

## **Beecher Community School District**

A regular meeting of the Beecher Board of Education was held on August 19, 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, LaSonya Larry, Michele Loper, Mary Rankins, Marvin Smoot and Ocellar Denson Watson; Reginald Mays was absent.

### **Old Business**

#### **A. Minutes of August 5, 2015 (Regular Meeting) and Minutes of August 10, 2015 (Special Meeting) – Board Secretary Smoot**

Motioned by Mr. Smoot supported by Ms. Jackson to approve the Minutes of August 5, 2015 (Regular Meeting) and Minutes of August 10, 2015 (Special Meeting).

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

**Motion carried.**

#### **B. Old Business – Board Members**

Ms. Watson – None

Mr. Smoot – None

Ms. Jackson and Dr. Talison discussed the following: How long and when was it discovered the library roof was destroyed? Mr. Hawkins took pictures two weeks ago of the ceiling tiles falling. It was given to the board in an update; I did get that information, but for what happened to the ceiling it didn't just happen two weeks ago. My question is how long has this been going on for us to just get this information? For the amount that it's going to cost, \$25,000, it didn't just happen two weeks ago. You would like to know when was it discovered that it needed to be replaced? Yes and why did it take so long for it to get to where it is where it's going to cost that much. I would like to know when it was discovered about the boiler that is not working properly, are there not any inspections that are going on on these things because I would think that the director would and should be looking at things following up and doing an investigation. That is his job and for our buildings to get to the conditions that they're in, it's acceptable, roofs falling, boilers overflowing, etc. Goyette is here all of the time. How many times a year is it inspected is what I want to know? If it goes out and it's cold, our children are in big trouble and for this to happen is not acceptable. How long are we planning on using the bus from Mt. Morris and how much are they charging us to use their bus? We've been using that bus for months and I would like to know the reason why and the reason why we're not using our own bus.

Ms. Larry, Dr. Talison, and Mrs. Loper discussed the following: We have 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade at the high school and then the adults come in the afternoon? No, the adults will attend here but we have not started the adult program yet; how many kids do we have so far this year? We will wait until Friday to get you that information

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because we are still cleaning up the numbers, but as of now they do look down. Some will come after September 4<sup>th</sup> but we want to wait to have pure numbers; is BSIP still over at the high school? No; I thought there were going to be under a different name; they are not there in that capacity anymore; do we have empty rooms over there? Yes; why is this building still open, we can close this building down and move over there, that can save a lot of money? That is a conversation we can have; we don't have kids here anymore, so what is the purpose of having this building open? We can discuss it.

*(Discussion ensued from Ms. Larry and Dr. Talison regarding how many empty rooms are at the high school; how many offices are in the Coates building; the potential savings of closing the Coates building; and the student count at Beecher High School)*

Mrs. Rankins and Dr. Talison discussed the following: Have we had an inventory of all of the things in the district and if so, we are supposed to put some up for sale if we don't need it after inventory and then we'll know what we have? If you recall, Mr. Hawkins began the inventory process in May and we are housing things at the high school. Therefore, we know what we have and we didn't want to sell anything until we could see what our numbers would be. We have inventory of all desks and equipment, therefore nothing needs to be purchased if student desk or something of that nature needs to be replaced. We did an inventory of Riley and every building; we know what we have as of now? Yes; if we have too much, are we going to sell it? We are going to hold it temporarily to see what is going to take place but that is a conversation we can have down the road.

Mrs. Loper discussed the following: Information that was going to be obtained by from lawyer, I spoke with him today and he said there were a lot of layers to it and he could not get it to us before this meeting. I asked if he could get it to us before our next working committee and he said he is working on it. He wanted to make sure it was accurate and all of the pieces he has asked me for, several different policies, I have sent it to him and I spoke with him today and he assured me he would have it to us in time for everybody to read it, go over all the policies, and we could discuss it. As soon as I get it, it will be passed on.

### New Business

#### **A. Public comments on agenda items only**

None

#### **B. Business from Central Office/Informational Items – Dr. Talison, Superintendent**

Motioned by Mrs. Rankins supported by Ms. Jackson to accept the letter of resignation from Lakeshia Stewart, District School Social Worker, effective Monday, August 17, 2015.

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

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

**Motion carried.**

### C. Committee Reports

#### 1) Committee #1/Student Hearing Results 8/17/15 – 5:30 PM (Ms. Jackson, Chairperson)

Case #13-12 (B) was re-admitted to Beecher High School with the grades and behavior summary to be submitted to the board on a monthly basis, effective Tuesday, August 18, 2015; and Case #13-16 was re-admitted to Beecher High School with the grades and behavior summary to be submitted to the board on a monthly basis, effective Tuesday, August 18, 2015.

### D. Other Business – Board Members

Ms. Watson discussed the following: For our next meeting on August 26<sup>th</sup>, I would like for us to re-open having two board meetings and a working committee meeting of the whole. I would like us to discuss the pros and cons of doing this.

Mrs. Rankins discussed the following: I am concerned about the traffic jam at Dailey. The buses have to bring the kids from Tucker and they are blocking off the Dailey parents who drop their kids off for breakfast and we have to park in the back of the parking lot, get out and bring the kids to the door because they have it blocked off for the buses. I'm wondering why they don't block off the front and when the bus drives in, they can let all of the kids off and drive right out; in speaking with Mrs. Turner the initial rationale was the kids can get off the bus and go directly downstairs to the lunch room and that would cause more confusion because if the kids were dropped off at the circle in front of the building, they would try to go through the front doors and there are no monitors there. The monitors are by the side door where they go down to the lunchroom at. It is still early in the school year and they are still working out the kinks and it may be something they need to change if they believe it's not being effective.

*(Discussion ensued between Mrs. Rankins and Dr. Talison regarding where the students should be dropped off; congestion in the lunchroom; where security are positioned; and the possible need for more security)*

Mr. Smoot and Dr. Talison discussed the following: Regarding the boiler, is there any cost to that? The email discussed bringing one over from Riley, what was the outcome of that? Per Mr. Hawkins (Jacob), that boiler does not have the capacity for this campus because the boiler for this building is also used for the field house and the entire Coates Campus. That was part of the reason we tried to look into the energy conservation bond several years ago because the person told us then when he did the analysis the boiler was old and it was one boiler for that campus. The boiler at Riley does not have the same capacity as this boiler; the boiler that we need to fix or repair, what is the cost? We're getting quotes on that and it will be discussed at the working committee; are we going to be responsible for payment or is it an insurance claim? That will be a payment because it is something that is old and not broken. It is 35 years old. We are working on

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getting quotes so the board can make an informed decision. It is over \$10,000 therefore, we will need board approval; regarding the kids that were supposed to be picked up, we were going to come up with some kind of resolution regarding the students who live past the bridge; we have had no one request that information. We put it out in those letters, but we will check with that parent.

Ms. Jackson and Dr. Talison discussed the following: The classroom at Dailey where the roof fell in, has it been repaired? Yes, it was repaired before the end of the school year.

Ms. Larry and Dr. Talison discussed the following: If we need a boiler for this building, where is the money coming from because we just said we don't have any extra money? There is capital outlay that is built in the maintenance budget, it will come from that and it will not be an additional cost because there has been money already budgeted for repairs such as that, and that is why it has to come before the board to look at those accounts and make an informed decision; if it's going to be over \$10,000, why waste money in this building and it's not supposed to be open and you only have 5 offices in this building? That is a waste of money. It seems like we're wasting money. What if something else comes up? I feel you should check into this building because we have closed schools and we should close this building. You're going to put a boiler in her for 5 offices in this building? We will still need a boiler for the field house for the winter, therefore we will still need it; it doesn't make sense just for 5 offices.

*(Discussion ensued from Ms. Jackson, Ms. Larry, Mrs. Rankins, and Mrs. Loper regarding the auditorium being used when the Coates building was closed; holding graduation elsewhere; the offices being moved from Northgate to the Coates Building; why the offices were moved from Northgate; additional rooms at Beecher High School being used for office space; discussing it further at the Working Committee Meeting of the Whole; and a cost analysis of closing the Coates Building along with the pros and cons)*

Mrs. Loper discussed the following: There is a tailgate next week (*Saturday, August 29, 2015*) and the first football game is Thursday, August 27, 2015. I would like to thank Mr. Ernest Williams; he's going to allow board members and administrative staff members to ride in some classic cars if you'd like to participate in the parade. I need to know, for those of you who are going to participate, I need to have your name so that I can make sure that you are in the line-up and you are accounted for. Please let me know if you're going to ride, walk, or have your own vehicle. I need your name by Tuesday (*August 25, 2015*). Please see me if you'd like to participate in the parade. This is our parade.

### **E. Public Comments**

*Public Comments were received from:*

**Terrie A. Seltzer, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Board of Education** - I have sat in on all closed session board meetings without incident,

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with the exception of one which took place during my first tenure of being in this position during the 2004-2008 school years. Information has been shared amongst board members that during that time period I was asked to excuse myself during the closed session portion of the meeting. However, what wasn't shared amongst board members is that I was asked to excuse myself because the topic involved a union issue and I was still in the union at that particular time. Furthermore, when the meeting reconvened in open session, I was asked to return to continue with my job and not because I was "in tight with the former superintendent" as it has been stated. There was a closed session portion of the board meeting held on Monday, August 10, 2015 after which several board members questioned whether or not I should have been in attendance. If board members thought I should not have been in attendance during the closed session portion of the meeting, why wasn't the issue raised during that time while I was present instead of behind my back while sharing other incorrect and misleading information? However, on the following day, August 11<sup>th</sup>, I received phone calls from board members questioning the consensus of the items discussed. Obviously the consensus wasn't what they thought it was and/or should have been therefore, my presence became the focus of the meeting instead of the outcome. It has been said that I'm "too involved with the board" and I've also been called "just a secretary." Please know that I'm not hung up on titles as people are entitled to their opinions. However, when things don't work out the way you want, don't blame someone else. If you spent as much time, energy and effort solving the issues of our district, you wouldn't have the time, energy and effort to focus on me. Food for thought: When people don't know what's going on with you or in your life, they speculate; when they think they know, they fabricate; and when they do know, they just hate. If you want to know something about me, anyone is subject to tell you anything, but if you want to know the truth about me, ask me.

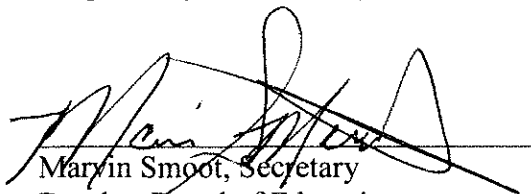
### F. Adjournment

Motioned by Ms. Watson supported by Ms. Jackson to adjourn the regular board meeting at 6:27 PM.

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

**Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted by

  
Marylin Smoot, Secretary  
Beecher Board of Education

9-2-2015  
Date Approved

Minutes taken by Terrie A. Seltzer