

Beecher Community School District

A regular meeting of the Beecher Board of Education was held on January 4, 2017 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, Reginald Mays.

Member in attendance were: Kelli Ford, Joyce Jackson, Reginald Mays, Mary Rankins, Johnnie Reed, Marvin Smoot, and TeaJuana Walker.

Mr. Mays asked board members and audience for a moment of silence in memory of Alma Daniels, mother of Treva Daniels-Carlson, Beecher High School Teacher, who passed away on Sunday, December 11, 2016, and LaRobia Walker, Beecher Class of 1979 graduate, who passed away Sunday, December 18, 2016.

Old Business

- A. Motioned by Mrs. Walker supported by Mr. Smoot to approve the Minutes of December 6, 2016 (Special Meeting) and Minutes of December 7, 2016 (Regular Meeting).

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Ms. Ford, Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Rankins, Mr. Reed, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. Mays).

Motion carried.

B. Old Business – Board Members

Mrs. Rankins discussed the following: This is a new year, I'm glad to see as many as possible here in the audience. We ended last year on a bad note, but being that this is a new year, I'd like to welcome the new members to the board and I hope that we have a board that will be concerned about the kids first and personal things we leave out. When we start our meetings, we concentrate strictly on Beecher business and that this will be a good year to see if we can get our students academics to move forward so that we can move up to first place. If we can work together and come up with some new ideas, I'm sure that Beecher can progress.

Mr. Smoot discussed the following: I'd like to thank everybody for coming out for coming out to our first 2017 board meeting. I look forward to seeing more involvement from the community and staff, and I look forward to working the new board members. I'm looking forward to moving our district forward with our kids' education. That is my main focus and my purpose of why I ran for the board, to try to better the education level and that is going to start with the board to make sure everyone, including the board, is doing their job to make sure our kids get a proper education.

Mr. Reed – None

Ms. Jackson – None

Mrs. Walker discussed the following: Happy New Year. Thank you for the opportunity for voting me in to allow me to be a part of the board. I have Beecher's best interest at heart and I would like to see Beecher come back up to where it was and even better. I just want more for Beecher, expect more, and desire more especially educationally.

Ms. Ford discussed the following: Hello and Happy New Year and I'm so glad I was

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elected to be a part of the board. Beecher is my heart and I believe we can get to point where we're trying to get at the highest level.

Mr. Mays discussed the following: Happy New Year. Welcome 2017 and welcome board members. It feels good to be back. I'm looking forward to moving forward this year, getting some things done, improvements made, accepting the work we have to do and moving forward to get that done. Nothing that's worth it is easy and it's going to take an effort on everybody's part, the teachers, community, children, and everybody to put a hand in and help pull us up so that we can move forward. This is a new role for me and I will be taking baby steps so bear with me as we move forward.

New Business

A. Public comments on agenda items only

None

B. Authorization for Payment of Bills – Board Treasurer Reed

Motioned by Mr. Reed supported by Mrs. Walker to approve the Authorization for Payment of Bills totaling \$899,546.28 for the period ending January 4, 2017.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Ms. Ford, Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Rankins, Mr. Reed, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. Mays).

Motion carried.

C. Business from Central Office/Informational Items – Dr. Talison, Superintendent

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Smoot to accept the resignation of Latia Moore, Family Services Worker at Dailey Elementary-Early Head Start Program, effective Friday, January 13, 2017.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Ms. Ford, Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Rankins, Mr. Reed, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. Mays).

Motion carried.

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Smoot to hire Erin Locklear for the position of Social Studies Instructor (7th/8th Grades) at Tucker Middle School. All clearances have been met and are on file in the Personnel Department.

Motion carried.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Ms. Ford, Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Rankins, Mr. Reed, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. Mays).

Motion carried.

(Ms. Locklear thanked the board for the opportunity to help make Beecher the best school that we can)

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Smoot to adopt, in support of, the Genesee County Career & Technical Education Early Middle College Resolution.

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All present voted yes on roll call vote (Ms. Ford, Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Rankins, Mr. Reed, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. Mays).

Motion carried.

D. Donation Acceptance

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Smoot to accept the anonymous donation of \$500 for each school for the purchase of gifts for students for the holiday.

(Discussion ensued between Ms. Jackson, Mr. Mays, and Dr. Talison regarding: What holidays are they speaking of; Christmas; the ones that just passed; yes; when did it come in; early last month but after the board meeting; what the hold-up was that the board is just now voting on it; the board meeting had already passed; were they given out; yes, to all of the schools)

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Ms. Ford, Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Rankins, Mr. Reed, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. Mays).

Motion carried.

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Smoot to accept a box of children literature books from students at the middle school in the Milan Area School District to students at Tucker Middle School.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Ms. Ford, Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Rankins, Mr. Reed, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. Mays).

Motion carried.

- Motioned by Mr. Smoot supported by Ms. Jackson to accept the \$500 donation from Auxilio to be used to purchase winter coats and clothes for students throughout the district.

(Discussion ensued between Mrs. Rankins, Dr. Talison, and Ms. Jackson regarding: Are these the coats that were passed out before Christmas? No, this is what the next motion is for if this one is approved. This is something new that we can track and not from the holiday season; how the students will be identified who are in need of coats or clothes; and how the process will work; have monies come in before and we are just voting on it; no, this specifically outlines the purchase of coats and clothing; how much money has come in for the scholarship fund; these are two different pots of money)

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Ms. Ford, Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Rankins, Mr. Reed, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. Mays).

Motion carried.

- Motioned by Mr. Smoot supported by Mrs. Walker to create the internal account for student clothing/needs.

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(Discussion ensued between Mrs. Rankins, Dr. Talison, Ms. Jackson, and Mr. Smoot, regarding: is this going to be the same thing as the list that was given to us before Christmas with the Alumni internal account; no, this is new; is it going to be the same type of internal account; yes; how long has the Alumni internal account been on the books; it has been around for a long time when they were discussing building a track; what is the money for, that's a lot of money to be in that account; only those persons can utilize those funds unless the account holders designate someone else to be able to access the account; if it's for athletic department, there are other sports that can use something out of that money; it is for equipment, not to purchase individual student's shoes, etc.; I would like more information on that account and all of the internal accounts; are you asking for a policy; no, just who is going to be responsible for the account; there is nothing to say how this is supposed to go, what will the procedure be; you are asking for checks and balances; there needs to be something in writing because you're saying one thing today and it could be something different tomorrow; the board will not be involved in the process. It will be the Business Office, building administrator, and the superintendent. The board is voting to put the account in place then the money can go into an account and will be accounted for by the Business Office)

- Motioned by Mr. Smoot supported by Mr. Reed to amend the aforementioned motion to read to create the internal account for student clothing/needs to be administered by the Beecher Community School's administration/superintendent for the final approval.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Ms. Ford, Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Rankins, Mr. Reed, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. Mays).

Motion carried.

E. Genesee County Association of School Board Member's Executive Committee Liaison and Alternate Appointment

Motioned by Mr. Smoot supported by Ms. Jackson to appoint Mrs. Walker as the Liaison and Mr. Reed as the Alternate for the Genesee County Association of School Board Member's Executive Committee which meets at GISD's Erwin L. Davis Education Center, 2413 West Maple Avenue, Flint, MI on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Ms. Ford, Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Rankins, Mr. Reed, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. Mays).

Motion carried.

F. NEOLA Volume 30, Number 2, February 2016 – 2nd Reading

This is considered the second reading of NEOLA Volume 30, Number 2, February 2016. Board members, if you have any corrections, please let me know prior to the next board meeting as at that time, they will be considered for adoption.

Dr. Talison stated note that the Beecher Early Head Start monthly reporting information for November 2016 are in your packet, which includes the Enrollment Counts, Home Visit

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Completions, Socialization Meal Counts, Financial Report (Including Credit Card Usage), and Early Head Start Parent Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.

G. Committee Reports

1) Committee #9/Student Hearing Results 12/13/16 – 5:30 PM (Mr. Smoot, Chairperson)

Case #15-09 was readmitted to Tucker Middle School effective Wednesday, December 14, 2016.

H. Other Business – Board Members

Ms. Ford – None

Mrs. Walker – None

Mr. Reed – None

Mr. Smoot and Dr. Talison discussed the following: I asked for each department's student growth at the last meeting; the NWEA information was reported for K-12. Is that sufficient information? It is sufficient but I want to see how each department is doing regarding math, science, social studies, etc.; the only departments are at the high school; can you give me information from 9th-12th, we only have one department head at the high school.

Mrs. Rankins and Dr. Talison discussed the following: We only have one department head; we have Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Adams and Mr. Hicks. We don't have anyone for social studies; before the last meeting we had, I had talked to the last president and the superintendent and I requested that we have a general assembly with the students at each building and I thought we could have it before Christmas but I never received word back if we were going to do it or not. I know I ran for the election and I appreciate Beecher putting me back on this board, but if we can't work together and get things done, you may as well give it up because Beecher will sink. I've been on here long enough to see things and before Christmas, it was a vision shown to me what was going to happen tonight. I came but I knew what was going to happen tonight. I was already told that Reggie was going to be the president, Marvin was going to be the vice president, and on down the line. That's fine; I don't have a problem with it because I can work with anybody. It's been a rotation on this board and my purpose for being on this board is to help the kids. I don't care who sits in what chair, but if you're going to deal behind my back at least deal to my face because if we can't work together and get things together, we don't even need a board. If we keep going the way we're going, it will not be a board and we will sink because there is a lot of things going on behind board member's backs that don't come up front, but when it does come up front, there's an explanation for it. I don't like. This is the beginning of the new school year and if we can't get ourselves together, I'm sorry, I'm going to stay as long as I can as long as God tells me to stay, but when I see there's no end to nothing and we're not progressing, everybody wants a paycheck, that's fine but what about these kids? What hurts my heart is they had a Christmas event at Dailey and a letter was sent out telling the parents to wear a shirt and tie for the boys and the girls could wear a skirt or dress, they wanted them to dress up. Ask me how many did it at the program? Either the parents didn't understand, or the parents didn't have it. The music teacher wanted them to dress up. How hard is it to

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understand in Beecher to dress your kid up? Maybe the parents couldn't afford it or maybe the teacher didn't explain it. It was a good program and it was a packed house. I have been in Beecher for years and I have watched it go down. We can't even get substitutes to come into Beecher to teach. I didn't know the amount had rolled back from \$100 to \$80. We have to do more to entice Beecher to come into Beecher. I love Beecher and Beecher is my heart. Where is Beecher now? We're talking about pushing academics. I wanted to have the assembly so that maybe the young people could get up and tell us what we're missing and tell us what you want us to do so we can push Beecher. Did we have an assembly? No. Did we have a survey with the kids for the superintendent? No. Did we have a survey from the parents? I don't know, but we had an evaluation for the superintendent. Where is the message to tell the board where we should go from here? This is 2017, where are we going from here? I want to push Beecher up to the top where it used to be. Now, nobody wants to stay in Beecher and I'm wondering why. It's the schools. Just about everybody working here live somewhere else, our superintendent lives somewhere else. He's never lived in Beecher and he doesn't know how I feel about Beecher. I am very disgusted, frustrated and angry. If we can't come together and stop all of the buddy-buddy and run this like a business we might as well give it up and let the governor come in and appoint a manager. If we don't get it together, there will be a manager in here. Athletics is not the only thing. Get your education first and go further. We used to have a student from the student council to sit on the board and tell us what they want. We don't have that any more. We have to do better and it comes from leadership. You have to be a good leader for people to follow.

Mr. Mays discussed the following: We are going into a new year. There are some concerns and a lot of work that we have to do. I asked a parent why she took her child out and she said Beecher was just not getting it. I asked if it was out of the question that she would ever bring her child back to the district. Her response was it is a possibility because I live around the corner. I asked before she gives up on us, just give us a chance and come to a board meeting and express to us what problems you have at Dailey. It is going to take a community, the board, and all of us to bring Beecher back up. If you know of someone that has a concern, have them voice that concern. That's the only way we're going to find out and how to fix the problem. We have to start addressing it instead of complaining about it. Bring someone to a board meeting, talk about it, and rebuild from the inside out. We're not where we used to be. I don't know if we'll ever get back to where we used to be but we can be where we want to be and where we need to be. It's going to take an effort on everybody's part. It's going to take a team, leadership, parents and students to be involved. We can see a difference in 2017 if we want it. If we want to destroy it, that's what we're going to do. If we want to build it, that's what we're going to do, but we have to make that decision. When we make that decision, we have to step in it, step towards it. Don't knock us down, pick us up and then we'll move forward.

Ms. Jackson discussed the following: I have been on this board well over 20 + years and these last 5-6 years have been the worst years that I have ever been on this board. I will tell any and every one that I could be sitting in this seat and fall off to sleep, wake up and whatever the other 6 board members said while I was sleep, I didn't even have to question because I know what came out of their mouths was the truth. These are the ones

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that showed me how, why, and the way the board was ran. The children knew who was in charge and who to respect. They were not ones, the board members and superintendent that ran up and hug and kiss the children. That didn't happen back then. Those children had respect for the board and the staff in this building. This is how the children were when I was in school, after and as long as I've been on this board. What bothers me the most now, to sit at this table and have to remember every word that was said because of the dishonesty and I truly have a problem with it. We never had this problem. We never had to wonder who was going to do this or who's not going to do this because everything was just by the book. All of the women that were on the board, any and everything that came out of their mouths was the truth. There was no trying to be friends or trying to be in a group and it hurts, and I received a call from one who was the president on the board, saying things that are hurting them because of what they're hearing about Beecher. I'll tell anyone Beecher was the college of this area, everybody wants to go to college but now, we're on the bottom with 12 layers on top of us. I thank the staff who is still here because they were raised here. The families are leaving and I'm not mad. I'm not giving up on Beecher. The parenting is different than what it used to be, but there is a change that needs to be done real soon.

I. District Real Estate Proposal – Closed Session MCL 15.268(d)

Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Smoot to go into closed session to discuss the district's real estate proposal at 7:01 PM.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Ms. Ford, Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Rankins, Mr. Reed, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. Mays).

Motion carried.

Motioned by Mr. Smoot supported by Mrs. Rankins to reconvene the regular board meeting at 7:26 PM.

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Ms. Ford, Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Rankins, Mr. Reed, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. Mays).

Motion carried.

J. Public Comments

Public Comments were received from:

Larry Banks, Parent – I appreciate all of your efforts. Regarding the survey, we have parent groups and we're already in the schools. Sometimes you have to start with the easy that doesn't cost any money. Ask students what you want to know. Ask parents in the parent group what you want to know. They're their. Micromanaging kills time and your effectiveness. Some of the key things that seem to work with other schools are better standards, requiring parent participation, effective communication, and a serious lack of excuses and being under prepared. Every time something comes to the board, they're on it. They have very few questions. They have more solutions than questions, whether it's volunteered or it's paid, they bring in solutions. They keep the questions to a minimum. We have to access that with the current day and time that we're in. The reality is we're on a tight budget. You may have to pick up a search engine and come up

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with the time. If you discussed it, come up with some solutions. You have to bring the solutions. You're already at the schools, just ask the questions and they will tell you.

Roshawnda Williams, Parent – Happy New Year to everyone and I want to apologize for the way that last year ended. That's not Beecher and that wasn't a way it should have been represented on any level from adult to children. I want to apologize for what anyone saw or heard about. As the new board is here, we come up here at public comments and some are complaints but we have genuine concerns and we do care. If everyone would go back over your minutes, read them and take account of what people are saying, you can get an idea of what's going on. Respect goes a long way and if you don't have it at the top, it's hard to tell everyone at the bottom to do it, so everyone has to have respect for each other. Parent involvement is a big key to everything that we don't have and that's what the parents are trying to do is have that involvement so that we can get classroom behavior controlled. If the behavior is out of control in the classroom and they don't have anyone to help assess that and get it under control, it's hard to get their lesson plans together, students to focus, learn and get their test scores together. If we can get some type of help with the board and parents coming out to volunteer their time inside the classrooms, we can get more students in our schools because they will know that we don't have those types of issues and students are learning because our test scores are up.

Anjanette Williams, Bus Driver – I was a bus driver here at Beecher but I quit today because of what I was going through and experiencing with Auxilio with my pay. I employed by another school before I came here to work over the summer. Auxilio wanted to keep me and they made me an offer I couldn't refuse to come here to work, but when I got here, they snatched everything from me. Everything they promised me never happened. The pay eventually came approximately a month ago. I didn't know they weren't paying me what they offered me for the position they offered me. I went into the hospital for 5 days with the stress of my pay. When Ron came in he was for us but I believe he fell under the trap and stop working for your employees. I called and texted you about my pay and nothing happened. The people who I wanted here is not here today. I am no longer working for Beecher because of several reasons, the lies, and disrespect.

Natallie Wright, Bus Driver – I've been here for 16 years for the transportation department. Anjanette has been with us since July, since Auxilio took over and I hate to see her go because she has helped me battle when it was just me. She has helped me with double-ups, field trips when she didn't feel like it. I hate to see her go and I hate to see what she's going through. I understand because she's not the only one. I've experienced it myself a few times with the pay, and I'm still going through it a little bit. I feel like if it happened to her, it could happen to me. There are some things that may need to be addressed in the transportation department. I hate to see her go because she's a good worker, coworker, and we're family. I want to welcome all of the new board members.

Deatrius Burks, Parent – I received a phone call this morning and one of our children were standing outside waiting on the bus. The student, who is a senior, was late getting to school and she had to go to the Tech Center for their presentation which was a portion

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of her grade. One of our staff had to take her because she was late. That is not acceptable. I did speak with Mr. Ron and he did say he was going to get on it. Man down means hands down, shut down because we have a problem. We need to take care of this because it's cold, and if you have to double-up, leave early or whatever you have to do, it needs to happen. We have a senior who was in jeopardy with her grade because of this and I have a problem with that because if she wouldn't have made it, that would have meant a zero for her grade for the semester. Please, we need to address this because if Ed was here, I would say something to him myself about this, but I will be calling him.

Alshondra Smith, Parent – Just hearing what was said, I apologize for what happened to you. I hate that happened to you, I hate to keep losing teachers and workers like that. We have to do something better. It's no Buc pride anymore. When I hear stuff like this, that's unacceptable. We have to do something because we're losing too many good teachers and staff.

Ron Shields, Auxilio Transportation Manager – There have been some issues that dropped out of nowhere. We had a bus issue. I'd welcome you back and we can discuss your pay. All of the things that you're saying I'm not privy to a lot of things, but I'm an honest person. I sleep well because I'm going to do all that I can for this situation to never happen again. I don't think it should ever happen but if it has, let's fix it. I don't think any person who is working should have to suffer with money issues and that's what I'm concerned about. Again, I welcome you back and we can talk about it and fix it. The door is open and I apologize for anything that I've done and we can fix it.

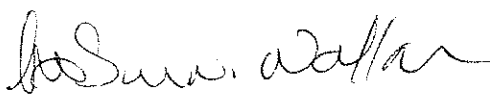
K. Adjournment

Motioned by Mr. Reed supported by Mr. Smoot to adjourn the regular board meeting at 7:41 PM.

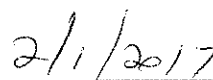
All present voted yes on roll call vote (Ms. Ford, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Mays, Mrs. Rankins, Mr. Reed, Mr. Smoot, and Mrs. Walker).

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by



TeaJuana Walker, Secretary
Beecher Board of Education



Date Approved

Minutes transcribed by Terrie A. Seltzer