

Beecher Community School District

A regular meeting of the Beecher Board of Education was held on October 5, 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, and Marvin Smoot; Ocelar Denson Watson was absent.

Mrs. Loper stated to board members and audience, I would like to ask for a moment of silence in memory of Rodney Waters, Jr., former Beecher student, who passed away on Wednesday, September 28, 2016; and Jovon Thompson, Beecher Class of 1999 graduate, who passed away on Sunday, October 2, 2016.

October 2016 Recognitions:

Dr. Talison recognized the following individuals:

Tiffany May, Tucker Middle School Student, for being an 8th grade student new to Tucker Middle School last year. Since her tenure at Beecher, Tiffany has proven to be a student who cares about her education. She comes to class on time and prepared for each day's lesson. In addition, her behavior has been exemplary. Congratulations!

Ms. Jane Bailey, Tucker Middle School Teacher, for volunteering to take on the Child Study Lead role at Tucker Middle School. This very important role is necessary to implement a Response-to-Intervention program for students who are struggling academically and/or behaviorally. She has already taken the initiative to schedule Child Study meetings and inform teachers of the procedure for beginning the Child Study process. We recognize Ms. Bailey for her dedication and commitment to meeting the needs of all students.

Ms. Mia Barnett, Tucker Middle School Behavior Interventionist, for being great with the scholars. Even though she is part of the discipline of the school she is well received by the staff and scholars. When she is absent she is well missed. Ms. Barnett is being recognized for the hard work that she does for Tucker Middle School and the Beecher District.

Ms. Norma LaFave, Dailey Elementary School Academic Interventionist, for stepping up and is now coordinating Child Study at Dailey. She jumped in without hesitation and is already working to meet the needs of the students at Dailey who are struggling academically and/or behaviorally.

Old Business

- A. Motioned by Mr. Smoot supported by Mr. Mays to approve the Minutes of September 7, 2016 (Regular Meeting).

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

Motion carried.

B. Old Business – Board Members

Mrs. Rankins, Mrs. Loper, and Dr. Talison discussed the following: Have we gone over the contract between Beecher and GISD. They voted on theirs at their meeting and I was

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wondering if we have seen it; we agreed for them to give us services at no charge. If you want to go back over line by line, we can do it at the working committee meeting; the attorney said we did not have one, that it is not a contract, it is an agreement. According to their minutes, they have already voted to accept it. I'm asking why we haven't seen it; we can discuss it at the working committee meeting of the whole; why haven't we seen it? The board saw the contract in April or May and the board approved it. We had certain items the board didn't want. We discussed it in closed session. I will put it in Friday's packet. If they approved it June 28, we approved it at a June board meeting; when are we going to try to find some teachers that are willing to stay in Beecher, is there anything we can do. I believe something else is going on. My gut feeling is telling me something is wrong somewhere and I don't know what it is, but I will be trying to find out? We've never had this many people leave us inside of one school year unless we offered them an incentive to retire. Something is wrong somewhere.

Mr. Smoot and Dr. Talison discussed the following: At the last committee meeting I asked for Auxilio to come in and discuss the issue with the bus situation because they promised us a lot of different things and they didn't deliver. It has been said that the issued has been rectified, but I still wanted them here. I said sooner than later, that was my request, and I still don't see them here. I want to know what the issue was in the beginning when they promised us x, y, and z and didn't get x, y, and z. It hurts our students when they are lacking transportation to school; I will ask them to come to our October working committee meeting.

Ms. Jackson and Mrs. Loper discussed the following: Parents and everyone are parking on the grass at the Little League games. I do have a problem with the parents parking on the grass at the high school and at Tucker. Our children don't walk where they're going, they run and they can fall in the ruts caused by people parking on the grass. I have a problem with the parents and the visitors parking on the lawn and the sidewalks. Signs need to go out in front of the schools that say "no parking" because someone is going to get hurt with all of the dips and holes that we have on the property. I had asked for the minutes from the meeting we had when the gentleman came in and said that board members were not in the schools. This is my third time asking for it and I don't know what the problem is, but I want the information. At that very same meeting he said the superintendent is not supposed to be around any cash money. I don't know what the problem is that I can't get the things that I'm asking for, but this is the last time and I expect and intend to get them. I have a problem with the fact that I'm not getting them. Mrs. Rankins brought it up as far as all of the staff that has been resigning. These last 5 years we have had more people resign from this district than we've had retire. I would like a list of the ones that have resigned and retired from this district. There is something that is going on to send all of these faithful people away from our district. I know the reasons but I want to know how many. Every meeting we have 2-4 people resigning; I had addressed Dr. Talison about the issued, but there are no minutes in writing about board members coming to the building and the money. There are no minutes to give to you. That was something that he (the gentleman) said that MASB recommended and I don't want you to keep waiting for something that's not available. He did state that was his recommendation, but to say there were minutes and it's etched in stone, it's not; I don't need minutes, I need where ever he got it from; that was his recommendation and there is no place for me to get it from. I personally wanted to make sure you got that

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information, but that was his recommendation. There is nothing in writing and there are no written rules that state you can't come in the buildings or he can't be around money. It is nothing in writing and there is nothing for me to give you or for Mrs. Seltzer to give to you; if someone is coming into the district to give me information, I only want the written, don't tell me what you think. I don't need something that somebody thinks. If I had something to do, I would go to the school. I would also like a letter from him stating that was exactly what he was saying, that this is how he felt. I don't appreciate somebody coming in here saying their giving a class and don't give me something that is written down saying this is what the policy or procedure is.

Ms. Larry discussed the following: I appreciate the card from the board. It really touched my heart. I appreciate the staff for calling me and I want to give a special thanks to Mrs. Loper and Mrs. Rankins for coming to visit me in the hospital; I appreciate everyone who participated in the homecoming parade; it hurts me when my child comes home to tell me what he heard people saying in the audience, people calling the board members names, and saying they came to see a show. It is rude and disrespectful. You talk about how we act but you need to be careful of what you're saying in the audience saying and be mindful that kids are around you and can hear everything that you say.

Mr. Mays – None

Mrs. Loper discussed the following: I would like to thank everyone for participating in the homecoming parade. It was nice even though it rained. Thank you, Ms. Larry and Mr. Williams for helping to organize it.

New Business

A. Public comments on agenda items only

None

B. 21st Century Summer Program Presentation – Marquise Gray

Mr. Gray stated the 21st Century Program had a very productive summer. The students had a great time and were fed every day; the students took a trip to Michigan State University and were able to sit and talk with Coach Izzo, toured the Breslin Center and were able to go over to the winning side of the auxiliary gym and received free t-shirts; we meet every day Monday-Thursday 2:50-5:45 PM; student met a music engineer and have made two songs; we gave 60 kids book bags with school supplies; we had a water giveaway to families; our numbers have increased from 7-8 students per day to 20-25 students. During this time we know the kids are safe and we feed them every day. If there is anything you need or have any suggestions to make the program better, please let me know.

C. Authorization for Payment of Bills – Board Treasurer Mays

Motioned by Mr. Mays supported by Mr. Smoot to approve the Authorization for Payment of Bills totaling \$589,881.17 for the period ending October 5, 2016.

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

Motion carried.

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

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Mays to accept the letter of resignation from Benjamin Yocom, Math Teacher at Tucker Middle School effective Friday, September 16, 2016.

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

Motion carried.

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Mays to accept the letter of resignation from Kimberly Routowicz, Science Teacher at Beecher High School, effective Friday, September 16, 2016.

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

Motion carried.

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Smoot to accept the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Lori Smith, Pupil Accounting Supervisor, effective Saturday, October 1, 2016.

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

Motion carried.

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Smoot to accept the letter of resignation from Nicole Soper, Special Education Teacher at Beecher High School, effective Monday, October 3, 2016.

(Discussion ensued between Mrs. Rankins, Dr. Talison, Mr. Smoot, and Ms. Larry regarding the following: are we replacing the teacher; yes; why do we need a special education teacher; the class size numbers are at the max and by law, you have to have a caseload teacher to manage the case load information. Interviews were today; how is that going to affect our kids if we don't have anyone in place and who is going to fill that void; temporarily Mr. Riselay will come over from Tucker and will cover IEP's internally. We have a two-week intercession and hopefully we will have a recommendation by the next board meeting; why do we need to have that person doing Saturday school since we have less kids now; Mrs. McWilliams is doing a program evaluation and we will talk about the focus room, Saturday school, etc. at the next working committee meeting of the whole)

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

Motion carried.

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- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Mays to hire Stacy Long for the position of Social Studies Instruction (7th & 8th Grades) at Tucker Middle School. All clearances have been met and are on file in the Personnel Department.

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

Motion carried.

(Ms. Long stated she is very happy to join the Beecher community and am very excited to serve the district)

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Mays to hire Evan Ghoujehi for the position of Social Studies Instructor at Beecher High School. All clearances have been met and are on file in the Personal Department.

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

Motion carried.

(Mr. Ghoujehi was not present)

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Mays to hire Shauntel Manning for the position of Math Instructor (7th & 8th Grades) at Tucker Middle School. All clearances have been met and are on file in the Personnel Department.

(Discussion ensued between Ms. Larry and Dr. Talison regarding: what is the issue with math teachers at Beecher High School, the position has been open for two years. Do we need a new interview team in place; it is not the interview team. The persons are not coming in certified for the position. They have to be 9-12 certified to teach high school math)

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

Motion carried.

(Ms. Manning thanked the board for the opportunity and stated she is very excited to continue her career.)

Dr. Talison stated as an FYI, Martin Zmiejko will be exercising his BEA contractual rights to take an unpaid one school year leave of absence from his duties to seek a political office in the MEA/NEA effective Thursday, October 13, 2016.

E. Donation Acceptance

- Motioned by Mr. Smoot supported by Mr. Mays to accept the donation of \$3,000 from the Friends of the Library to Beecher Community School District to be used towards the building repairs of the Genesee District Library-Vera B. Rison Library Branch.

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

Motion carried.

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Mays to accept the donation of new coats from Agent Outerwear for Dailey Elementary students.

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

Motion carried.

F. GCCARD 2016-2017 Early Head Start Delegate Contract Approval

Motioned by Mr. Smoot supported by Ms. Jackson to approve the GCCARD 2016-2017 Early Head Start Delegate Contract.

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

Motion carried.

G. Committee Reports

1) Full Board Parent Requested Student Hearing Appeal Results – Closed Session 9/12/16 – 5:30 PM (Mrs. Loper, Chairperson)

Case #15-14 was originally expelled for 180 day with no New Directions effective March 8, 2016. The board upheld the previous decision of 180 days expulsion without New Directions effective Tuesday, September 13, 2016.

2) Finance Committee Meeting 9/15/16 – 5:30 PM (Mr. Mays, Chairperson)

The committee received an overview of the Enhanced Deficit Elimination Plan; discussed financial information; and received recommendations.

3) Board Retreat 9/19/16 – 5:30 PM (Mrs. Loper, Chairperson)

The committee discussed board/superintendent concerns.

4) Committee #4/Student Hearing Results 9/20/16 – 5:30 PM (Mrs. Rankins, Chairperson)

Case #15-20 was re-admitted to Beecher High School effective Wednesday, September 21, 2016; Case #16-04 was expelled for 180 days and may attend New Directions effective Wednesday, September 21, 2016; and Case #16-05 was considered time served (16 days) and may return to Dailey Elementary effective Wednesday, September 21, 2016.

5) Board Retreat 9/26/16 – 5:30 PM (Mrs. Loper, Chairperson)

The committee discussed board/superintendent concerns. I want to thank Mr. Bishop. He was the facilitator for both retreats. I asked him to give us a fresh perspective and he did a phenomenal job directing us and helping us look at concerns and prioritize things that we needed to do.

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6) Working Committee Meeting of the Whole 9/28/16 – 5:30 PM (Mrs. Loper, Chairperson)

The committee received an EDEP (Enhanced Deficit Elimination Plan) Overview; the committee discussed the Parent Facilitator's Request; Greater Friendship Azusa Land Proposal; and the committee received a District Academic Overview (Blue Print/Data; Department Chairs' Goals Presentation; SRO Plan Recommendation)

- Motioned by Mr. Smoot supported by Mr. Mays to approve the 12% student reduction for the Enhanced Deficit Elimination Plan (EDEP).

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

Motion failed due to tie vote.

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Mays to outsource the Parent Facilitators to PESG effective Monday, October 10, 2016.

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

Motion carried.

- Motioned by Mr. Mays supported by Mr. Smoot to approve Goyette Mechanical for the boiler repairs at Dailey Elementary for the amount of \$6,226.

(Discussion ensued between Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Rankins, and Mr. Mays regarding: Things are getting messed up and out of control before the problem is found. Why are we waiting so long to have things repaired and there is no money here to do it? What is the use of having somebody over a department if they're not doing their job? This could have been found a long time ago. I want to see the maintenance schedule where the maintenance department does a yearly check on all of the equipment in this building. I do not want to wait four months to get the report because a trail should already be there, when the repairs were done, when it was looked at, etc.; why do we always settle on Goyette; it is whoever is the least expensive; we don't recognize others, it is always Goyette. Is there something going on, do we have a standard contract, etc.; they were the least expensive; we did know about the boiler in the spring and we, as a board, decided not to get it fixed in the spring because we were looking at some other financial situations that we were dealing with at the time. It was known about in the spring and now it's time to get it done before it gets cold and that is why it has come up now; with water leaking on the floor, I would never have voted no unless I had inaccurate information.)

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

Motion carried.

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Dr. Talison stated the board was neutral on the motion for the 12%. The board received a letter from Treasury requiring you to approve the 12%. I just want to remind everyone of that.

7) Committee #5/Student Hearing Results 10/4/16 – 5:30 PM (Mr. Mays, Chairperson)

Case #16-06 was expelled for 180 days and may attend New Directions. Additionally, if the parent provides documentation of the student's disability, the board will re-hear the case effective Wednesday, October 5, 2016; Case #16-07 was expelled for 180 days and may attend New Directions effective Wednesday, October 5, 2016; Case #16-08 was expelled for 180 days and may attend New Directions effective Wednesday, October 5, 2016; and Case #16-09 was expelled for 180 days and may attend New Directions effective Wednesday, October 5, 2016.

H. Other Business – Board Members

Mr. Mays – None

Ms. Larry discussed the following: Chief Green of the Mt. Morris Township Police Department came out today and met with all of the parent groups from each school to discuss cyber bullying and a lot of things he will be bringing to the community and schools such as block clubs. Chief Green has been wonderful to our school district and he was in the rain with us on Friday for the homecoming; I believe in miracles, that's why I voted the way I did. All we have to do is come together. We have to give the parents something to believe in and show them we want the kids and have faith in us. We have to come together, do it together, and work. We can get the kids back.

Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Loper and Dr. Talison discussed the following: Can someone explain the letter page 85 in our packet; he is saying he will be out of the district on those days on personal business and will be using contractual time; there is typo. They can contact those individuals in my absence; (*Ms. Jackson read the email in its entirety*); it was a typographical error, which should have said "Mr." instead of "me"; all three of them are taking your place while you're gone; they are available if someone needs something. They are Central Administration; it is usually one person because you're gone a lot, but why all three of them; they can contact either one of those individuals.

Mr. Smoot – None

Mrs. Rankins, Dr. Talison, Mrs. Loper, and Ms. Larry discussed the following: How is Mr. (*Jacob*) Hawkins going to take your place if he's outsourced; it could be a custodial or transportation area and they can contact him. Those are the department people they can contact; this is exactly what I was speaking of, why we need an assistant superintendent so we can know who knows what and who will be able to give orders or whatever. This is why I brought it up when we had our retreat. We need someone that is already on board. Mr. Hawkins is not working in the building is he; yes he is here; didn't we vote for the senior class to have the concession stand once out of the year to help with graduation, prom, etc. and why don't they know this. Who are the Class of 2017 sponsors? Yes that hasn't changed; Ms. Williams and Ms. Fannie Ray; they should get the concession stand; I can pull the minutes, but I thought it said basketball because it

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would be more popular and draws a bigger audience, they will donate the door (earnings) of a basketball game; why does the Booster Club have to get the concession stand and admissions, why can't the graduating class get either one, the concession stand or they get the door money. They should start sharing the money because donations aren't coming in the way they used to and the Booster Club doesn't pay any bills out here or a spot. These kids are having a hard time raising money. The Booster Club should not get both of them; the Booster Club does not get the door. The Athletic Department automatically gets the door because they have to pay for referees, etc. The Booster Club only receives the concession stand; October is principal recognition month and we should come together to do something for our principals; when the board does something, we normally use our own personal funds for donations. Are you volunteering to facilitate something; yes; Mrs. Rankins and Ms. Larry will lead the charge to recognize our principals.

Mrs. Loper – None

I. Public Comments

Public Comments were received from:

Roshawnda Williams, Parent – Pastor Shields isn't here tonight but tell him I'm sorry. He went through something and he was disrespected and I would like to tell him the community is not like that. We don't feel that way, staff doesn't feel that way and neither do our children and I'm sorry that he had to go through that and if nobody else can say they're sorry, I'm apologizing that he got disrespected at the last board meeting. To donate to the Class of 2017, you may reach me at (810) 936-1615.

Fannie Ray – You can reach me at (810) 336-1730. Last year I was the Class Sponsor for the Class of 2016 and I know LaSonya said fundraisers are hard, but we got out there last year and we did fundraisers and raised a lot of money for that class and had money left over that we turned over to this class. The only thing about it, you are not going to have all of the kids that are going to fundraise for you, we may have had 15-20 in our class, but we raised \$6,000 + for that class. The good thing about it, the people in the community, we all have to stick together because it's for the kids and it's all about the kids. When we did fundraisers last year, Ms. Castle had people bring the donations up to the school. *(Mrs. Castle stated if it is monetary, it goes to the Business Office so that it is recorded and receipted; if it's candy or something like that, it can be brought to the school).*

LaSonya Larry, Parent – You need to look at the high school because there are too many people leaving and we have too many subs in the building. When the principal leaves, you have Behavior Interventionist running the building when she leaves the building. How can you write referrals, deal with behavior, and run the building at the same time. It is impossible because you may have a parent that wants to speak to the principal, and even though you're taking her spot when she's not there, how can you do two jobs at one time. I don't understand that? When you come up here talking about the community, you can't speak on the community. Speak on it for what you do because I live in the community and you can't speak for me.

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Deatrius Burks, Parent – Have you interviewed for math teachers at Beecher High School? *(Mrs. Loper replied yes, we have but we have not found qualified candidates)* Do we have any that are close that can take the place of our long-term subs? I’m not saying anything bad, but they need to be up on their qualifications, we just need someone that is close to it that may have a little more qualifications

TeaJuana Walker, Parent – We have so many subs that are in and out. I have no problem with long-term subs as long as we’re looking for teachers, but make sure that sub is qualified. Don’t put a reading teacher in a math class if s/he is not qualified. I am very passionate about this. One of the reasons our scores are low is because our leaders in the classroom are unqualified. I cannot afford for my child as a parent, to let my child down or any child in this district because if these children are not being taught what they need to learn, it doesn’t matter what anybody does, we’re going to fail because they’re not being taught because our leaders in the classroom are not certified in those areas. I’m asking as a parent please when we call these subs up for long term or just for the day, please make sure that they’re certified and qualified to teach those classes because these kids can’t learn. The math teacher is now gone and a student received an “E.” The teacher left and so did the grades and from my understanding nothing was being recorded. You do not give that kid an “E” because of the work not being there, it left with the teacher. The kids should not be punished because the teacher left with the assignments the kids’ turned in. The assignment should be wiped away and the “E” should not exist. It is unfair. Our kids are being punished for our teachers leaving. Our teachers are leaving because there’s no support and they don’t feel secure at Beecher schools. They send the kids to the office and they send the kids back, and now the kid is disrupting the class. The teacher is playing referee all day. They don’t have time for that. If the kid is not doing what they’re supposed to do, take steps to take care of the kid so the teacher can teach. These are issues that our teachers are having, these are issues that our kids are having and we need to make this an environment where our kids are guaranteed to learn.

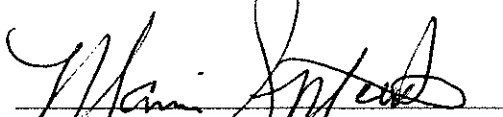
J. Adjournment

Motioned by Mr. Mays supported by Mr. Smoot to adjourn the regular board meeting at 7:12 PM.

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

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by


Marvin Smoot, Secretary
Beecher Board of Education

11/2/2016
Date Approved

Minutes transcribed by Terrie A. Seltzer