

Beecher Community School District

A regular meeting of the Beecher Board of Education was held on February 1, 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 Shirley Ann Baird, mother of Teresa Krawczyk, Dailey Elementary Teacher, who passed away on December 17, 2016; Sharon Howell, Class of 2015 graduate, who passed away on January 11, 2017; and Virginia Hill, Beecher Class of 1973 graduate, and sister of former board member Tracy Harris, who passed away January 19, 2017; Rhett Clark, Beecher Class of 1974 graduate, who passed away January 19, 2017; and Mardell Watson, Beecher Class of 1998 graduate, who passed away on January 28, 2017.

February 2017 Recognitions

Dr. Talison recognized the following individuals:

Robert Johnson-Beecher High School Teacher, Mark Walker-Substitute Teacher, and Matt Adams-Beecher High School Behavior Interventionist for going above and beyond in working with a new 9th grade student with a highly disrupted educational history and numerous challenging behaviors. This student tries every tactic they know to try to get sent home. Rob, Mark and Matt have made up their mind that the student is going to stay and get an education. The teamwork and persistence of these staff members are making a difference in this student's life.

Old Business

- A. Motioned by Mrs. Walker supported by Mrs. Rankins to approve the Minutes of January 4, 2017 (Organizational Meeting) and Minutes of January 4, 2017 (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

Ms. Ford – None

Mrs. Walker – None

Ms. Jackson discussed the following: There are torn and tattered flags in the district and why the flag on the football field has been out there since the football season has been over. People come in and out of the buildings every day and see them. My relatives and everyone else that fought to keep these flags and for us to have them, they didn't do it for nothing. This is not the first time I have said this. It is a disgrace. We have games in the field house. Where are our senior citizens supposed to walk with all of the snow leading up the ramps where they're supposed to use their chairs? How are they supposed to get in the buildings? Where are the maintenance people and where is there supervisor that's supposed to make sure that that is done? Why should we have the wrestling coach shoveling snow so that our senior citizens and visitors don't fall? When the flags come

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down tomorrow, I want them just like the other year I mentioned it. It hurts when you take them up to the veteran’s place where I take them and the gentleman that’s sitting in there that I give them to cries. This is the last time that I would like to see those raggedy tattered flags hanging out there.

Mr. Reed – None

Mrs. Rankins and Dr. Talison discussed the following: The altercation that we had in December, I want it to be known that I had nothing to do with the decision made concerning that altercation. Have you spoken to the staff’s union president yet? Yes, he agreed that we can use one of their early release days and we will schedule it. It will probably be early March.

Mr. Smoot – None

Mr. Mays – None

New Business

A. Public comments on agenda items only

None

B. GISD Presentation – Mr. Dale Green and Mr. Jerry Ragsdale

Mr. Green and Mr. Ragsdale presented a schematic overview of the cost saving partnerships and collaborations which consist of Genesee County School Board Association Support; ESOL Programing; Genesee Career Institute (GCI) Transportation Consortium; Shared Business Services; Shared Custodial Services; Shared Special Education Services; Shared Technical Services; Shared Data Services; Instructional Technology Shared Services; Special Education Transportation Consortium; Attendance Intervention; Career Technical Education; Energy Management Consortium; Fingerprinting; GenNet; Leadership Training-Leadership in Action; Mid-Michigan Area Public Schools Consortium; Safety Data Sheets Consortium; Safety and Security; Special Education Services; Substitute Staffing Consortium; Tax Sheltered Annuity Project; Cooperative Purchasing & Bids; and Center for Countywide Programs. The new programs that will be offered are horticulture; ROTC and cosmetology. (Mr. Ragsdale presented Dr. Talison with a Buccaneer flag).

C. STEAM Presentation – Mr. Hall, Tucker Middle School

Mr. Hall presented a schematic overview of the 7th-8th grade STEAM 1st semester projects of working with the Dash Smart Robots learning some beginning coding and programming skills; the students built their first program to navigate through a maze without touching with the touch of one button; pictures of the maze; 3D Snowflakes Projects (students used the HP Sprout 3D Computers and Dremel 3D Printers to make custom snowflakes for their family members for the holiday); CO2 Dragsters Project (students learned about aerodynamics to make changes to their wooden race cars to make the car faster; students tested the drag of their cars in the Pitsco Airtech Scout Wind Tunnels and they sanded and made modifications to their cars); and on race day each class had a competition where they calculated their speeds and submitted a design report; the winning groups in each class went into a school wide championship bracket. The winner was from the 7A cohort class (Dallas, Aviante’, Zeke, and Jabarri).

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D. Student Board Representative Report – Katrina Perry

Board members asked the following questions of Ms. Perry: how things were going; what would you like to see in the district to make your educational experience better to help you get more prepared for college; suggestion to get ideas from other classmates; what would you like out of your first hour that you are currently not receiving; are students out of control or is there no classroom control; and what would be an incentive for students' behavior when it comes to stopping foul language?

Ms. Perry responses are as follows: The overall cleanliness of the building could be much better; there are a lot of good teachers and they need to be appreciated more; there needs to be more professional teachers; there needs to be more programs offered to all students because dual enrollment is only offered to 11th graders; students sometimes don't take advantage of what they do have in their first hour class; certain classes do not have classroom control; and when students use foul language, I think they're doing it for attention.

Mr. Mays stated the board appreciated Ms. Perry for coming and being straight-forward. The information will be used to try to make it a better learning situation for all of the students for the Beecher Community School District and we look forward to hearing from you and others in the future.

E. Authorization for Payment of Bills – Board Treasurer Reed

Motioned by Mr. Reed supported by Mr. Smoot to approve the Authorization for Payment of Bills totaling \$920,377.93 for the period ending February 1, 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.

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

- Motioned by Mr. Reed supported by Ms. Ford to approve the Real Estate Plan presented by Joel Wortley.

(Discussion ensued between Mrs. Rankins, Dr. Talison, Mr. Wortley, and Mr. Mays regarding: Regarding the Land Bank, does it mean the superintendent will have the choice of saying how we get rid of our property; in regards to that situation when we go through the process, I would bring it to the board, I don't make the final decision, the board does. I know that's what you're alluding to but I would bring it back to the board. I don't have the authority to sell land; I thought that's what discussed; the way it's written, it's implied, but it is understood that I have to bring it back to the board for approval; it didn't say that and I brought it up in the other meeting that it should be superintendent and board; under the time table on page 21 based on your comment last month, we put in there per board approval; I was speaking of the Land Bank; it would cover that also; we discussed having superintendent/board may say it was going to be done; it is the same thing, look at Item E; I know what it says but I wanted it under Land Bank. We talked about it at the meeting; I misunderstood you.

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I put it under Item D but it can be changed immediately; I would like to correct it to say superintendent/board approval; it will be corrected and it will be in your packet)

All present voted yes on roll call vote (Ms. Ford, Mrs. Rankins, Mr. Reed, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. Mays; Ms. Jackson voted no).

Motion carried.

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Smoot to purchase the following items from Moore Medical for the total amount of \$10,459.60 to be used in the Early Head Start Program to be in compliance with the new Head Start Performance Standards (Funded with Early Head Start funds):
 - OAE Hearing Screener 39500 (\$4,002.37)
 - Spot Vision Screener 2/Case DS (\$6,329.17)
 - OAE Screener Carry Case DS (\$128.06)

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.

Dr. Talison stated please note that the Beecher Early Head Start monthly reporting information for January 2017 are in your packet, which includes the Enrollment Counts, Home Visit Completions, Socialization Meal Counts, Financial Report (Including Credit Card Usage), Early Head Start Parent Policy Committee Meeting Minutes, and Office of Head Start Communications.

G. Donation Acceptance

- Motioned by Mrs. Rankins supported by Mr. Smoot to accept the donation from Valarie Southall, Class of 1980 graduate, to our senior class for assessing the Myscholly application that can provide multiple scholarship opportunities for our students.

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.

H. Genesee County Association of School Board Members Constitution and Bylaws Approval

Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Smoot to approve the Genesee County Association of School Board Members Constitution and Bylaws.

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.

I. NEOLA Volume 30, Number 2, February 2016 Adoption

Motioned by Mr. Smoot supported by Ms. Jackson to approve NEOLA Volume 30, Number 2, February 2016 policies.

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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.

J. Committee Reports

1) Working Committee Meeting of the Whole 1/18/17 – 5:30 PM (Mr. Mays, Chairperson)

The committee received a Job Corp presentation; the committee discussed the District Strategic Plan Draft; Beecher 2.0 Program Implementation (Young 5's Program; Beecher Early College Program Proposal; Beecher Accelerated High School Proposal); EDEP Overview-Right-sizing Review; and Auxilio

2) Committee #10/Student Hearing Results 1/24/17 – 5:30 PM (Ms. Jackson, Chairperson)

Case #16-30 was expelled for 180 days with F.A.P.E. services to be provided effective, Wednesday, January 25, 2017.

3) Working Committee Meeting of the Whole 1/30/17 – 5:30 PM (Mr. Mays, Chairperson)

The committee discussed the Superintendent's 2017 goals.

K. Other Business – Board Members

Ms. Ford – None

Mrs. Walker – None

Mr. Reed – None

Mrs. Rankins discussed the following: We had a really good meeting on Monday (1/30/17) and I'm glad the way it started and ended. This is the way it should be all of the time and express our concerns. I have to mention that whatever is put on the agenda is the only thing that we are supposed to discuss. It was wrong for Auxilio to be here and they were not on the agenda and I hope this does not happen again. I don't know if they put themselves on the agenda or if they asked permission from the superintendent, but the way the school laws are is that whatever we have on the agenda, we go by that. We don't have an organization come in and put themselves on the agenda if their name is not there. I hope this doesn't happen again. Otherwise we had a good meeting.

Mr. Smoot, Dr. Talison, and Mrs. Rankins discussed the following: I brought up to Dr. Talison the two parents meetings that were somewhat divided and they were having two different meetings. He did an investigation and spoke with Mrs. Castle. I would like for him to share that information with the board about the outcome from the last meeting we had when the individual stood up and talked about the parent meeting. I did an investigation myself to see why we had two parent groups going on. I stated to Dr. Talison and Mrs. Castle that the district was too small to have two divided groups for the same common goal. I would like Dr. Talison to give a report of the outcome behind that; I spoke with Mrs. Castle and met with Mr. Williams yesterday. I was under a different impression of what was originally brought to me that it wasn't a parent group. Initially it was brought to me that they were volunteering but recently I was told they called themselves a parent group. I met with Mr. Williams specifically to let them know

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everything is under his umbrella and they can do different things as long as he coordinates it. They can have various meetings throughout the week but everything needs to be under his umbrella. There is only one parent group and Mr. Williams is over that parent group, he gives supervision of that. Initially when the person came to the board and talked about it, they were talking about volunteering. They didn't say they were a group, but it seems that it has morphed into something that it wasn't supposed to be. Mrs. Castle and I have already communicated and Mr. Williams will be coordinating that. I will be meeting with the other individual as well to make sure they understand that there is only one parent group and Mr. Williams is the Parent Facilitator and anything that happens has to go through him; do they have a facility at the high school or an office? I learned from Mr. Williams yesterday that they had a room and that shouldn't have happened. We are clarifying those types of things because when it was brought originally, the person said they were volunteering and helping out in the building and it morphed into something that it wasn't supposed to be in the first place. We don't mind if you volunteer and you're helping out in the classroom but you can't create something that's already in existence; if they had a group, they would have to go through background checks; Mr. Williams and I had a robust conversation yesterday and we are going to make sure all that's going on because what was presented to us, and everyone was here, was not that. It was that they were volunteering and helping out in the hallways. It wasn't about meetings, groups, etc.

Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Seltzer, and Dr. Talison discussed the following: I received a call from Mrs. Seltzer and you said it was 5 additional students in the district? Yes, based on the email that I read to you; those students that came, are they former students or are they new students? Three are new and two are returning; the bowling coach that we have, I do not have a problem with him whatsoever, but as a board member when somebody comes in and gets a position, I would like to know that that person has that position. I do know Mr. Milhouse and I'm not worried about Mr. Milhouse doing anything wrong, but if someone comes off of the street and is hired for that position to be around my children in the district, I want to know who it is. The only people that cannot just walk in the building are board members without permission, anybody else can go in there. I don't anybody just coming off the street whether they're hired or not, that me as a board member don't know anything about. I truly have a problem with that. I want to know what that person is that is going to be over the children in this district. I went to the meeting that held for the students at Tucker. I learned a lot. I learned that something truly needs to be done. The children, and I've known this, are out of control and I'm not blaming staff whatsoever because of the things that are happening it comes from home. Something truly needs to be done. The staff's hands are full in these schools. If they can't say a bad cuss word, they can't talk. I'm not saying we need more security, there's other things, like the parents should be involved and they're not. They're putting all of their child rearing on the district. This is affecting the district. I still have a problem with that list of people that have left the district and it's not just because they want another job. They are dissatisfied with the way things are being conducted in this district these last 5-6 years and it is out of control and you all got the same information I did when I requested to see how many staff members that have left this district and it's enough to bring tears to your eyes. It's not that they don't want to work with the children, it's what's going on in this district and this district is out of control and something needs to be done. You can look at the very same paper that I got with all of the staff members leaving and the paper

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that Mr. Sumpter gave to me when I went over to Tucker, it hurts. That's why I want to know where the students are and the only thought I can have about the 5 students coming back, the ones that were here and left, somebody else didn't want them. I can truly see it. I know Mr. Sumpter, Mrs. Castle, and Mrs. Matthews are doing everything they need to do, they're doing their jobs. This is what I get from our parents that know exactly what's supposed to go on but we have a different group of parents. This is what needs to be taken care of and it needs to happen now. We have some that are not in sports that needs some kind of guidance. It is off the hook. The rules are there and they're not being followed the way that I think. Like the meeting today, what is discussed in those meetings if you don't get a write-up on how the children are behaving at the schools, what is that meeting today for? It is our monthly administrators meeting and we talk about a myriad of stuff; do you see the same paper that I got from Tucker? Yes; and you're satisfied with? No; I've never heard anything come up to the board that we need to talk about something; if you will reflect, the whole thing that happened at Tucker last year we had a meeting where board members sat in and talked about it. This isn't brand new. We had a parent meeting with parents in the auditorium about what our expectations are and different things of that nature. The same students are still matriculating and going to the next grade so it is not a secret. Mr. Sumpter has better control of the building because we don't have as many fights as last year. At the administrators meeting we talk about a variety of things and we talk about support and different they may need to make sure that's what's going on and that is part of the expectations of what we're talking about; did you see the same handout that I got when I was in the meeting? I said yes; you're satisfied with that? I answered that question already; excuse me; I answered that question already; no, I'm asking you a question now; I answered that already; are you satisfied with it? I answered that; I didn't ask you about that; you asked me if I was satisfied with it and I told you no the first time you, I'm not satisfied with it; how do I know that you received the packet that I got the other day. I got a packet the other day from the meeting and this is where it has the counts of what all of the students have done. This is what I'm saying. I don't know anybody in any position that would be satisfied with that and who else was supposed to be there with me I'm not sure, but it was not a good account for what the children are doing there is what I'm saying. That was my question, did you see that? Yes.

Mr. Mays and Mrs. Rankins discussed the following: I will continue to reinforce life. The district needs life. We're going to keep talking life, we're going to keep bringing life, and we're going to keep moving forward. We need the support. The teachers need support, administrators need support, as a board we need to support ourselves, each other, and administration. The concerns that we have in the district, everything can and will be addressed. The first thing we need to do as a board, and we talked about this, is to make sure we're all on the same page with policy, procedure, etc. so that when we have to step up to the plate, we're supporting each other not having to defend each other. There's a difference between supporting and defending. As my vision, the main focus is to speak life, speak support, speak future, and speak promise. When we start doing that then as we speak then we see. As we see then it affects the whole entire district. My vision is that's the key that's going to get us from where we are now to the next stage, to the next level, whatever that may be. We need to stop the bleeding and we've been doing that. With the support and help of the board members, administration, and the teachers we can do some great things and I have no doubt in my mind. We always talk about Beecher, let's be

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Beecher. We're not out of the game until the buzzer and the buzzer hasn't sounded yet; will you tell the audience that this is a new beginning and we're going to be meeting with the staff, students, administrators, and everybody. This is going to be a new turnover for Beecher and if we don't come together, it's not going to work; Mrs. Rankins is right and we did talk about that and we did discuss that. I said it and some of the other board members said it, we all need to be on the same page. In order to be on the same page, we have to speak the same language. In order to speak the same language, we have to hear each other talk. When we hear each other talk, then we can speak the same language. For example, I work with a lady that speaks Spanish. We speak two different languages but we still know what we're talking about because we communicate. Communication isn't always what you say, it's what you mean when you say it and being on the same page and understanding. I hope our focus can be is to start speaking the same language for each other instead of against each other and then we can get some things done. We did have good meeting and good beginning of a conversation which I think should spill over into the whole district, but the key is getting on the same page and understanding each other and understanding our focus, goals, setting goals and then making those goals happen.

L. Public Comments

Public Comments were received from:

Reginald Van Hook – I was working with Auxilio and yesterday I was let go for no reason, I don't have a reason why they let me go. Some concerns of mine was the same thing we had 5 months ago about a workman's comp claim that still hasn't been taken care of. The bill collector is still calling me for the young lady who got hurt. Finding out after I was released yesterday that Auxilio is taking our vehicles and going to Saginaw doing things up there. Auxilio, I thought was a good company to work for but now it turns my stomach for them to do me like they did because I've been working so hard in the community for my babies and it has me real upset. I'm not upset to the fact that I'm pushing away from the community. That makes me work harder for my community. With that being said, I have done everything from being a football coach, security, custodian, it's something else in Buc Town for me to do and I'm going to still be here for that. With the volunteer group, I'm here if you can give me some information so that I can get in touch with them, but to say the least, do some more investigation on Auxilio please.

Larry Banks, Parent – Thank you for your efforts board members, staff and volunteers. I'm not going to point fingers or blame, I'm just going to stick to the facts as close as possible. A breath of fresh air was to see students with involvement and recognition because they need that. Certain board members, quit damaging the community, quit being that dead anchor, and that pity-party. We deserve better and we are better. We went to the balanced calendar and that was a little achievement but it seems like we stopped right there. We should be known for more than basketball and football because that only represents less than 5% of our students and maybe safe drinking water. We witness almost every board meeting the envy and negative actions of board members against other board members during the meeting. Some of them spend half the time defusing the issue because of what someone else said about a fellow board member. It's not about you, it's about the students. Most of this was so predictable, I could write it

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down before I sat at the board meeting. I welcome the new board members. I don't really know you and I would like to hear more from you because I barely recognize your voice because I don't really hear it. I knew about the other entity as far as other volunteers and I think it was in retaliation because the original group appeared to be biased and they weren't agreeing. I was invited to that so-called entity. I am a combat veteran and I heard about the flag, but I hear more about game access than about the students when it comes to personal voices of the board members. I see the presentations but when it comes to a complaint, it's not we didn't have a success in 8th grade, but it's about a flag or walking access to a game. We want to be known more than just basketball and football. It is a reason why people are leaving Beecher, it's the classrooms. When we hear personal accounts from the board members, I expect to hear something about the grades, classrooms, etc.

Michael Derricks – I was employed by Auxilio to be a grounds man. Speaking on what I did when I first started in the summer, I cut grass every day for 8 hours going to each school in the district trying my best to keep the lawns up. When winter came, it didn't start snowing immediately so Mr. Reggie gave me the opportunity to work with the custodians to be trained so that I would know what I was doing in case anybody ever missed. When it started snowing, we only had one truck, and Auxilio has it so that we can't get a second of overtime, and once we punch in at 6 o'clock, I have from 6-8 to clear out three schools. It's no way it's going to happen. Yesterday I was basically let go, but I wasn't let go because I wasn't fired, but they said I'm a sub now. Under the impression that I'm a sub, if nobody misses work, I don't work. I asked them how can I go from a full time grounds man to being a sub? They told me they had to move me to a sub because they were 107 hours over every pay period. I haven't had an 80 hour check from Auxilio since I've been working for them. I don't understand how I can be moved from a full time person because they need to cut hours and they hired another person and brought him in today?

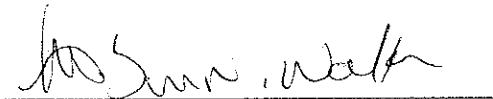
M. Adjournment

Motioned by Mrs. Rankins supported by Mr. Reed to adjourn the regular board meeting at 7:24 PM.

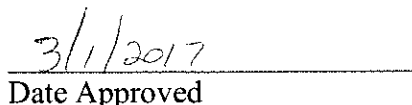
All present voted yes on roll call vote (Ms. Ford, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Mays, Mrs. Rankins, Mr. Reed, Mr. Smoot, and Mrs. Walker).

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by



TeaJuana Walker, Secretary
Beecher Board of Education



Date Approved

Minutes transcribed by Terrie A. Seltzer