

Beecher Community School District

A regular meeting of the Beecher Board of Education was held on August 3, 2016 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 Oceolar Denson Watson.

Mrs. Loper asked Board members and audience for a moment of silence in memory of James Thompson, retired Business Education and Driver Education Program teacher, who passed away on Friday, February 5, 2016; Shirlane Perry, mother of Nasienka Francis, Parent Facilitator, who passed away on Saturday, July 9, 2016; and Jonathan Waddell, former Beecher graduate, who passed away on Wednesday, July 27, 2016.

Old Business

- A. Motioned by Mr. Smoot supported by Mr. Mays to approve the Minutes of July 6, 2016 (Organizational Meeting) and Minutes of July 6, 2016 (Regular Meeting).

Mrs. Rankins stated it was already approved but it was not added in the organizational minutes that the working committee meetings are held the third Wednesdays⁷ of the month.

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**

Ms. Watson – None

Mrs. Rankins and Mrs. Loper discussed the following: The investigation that we discussed at our last meeting, has there been any investigation on it, has a date been set, or do you want to continue talking about it today; I said at that meeting that I was gathering all of the information and we were going to discuss it at the working committee how we were going to handle future employees that are being outsourced. That particular person that was originally awarded that job, they were notified they were not getting that position until it went through the right process. No one has been given the job and it is still out there, and has been posted. When we have our working committee, if it is the board's desire that the outsourcing company does all of the interviewing and send them to us and if they are not working out, and we respond saying that particular person is not working out, then that's what will happen with this particular position. If we decide as a board that we want to be involved in the interview process, that's what will happen with this particular position. We as a board hadn't decided and that is where the process went wrong. That position has not been filled. We have to decide and make sure of a consistent process. We will discuss it at the working committee of the whole. It is our decision if we want to be involved; at our working committee, there are a lot of things and changes that need to be discussed so that we can get them in order.

Mr. Smoot discussed the following: To operate differently this year, we need to do some

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things differently and we have to change the way we do business as far as the board, staff, administrators, etc. engage. This may be a topic for the working committee, I would like to see every quarter how our kids are improving education and academically-wise it that means the department heads and superintendent come to the meeting to report out. We cannot wait until the end of year to get help in these areas. We need to get help earlier than later. Since I've been on board, the last year we have been operating later and we need to do things quarterly to make sure we are on track and our students are getting the proper education that they need.

Ms. Jackson and Dr. Talison discussed the following: Going through the packet, who picked the radio station where the advertisement is going to be? Mr. Sumpter, Coach Hawkins and I were on the advertising committee. The only one who responded to us was 93.7. We had fillers out for 92.7 and 98.9 but they did not respond. We have used them in the past for adult education; I have never heard the advertisement on the radio and the majority of the people I know don't listen to that station. Did anyone give them another call; we called them a few times and Mrs. Seltzer reached out to 92.7 as well. We looked at the urban demographic because that's the station the majority of the kids listen to; I want to know about the breakfast held on yesterday, why did I get the invitation on Sunday so late; Mrs. Seltzer failed to put it on your board calendar and I wanted to make sure you guys had it because that was the first reporting date for the teachers to come back; why wouldn't I have known instead of 1-2 days before; I don't know. There is no excuse for that; no there isn't. It's not like the board doesn't have something to do, but when I get a call on Sunday evening about a meeting on Monday, I don't understand why it took so long to get the information out to me. I would have preferred to be there but missed it because of the short notice. I don't know who was in charge, but let them know I didn't like it. Why is the light on at the music building all day long; I would have to look into that for you; you didn't know about it; no; that means Mr. Hawkins isn't patrolling the buildings because it has been on for weeks and I wanted to see how long it was going to stay on. There is no one in the buildings and it is wasting money that Beecher does not have. With the clinic at the high school that will be closing on the 12th, I would like to know the reason that was said it will be closed; it was in the email that Dr. Reynolds gave me, which was in your packet. They closed ours and Flint. U of M Arbor, because it is a state grant, will be coming to the working committee to present a proposal to immediately step in to provide those same services for our students; what other reasons did they give for closing; the ones in the letter that stated they were going more towards Medicaid and they closed Northwestern and ours; I know the main time it's utilized is during sports season. I've never seen it, but do you send out a flyer 4 times a year to the parents letting them know it's there; the principal do. The high school is the primary recipient of those services and they do a consent form in the beginning of orientation so students can sign up for those services; I want to see the form letter; I don't know if they do an actual letter they send out; how many times per year is the letter sent out and what is the feedback that comes back, you never hear that; no I don't. It has been around for a long time and the community readily goes to it. They have always had a positive working relationship with the school but we've never received a report from them but I will check with them; they are the best sources for our students and there is no reason that the clinic should be leaving because it should be something that should've been out there as a regular program that every child and family should've known about

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the way it used to be when it was utilized. I'm wondering why there wasn't constant information pertaining to that whether they know about it or not; the decision to close was made by Mott because they told us they were going in a different direction not because of usage and that was not communicated to me in the letter; I know exactly what happened and the reason why they're closing it.

Ms. Larry and Dr. Talison discussed the following: Dr. Talison, can you read Beecher Community School District's mission statement to everyone? Dr. Talison obliged; by me being a board member, I should know the mission statement. I have asked for months and months that the mission statement be visible for everyone to read it. We have gotten off of our mission statement. A lot of our students are lacking education and moving on to other schools. Hamady High School has the majority of our kids and they are still enrolling our kids. Carman-Ainsworth has some of our kids. We hired you to oversee this district. If staff members aren't doing their job, you're supposed to step in and tell them what they're supposed to be doing. You need to bring the board more information to let us know what we're supposed to know as far as the district and the kids' education. It's embarrassing to me and you guys. If I ask board members right now what the mission statement is, they can't tell you, but we want to sit here and outsource people's jobs, and do this and do that. We're supposed to know that mission statement from front to back, from top to bottom no matter what because we're supposed to be here for these kids. It's embarrassing for all of us on this board not to know the mission statement, including me. It's sad when a board member has to call you and ask you to do your job. No matter what we hired you. I was one of the people who hired you because I had faith in you and I believed in you. I shouldn't have to call you and tell you such and such and you reply back to me that you've been working tirelessly through the whole month of July, you're supposed to because we hired you. We hired you for marketing, to make sure our parents are comfortable, to make sure our teachers are teaching our kids, to make sure our teachers are doing this, and to make sure everything is safe. For you to send an email saying that you tireless, you're showing me that you're tireless of doing your job or you're tireless of being in Beecher Community School District supporting us and helping us out. Which one is it? Beecher operates from Monday-Friday from what time? 6 AM-6 PM; we open up at 6 AM? Yes, that is when the first shift custodians come in; I don't do business on Saturday's and Sunday's. I should never get an email on Saturday's and Sunday's talking about Beecher business. If we operate Monday-Friday, send me my information Monday-Friday instead of Sunday. Sunday is my time for my family or what I have to do just like every board member and staff in this room. Beecher business should not be put out on Saturday or Sunday in an email through no body. I'm not trying to cruel or funny, but it's a lot of things we need to stop doing and a lot of things we need to take into consideration and a lot of things we need to start putting first in our lives. We are all elected officials and we ran for the board for the sake of these kids, parents and community. At the end when everybody is gone that don't live out here, we are still live out here together and have to see one another and I feel that Beecher has been torn down, destroyed, and let down because everybody want to fight amongst each other, everybody wants this job position, that job position, and it really all about these kids out here. If these kids don't get the education that we have, they are not going to get it. It's sad because every time you turn around, it's this or that and I'm sick and tired. I didn't run for the board for a \$30 stipend, I can care less about a stipend. I ran for the education of

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these kids to make sure my kids, your kids and everybody else's kids in this community are getting. When it comes down to this community and these kids, show us that you're concerned, act like you're concerned and don't wait to the last minute and give us this and that and then you tell me that you're tireless, that's a hurtful word to me. Regarding the agenda, if it's not on the agenda when we get here, it needs to be put on the next agenda. Every time we come to the board meeting, we have an update or they forgot to put something in the packet. We don't have time to read the update. I'm tired of arguing, the he-said she-said, I'm tired of everything. If it's not about these kids, I could care less what y'all say or what you do because at the end of the day we are in a lot of trouble. We have a lot of concerns, issues, and problems out here and if we don't turn around right now, that statement is not in here for no reason. He is not here just wasting his time or writing stuff on a piece of paper or going back reporting to Lansing what's going on. He's not in here for nothing. If we don't turn it around, nobody has to worry about who's playing sports, who's going to get this job or that job because there won't be a Beecher. If you think Hamady and Carman-Ainsworth has our kids right now, just wait. I know a lot of y'all out there don't like me but I could care less because I'm not here for you guys, I'm here for the sake of these kids. I'm an elected official and I can do good and bad out there and on this board. I don't need to come to a board meeting or be an elected official to tell you what I've got to say because before I became a board member I was doing what I'm doing right now, fighting for my community and my district and I have shown that and have proved that to the people who elected me. Until then, we better get it together or else we won't have to worry about sitting up here.

Mr. Mays – None

Mrs. Loper discussed the following: Welcome back. Monday is the beginning of a new school year and we want to start with a good note. We want to welcome our children and have a positive attitude when they come in because I truly believe that it trickles from the top. What the top does trickles on down. If we come in with a positive attitude, it will trickle down to the students. Welcome back to the parents and be ready to start on Monday.

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 \$1,027,226.28 for the period ending August 3, 2016.

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 – Dr. Talison, Superintendent

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- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Mays to accept the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Sue Quintanilla, Mail Clerk for Beecher Community Schools effective June 30, 2016.

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 accept the letter of resignation from Taylor Hollis, Math Teacher at Beecher High School, effective August 1, 2016.

(Discussion ensued between Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Loper, Dr. Talison, Ms. Larry, Ms. Watson, Mrs. Rankins, and Mr. Mays regarding the following: Didn't we just hire her; why did she quit; she was offered a position elsewhere; where did we recruit her from; she applied on Applitrack, which is the Genesee County application process; where she received her training from and if that's who hired her; her comments at the last board meeting when we hired her; what are we going to do differently to ensure we get student teachers that have their experience at another school district who may get hired at the school they did their student teaching at; there is nothing we can do. The high school team asked the same questions you asked. The Genesee County Superintendents have a gentleman's agreement to not hire each other's teachers. There is nothing procedurally we can do; the team needs to give us a different plan on how we hire our teachers and student teachers who say they are here for our students. We may have to look at the questions and how you're asking the questions; the process is the team of teachers, parents, and administrators from the high school or whichever school they're interview for, they do a lesson in front of the students and then go through a second interview with me before we make a recommendation. This is a problem with schools across the state; I would like to see the questions; do we send people out to job fairs; yes, we did send individuals to the last job fair at U of M-Flint; the people who apply to work here know the distance from one location to another, therefore, it's not about the distance; do we search outside of Michigan; we have not recruited out of the State, but Applitrack is nationwide; we have to change our procedures and policies; when we hire someone and they are at the board meeting, it comes down to us because we are being assessed on how we act.)

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. Mays to hire James Hall for the position of S.T.E.A.M. (Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math Coach). All clearances have been met and are on file in the Personnel Office.

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.

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(Mr. Hall stated thank you for the opportunity. I taught in Florida and moved back for family. I'm excited about the STEAM position and the lab and I am hoping it will be a drawing point for our students.)

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Mays to approve the Staff Contract of Timothy Crocket for the position of Adult Education Instructor at Beecher Adult Education.

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 Staff Contract of Barbara Starr for the position of Adult Education Instructor at Beecher Adult Education.

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. Mays to accept the resignation letter from Patricia Hillaker, Science Teacher at Beecher High School effective immediately. Resignation letter was received by Personnel Department on Wednesday, August 3, 2016.

(Discussion ensued from Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Loper, Mrs. Rankins, Dr. Talison, Ms. Larry, and Mr. Smoot regarding the following: when did we receive the resignation; today; what are we going to do about science; I'll be meeting with Mrs. Castle to see how we're going to address it; what happened to Mr. Adams; he is in a different position; we received this prior to today's meeting and it should have been moved to another meeting. There is more to the story; we will try to vet the items that go on the agenda. We only have one meeting per month but we can have special meetings for emergency items; we are losing so many good people and there needs to be an investigation; you cannot get hired by another school district until you have put in your resignation from the job you have. Maybe she has to resign before she can accept a new position; when are teachers notified of their position; by the end of June; I want a percentage of teachers who have left for other reasons and not retirement.)

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

Motion carried.

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Smoot to retain Innosynth (Dante Bishop) as the Financial Recovery Agreement Consultant beginning September 1, 2016-June 30, 2017.

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(Discussion ensued between Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Loper, Mrs. Rankins, Mr. Mays, and Ms. Watson regarding: I thought he was already here from the State, so why are we doing this? It is up to us. He was sent here to look at our budget to ensure the board and GISD were doing things in order. It is up to us to keep him on board for the remainder of the school year to help with the budget. They are giving us the opportunity to say yes or no; if we vote no, does that mean everything has been taken care of? No, it means that we are on our own and if we don't make progress, they will say we sent someone but you didn't want them; my understanding was he was going to be here until the problems are solved; he stated in his introduction that it would be up to us for him to stay. He wanted to make sure we got the deficit elimination plan done and to monitor GISD and if we wanted to keep him it would be a board decision; he said he was here for 30 days; the State referred him to us to look at our budget and deficit elimination plan to make it good enough to submit to the State and we voted for this. If we wanted him to stay on and keep our budget on track and put in checks and balances, it would require another vote; he doesn't work for the State, he is a consultant.)

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 Mrs. Rankins supported by Ms. Jackson to approve the Beecher Early Head Start Program to apply for an Early Head Start Expansion grant through the Department of Health & Human Services for Children and Families.

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. Mays to approve the following department chairs for Beecher High School for the 2016-2017 school year:
Martin Zmiejko-Social Studies; Charles Hicks-Math; Kimberly Routowicz-Science; Monica Robinson-ELA; and Nicole Soper-Special Education.

(Discussion ensued from Mrs. Rankins and Ms. Larry regarding: They should report quarterly; and they should come to us prior to let us know what they're going to do for our kids.)

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. Mays to approve the Plato License Renewal used for Credit Recovery by Beecher High School and Adult Education for the amount of \$59,775. (Paid for with Title I and Section 107 Adult Education funds)

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Mr. Mays, Ms. Larry, Ms. Jackson, Mr.

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Smoot, Mrs. Rankins, Ms. Watson, and Mrs. Loper).

Motion carried.

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Smoot to approve the Renaissance Learning 2016-2017 Subscription Renewal for Dailey Elementary and Tucker Middle School for the amount of \$16,426.75. (Paid for with Title I funds)

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. Mays to approve the 2016-2017 SpringBoard Materials for Beecher High School for the amount of \$6,331.33. (Paid for with Title I funds)

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 2016-2017 Glencoe Materials for Tucker Middle School for the amount of \$7,916.44. (Paid for with Title I funds)

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 Mrs. Rankins to accept the donation of twenty-five (25) backpacks filled with school supplies from Family Dollar on North Saginaw Street, Flint, MI.

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.

D. Operating Millage Renewal Proposal Resolution Adoption

Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Ms. Watson to adopt the Operating Millage Renewal Proposal Resolution.

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. Other Business – Board Members

None

F. Public Comments

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Public Comments were received from:

Lonyette Southward, Parent – I would like a closed hearing with the board and I have had several complaints with Dr. Talison that I feel were serious privacy issues that has caused harm to my family and caused safety concerns to my child at the school system. I contacted GISD and they directed me to file a formal complaint with the Michigan State Board of Education. It is a very serious matter, I am a registered nurse and if I would have did some of issues that I had a complaint with, I would have lost my job. I've asked Dr. Talison to file a complaint with PESG for one of the individuals, which he did not do. I filed one and they told me he had to file it. I am coming in front of the board of education requesting that be filed.

Anthony Brown, Student – You did a great job sending Mr. Sumpter to Tucker because the kids really need him. He helped me out a lot, just to have that kind of figure in the school that will lead you in the right direction and make you think twice before you do something. I have never seen you before Mr. Mays, but I like you because you have that easy-going attitude. I didn't hear the advertising commercial yet because I didn't hear my voice. Mr. Adams should be the one in the Academic Interventionist position because kids look up to him and if you put a substitute in that position, the kids are not going to take it serious.

Arie, Student – I don't think we should use tablets because kids can't bring books home, so if they get a tablet, what do you think they're going to do? We should stick to the books.

Roshawnda Williams, Parent – To Dr. Talison, Mr. Sumpter, and Coach Hawkins, thank you because my son was one who was selected to do the advertisement for the school. I received over 120 phone calls from across Flint about hearing him and supporting Beecher. People need to hear that. This year is going to be a better year for everyone involved. Keep God first and everything will work itself out. Congratulations on a new year and new success and hopefully you can get along. Agree to disagree with respect.

LaSonya Larry, Parent – I want to challenge everyone in this room, especially board members and the superintendent about the mission statement. Everyone needs to know the mission statement because it is very important. I have been asking for the mission statement and it should be visible to everyone to see and in all classrooms. It is crucial. It is about the education of the kids. It should be first on the agenda to teach our kids. For the 2016-2017, I am challenging everyone, including myself to know the mission statement. The incoming board members should know it too.

G. Adjournment


Motioned by Ms. Watson supported by Mr. Smoot to adjourn the regular board meeting at 6:35 PM.

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.

Respectfully submitted by


Marvin Smoot, Secretary
Beecher Board of Education

9/7/2016
Date Approved

Minutes taken by Marvin Smoot

Minutes transcribed by Terrie A. Seltzer