

Beecher Community School District

A regular meeting of the Beecher Board of Education was held on August 5, 2015 in the Coates Administration Building Board Room, 1020 W. Coldwater Road, Flint, MI 48505 and was called to order at 6:00 PM by Board President, Michele Loper.

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

Mrs. Loper asked board members and audience for a moment of silence in memory of Moses Rison, Sr., an avid Beecher Community District supporter, who passed away Tuesday, July 21, 2015; and Jack Van Wagoner, Retired Teacher & Guidance Counselor, who passed away on Thursday, July 30, 2015.

Old Business

A. Minutes of July 1, 2015 (Organizational Meeting) and Minutes of July 1, 2015 (Regular Meeting) – Board Secretary Smoot

Motioned by Mr. Smoot supported by Mrs. Rankins to approve the Minutes of July 1, 2015 (Organizational Meeting) and Minutes of July 1, 2015 (Regular Meeting).

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

Motion carried.

(Ms. Larry arrived at 6:02 PM)

B. Old Business – Board Members

Mr. Mays – None

Ms. Jackson and Dr. Talison discussed the following: Why is it that the door is not unlocked when we have meetings? What was done with the offers that were made to Courtney Hawkins and Mary Randle working additional duties now that Mr. Hawkins (*Jacob*) rescinded his resignation? Neither one of them were offered a position. I met with them to see if they would be interested before I brought it to the board. After the board declined the recommendation, no further communication took place; I have a problem with you asking them before we even knew it was going to be presented. Has anything been sent to them saying that it is not available? I verbally talked to one of the two people. The other person has not returned; the board should be informed first and also when something is done as far as nothing is there for them if they had thought about wanting it, I would have loved to have gotten some information saying that. Nothing followed. Something should have been sent to them in writing. I know there was professional development (PD) for the district. I want to know how many of our staff was there and why were other school districts there. I want to know and I want to see the amount of money Beecher paid for the conference, I want to see how much the other districts that were there, how much they paid or contributed to the conference, and how many other conferences have we had that

Beecher Community School District

other schools were invited, when other schools have them do our staff get to go to theirs? That is a common practice within the county. We have been invited to Grand Blanc whereas they had a national speaker that they paid to come. They do not charge other districts to come. It has been a practice within the county over the years; I want to know exactly how much Beecher paid and I truly have a problem with it being a professional development and it asked for us to cut the allowance that we are giving our staff; teachers were given a stipend for that conference; we were asked to eliminate the payment that the staff was given and people are coming in. I want to know how much their school district contributed; there school district didn't contribute anything; I mentioned at the meeting yesterday about mileage being \$300, but it was \$225. Where would one of our staff members need to go that they have to be reimbursed \$225? Many times a staff members' mileage may be over a 1-2 month period. It may have been for a conference to Grand Rapids, etc; there's a lot of mileage that is being distributed and I'm wondering when are you at your job. I'm having a problem with that especially with us being in the financial situation that we're in. It's getting out of hand. I requested information for students getting in to the track meet where it was said that the superintendent was going to pay their way. I received showing where it was paid through some fund. That is not what the staff or the children were told. My question is it was said Dr. Talison was going to pay their way. I want to know did you give the business department money for the children that you said that you were going to pay their way? You never heard me say that and I have never said that to anyone. I didn't tell anyone I was paying their way. If you look at the email documentation that was given to you, it started from the first conversation the intersession people had about it and it says nowhere in that communication that I said I was going to pay anything. When that event took place, I told the people at the door Mr. Hawkins (*Courtney*) would get a check regarding that. No one ever told them that the superintendent was paying anything and the email correspondence specifically does not say anything regarding that so whatever anybody told you that is false. I have the email documentation that states how the communication started and where we went from that point. At no point does it state I said I was paying anything; it was said from staff, children, and parents that stood and heard when the children were coming in; there were two people at the gate and I communicated to them that Mr. Hawkins (*Courtney*) would receive a check for their entrance. Is there a problem that we are sending our own students to our own track meet and it was the first time in the county and I never talked to any students to tell them that I am paying for you to get into the track meet? That never came out of my mouth for to any student or adult so whomever told you is mistaken; the children, parents, and staff said you were going to pay and I know the children know what they heard and I know there was communication from one of the staff asking if there were funds to send the children to the track meet. I received that communication and I also received the communication that you were going to pay; what is the point because I never said that? The point is the money was not given and I went to the business office to get a report to see if you had paid when I was told I couldn't see it unless I came through you; you were told something incorrect. I never told them I was

Beecher Community School District

going to pay for it. The bigger issue is we have a \$1 million deficit and someone is worried about \$90 for kids that a third party is telling. If you heard me say something, that is a different story. You didn't hear me say that. Somebody else somewhere else told you something else and the bigger picture is it is about kids, what is best for kids, to expose ourselves to our track and at some point the board and this community have to say enough with this foolishness, this is foolishness over \$90. If you want me to, I will write a check for \$90 just out of the kindness of my heart, but I didn't do that.

Mr. Smoot – None

Mrs. Rankins and Mrs. Loper discussed the following: At our last meeting we brought up we were going to discuss the job qualifications of the Maintenance & Operations Director and since we are going to have one elementary school, we were going to discuss a full time principal at Dailey; we will make sure we discuss it at our next working committee meeting.

Ms. Watson – None

Mrs. Loper discussed the following: Welcome to everyone, it's a new year, and I'm hoping we can have a great year. The back-to-school breakfast was a great event and there were a lot of people there. Welcome back.

Ms. Larry and Mrs. Loper discussed the following: We need a full time principal for K-4 at Dailey. Every other building has a full time principal and Dailey should have one; we didn't discuss the raise Courtney Hawkins asked about. We were supposed to talk about it last night. Dr. Talison said it would be on the agenda and it wasn't; we needed to see where we were first in terms of the deficit before we could talk about a raise for anybody. The main thing was to look at where we're at. Now that we know where we're at, we can have a realistic conversation. Because he did put a formal request in, we can discuss it at the next working committee agenda; he wrote a 5-8 page letter to the board about his duties being increased and asked for a raise; we needed to know where we were financially. There was no need for a discussion on raises for anyone until we found out our bottom line. We will discuss it; the superintendent should have told him we don't have money to give him a raise. He should tell anyone who asks for a raise that we can't afford to give anyone a raise. He wants an answer to his letter. He wrote the letter to the board.

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. Jackson to approve the Authorization for Payment of Bills totaling \$1,872,213.37 for the period ending August 5, 2015.

Beecher Community School District

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

None

D. 2015 Michigan Association of School Boards Delegate and Alternate Appointment

Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Ms. Watson to appoint LaSonya Larry as the delegate and Michele Loper as the alternate voting delegate to participate in the Michigan Association of School Board 2015 Delegate Assembly to be held on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 7:30 PM at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City, 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.

E. NEOLA Volume 29, Number 2, March 2015 Policy Adoption

Motioned by Ms. Watson supported by Mr. Mays to adopt the NEOLA Volume 29, Number 2, March 2015 Policies.

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

Motion carried.

F. Committee Reports

1) Working Committee Meeting of the Whole 8/4/15 – 5:30 PM (Mrs. Loper, Chairperson)

The committee discussed the Adult Education Coordinator/Supervisor (Part-Time) Recommendation; the 2015-2016 Beecher High School Student Handbook and Code of Conduct; the committee received a presentation from the Business Office and discussed the Deficit Elimination Plan; the committee reviewed and discussed the Administrative Assistant-Level III (State and Federal Programs) Job Description; Board Discussion with Administration; and Board/Superintendent Concerns.

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Ms. Larry to hire Mark Foster for the position of Adult Education Coordinator/Supervisor (Part-Time).

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.

Beecher Community School District

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Mays to approve the 2015-2016 Beecher High School Student Handbook and Code of Conduct.

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. Watson supported by Mr. Mays to approve the 2015-2016 budget resolution amendment.

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 Mr. Mays supported by Ms. Watson to approve the Administrative Assistant-Level III Title I Funded (State and Federal Programs) .6 Job Description to be funded through State & Federal dollars/.4 position to be funded through General Fund for Curriculum Instruction duties (the position will remain a full time position or 1.0 FTE).

(Discussion ensued from the entire board regarding the items that were crossed out in the job description; if they would be added back; if there is one or two job descriptions; if the curriculum instruction job duties were eliminated; where the additional funds would come from to support the .4 General Fund portion; who is responsible for changing a job description; approving the .6 portion to release the grant funds for that portion of the job description; why the entire position cannot fully be funded by Title dollars; the information was presented to the board at the last minute; if we meet on Monday and if it's approved when will it go to the state; if the motion should be tabled until the funding source for the .4 position is identified; etc.)

Motioned by Mr. Smoot supported by Mrs. Rankins to table the aforementioned motion until the meeting on Monday, August 10, 2015 and more information is received.

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.

Mrs. Loper stated there will be a Special Board Meeting held on Monday, August 10, 2015 at 6:00 PM to further discuss the position and make a decision.

G. Other Business – Board Members

Beecher Community School District

Ms. Watson discussed the following: What we just went through and what we went through last night should never happen again. We need to have a meeting with the administrator of that department as soon as possible and it should be in closed session.

Mrs. Rankins discussed the following: I did say lets come back with some new ideas for the new year and get off on a good foot. This was the first one of the new year and it was a flop. You have to take the bitter with the sweet and we're doing things for the benefit of every kid in Beecher. We may argue and be mad, but just don't leave here evil, that's the main thing. Once we get things settled, it's going to be okay.

Mr. Smoot discussed the following: This is a new year and as board members we should all come together as one for the betterment of our kids in the district to make it a better district. With us at the helm and we've been voted in, we should be giving the community what they expect for the district and for each and every kid in this district to further their education to the best of our abilities, the best of our educator's abilities, and all that's necessary to make sure they get a quality education.

Ms. Jackson discussed the following: The only somebody that I'm for are the children. I don't care what no grown-up has, it doesn't matter where you live, what you drive or anything else, I'm going to be for the children and I don't care what and how you feel about it because that's who I'm in this district for. That's who I'm taking care of. I'm going to ask about it until it's over. If you make a mistake, I'm going to say something about it. When I know that you're a dishonest person, I'm going to watch every move that you make.

Ms. Larry and Dr. Talison discussed the following: I'm for the community, the parents and the kids. The board acts like they are for the superintendent and administrators and I'm not understanding that. Do we have a person in place for Mr. McNier? Ms. Duncan and GISD are helping to assist; it's going to be chaos at the high school. You knew Mr. McNier was going to be out; I just found out that he was going to be out and we have taken steps to make sure there is help with the assistance of Ms. Duncan and GISD.

Mr. Mays discussed the following: On the surface it may have seemed like a flop, but at the meeting last night we were all on the same page. We had solidarity. Last year was hard and this year will be even harder. I will be asking more questions to better do my job. I want to thank the administrator for everything they have done and the superintendent.

Mrs. Loper discussed the following: For the first time we all sung the same tune. Everyone reacts differently. For those who don't know, it's a law that the state can look at our books at any time and take over. We all have a vested interest in the district. I was glad and grateful we were all on one accord. I want to thank

Beecher Community School District

the business office and Mr. Mays. There will be a celebration at our first home game. If you want to participate in the parade, I will get that information to you.

H. Public Comments

None

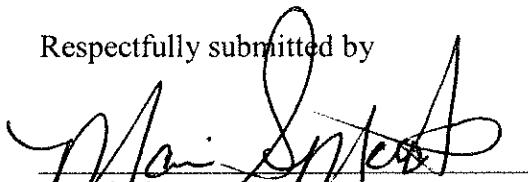
I. Adjournment

Motioned by Mrs. Rankins supported by Mr. Mays to adjourn the regular board meeting at 7:09 PM.

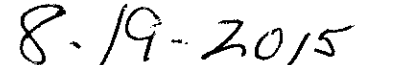
All present voted yes on roll call vote (Mr. Mays, Ms. Larry, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Smoot, Mrs. Rankins, Ms. Watson, and Mrs. Loper).

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by



Marvin Smoot, Secretary
Beecher Board of Education



Date Approved

Minutes taken by Terrie A. Seltzer