning at approximately 4:15 PM. A tentative roster is included with the final roster to be on file prior to departure.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Mr. Mays, Ms. Larry, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Rankins, Ms. Watson, and Mrs. Loper).

Motion carried.

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Smoot to approve the 7th-12th grade field trip to Wayne State University in Detroit, MI departing on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 7:15 AM and returning at approximately

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4:15 PM. A tentative roster is included with the final roster to be on file prior to departure.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Mr. Mays, Ms. Larry, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Rankins, Ms. Watson, and Mrs. Loper).

Motion carried.

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Smoot to approve the 7th-12th grade field trip to Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI departing on Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 7:15 AM and returning at approximately 4:15 PM. A tentative roster is included with the final roster to be on file prior to departure.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Mr. Mays, Ms. Larry, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Rankins, Ms. Watson, and Mrs. Loper).

Motion carried.

3) Carrera Program

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Mays to approve the Carrera Program field trip to The Neutral Zone Teen Center in Ann Arbor, MI departing on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 8 AM and returning at approximately 4:00 PM. A tentative roster is included with the final roster to be on file prior to departure.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Mr. Mays, Ms. Larry, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Rankins, Ms. Watson, and Mrs. Loper).

Motion carried.

4) Beecher Middle School Academy

- Motioned by Mr. Smoot supported by Ms. Jackson to approve the Beecher Middle School Academy field trip to Potter Park Zoo in Lansing, MI departing on Friday, June 12, 2015 at 6 AM and returning at approximately 2:30 PM. A tentative roster is included with the final roster to be on file prior to departure.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Mr. Mays, Ms. Larry, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Rankins, Ms. Watson, and Mrs. Loper).

Motion carried.

E. Committee Reports

1) Committee #16/Student Hearing Results 3/9/15 – 5:30 PM (Mr. Mays, Chairperson)

Case #14-13 was re-admitted to Beecher High School effective Tuesday, March 10, 2015. However, the mother stated that the student will attend Beecher Adult/Alternative.

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2) **Committee #15/Student Hearing Results 3/17/15 – 5:30 PM (Ms. Jackson, Chairperson)**

Case #14-19 served 10 days and may return to Beecher Adult/Alternative Education effective Wednesday, March 18, 2015. It was not a unanimous decision; it was 2-1.

3) **Working Committee Meeting of the Whole 3/25/15 – 5:30 PM (Mrs. Loper, Chairperson)**

The committee received a presentation of BSIP/UPASS (Teach 2 Reach Cosmetology was not present); the committee discussed the 2015-2016 Proposed School Start Times/Busing; Code of Conduct; and Board/Superintendent Concerns.

- Motioned by Mr. Mays supported by Ms. Watson to approve the 2015-2016 Proposed School Start Times/Busing.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Mr. Mays, Ms. Larry, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Rankins, Ms. Watson, and Mrs. Loper).

Motion carried.

F. **Other Business – Board Members**

Ms. Watson – None

Mrs. Rankins and Mrs. Loper discussed the following: The field trip will be funded by Beecher High School which will consist of transportation only. The cost is approximately \$3,100 with On the Move Charter Busing. We don't get around to discussing things in our meetings and the superintendent doesn't bring it back up. What about the man who wanted to have the Black Arts Festival at the high school? Dr. Talison brought it to us to let us know that a former student wanted to revitalize it again; when it's on the agenda we should have a discussion about it. We discuss a lot of stuff and we're not getting back to it. We're not making any progress. It seems like we're at a standstill. We're talking but not taking any action; there has to be better follow-up for example with the Buell property. The follow-up should be in writing; Mr. Smoot brought it up two meetings ago about the contract as to who the real estate agent that was supposed to be representing Beecher is. As a board we are in charge. There are a lot of things left hanging. There is no excuse for Mr. Hawkins not being here.

Mr. Smoot discussed the following: The contract should have been here and we know that. We talked about it in our Working Committee Meeting. We should have already had that information. When people are not going to be here that have to report out, information should be left so we wouldn't be going through all of these questions.

Ms. Jackson discussed the following: It's on the agenda to lay off people and the district has been in a financial crisis for a while and for someone to come in, get a job, and be here for a little while, who's not looking back on the records to see

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about the financial problems that the district is having and the superintendent is asking for a raise? I want to know why at the high school/middle school we have just one water faucet working in the whole building for our children? That is a health hazard. I want to know when was the last time Mr. Hawkins walked through the building to test the faucets? Thank-you Mr. Courtney Hawkins and Mr. Mike Williams for what they've done with our children as far as the basketball program. I am proud of my babies.

Ms. Larry and Mrs. Loper discussed the following: There is a letter in our packet dated March 9 and it was received on March 10th; where did Beecher High School get money from, do they have their own funding, and where did they get \$3,000? It is coming out of the transportation funds. Our bus drivers are going to do it and we're going to pay for it out of our General Fund; *(clarification was made as to who would be providing transportation-On The Move)* It will be coming out of General Fund; the letter was dated March 9 and received on March 10 it should have been brought to us at the Working Committee Meeting of the Whole. How are you going to pay \$3,000 out of General Fund and you couldn't bus 9GA kids to BHS for a Black History Program? We have the Class of 2015 that needs \$5,000 for a prom; we need to find out why it is happening with another company and not our own people; *(Mrs. Castle was asked why we are using a different company and we are paying for it out of General Fund; Mrs. Castle provided an explanation)*; the information we have right now should have been brought to us at the Working Committee Meeting of the Whole and we could have talked about it. When we get stuff like this it's embarrassing; Dr. Talison is not here to defend himself; we are his boss. We make sure that he is supposed to be doing things and we oversee him. We need to start holding people accountable besides our teachers. It's embarrassing to sit here and ask questions in front of everybody and we are supposed to already know all of this information because we are the board and he is supposed to report back to us to make sure we understand what's going on; one of the things we can do as board members, when you see something if you call ahead so that we can get those answers to you that would be very helpful as well so that we wouldn't be sitting here trying to answer questions that we don't have all of the correct information to; congratulations to our boys basketball team. I would like the board to think about giving them something from the board, maybe a plaque, to say congratulations and we appreciate them. I am working on getting two billboards off of the expressways for the team and coach for winning three years.

Mr. Mays discussed the following: On March 25 GISD's budget was unanimously passed for the upcoming school year; the NSBA Conference in Nashville was great. The information was terrific and maybe we can talk about it in the future. If we had a subcommittee to stay on top things such as the Buell property, that would be resolved by now. The subcommittee could make sure the project is moving the way it should. We are the policy makers. We set policy and we govern policy. Bring that policy, we can look at it and discuss it to see what it actually says that way we wouldn't get into long discussions. The policy says this, this is what we have to do, and if it's something that needs to be

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changed, we're the ones to change it. I am looking to move Beecher forward. We need to be looking at moving Beecher forward and to do that we need to be on the same page. We can discuss this later in the committee meetings coming up.

Mrs. Loper discussed the following: Four of us went to the NSBA Conference in Tennessee, TN and we will do a formal presentation at the next board meeting in May. Each one of us will speak on something we learned and feel will be useful to the district and the board so that you know that your dollars are going to work and we're trying to do what we can to make Beecher better. Congratulations to Coach Hawkins, Coach Williams, and the entire boy's basketball team. I received an email from Dr. Talison about a district that sent a letter to Coach Hawkins commending him on the behavior of one of the students on the girl's basketball team. It was such a strong statement and gave such a good feather for Beecher and for Mr. Hawkins' leadership. When you have good things like that happen, it comes from good leadership. Congratulations to the entire athletic department.

Ms. Larry stated it is getting close to the end of the school year and I have been asking for the longest, can we get calendars for each month of any activities or events that are going on in case a board member wants to show up and support the schools. I see one from the parent group at the high school, but I don't see one for April from the other schools.

G. Public Comments

None

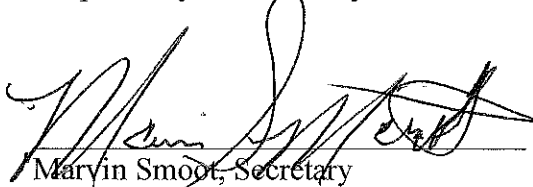
H. Adjournment

Motioned by Mr. Mays supported by Mr. Smoot to adjourn the regular board meeting at 7:01 PM.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Mr. Mays, Ms. Larry, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Rankins, Ms. Watson, and Mrs. Loper).

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by



Marylin Smoot, Secretary
Beecher Board of Education

5/6/2015
Date Approved

Minutes taken by Terrie A. Seltzer