

Beecher Community School District

A regular meeting of the Beecher Board of Education was held on November 4, 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, Reginald Mays, Mary Rankins, Marvin Smoot and Oceolar Denson Watson.

Mrs. Loper asked board members and audience for a moment of silence in memory of Robert Hall, Jr., former substitute Maintenance, Transportation & Operations Department employee, who passed away on Thursday, October 22, 2015.

November 2015 Recognitions

Dr. Talison recognized the following individuals:

Treva Daniels-Carlson, Beecher High School Teacher, for the following: Mrs. Carlson has continued dedication to the students and their learning progress. In an email sent to her from one of her students taking college classes while still a senior on campus, the student writes:

I just want to say THANK GOD for you!
Since I've been in my play I haven't had time to study and I went to my general psychology class today, we had a test. I came late but I flew through the test because of the stuff you had taught us last year. THANK YOU for being a teacher at Beecher that actually teaches.

We are proud to have her as part of our Buc Town team.

Kimberly Routowicz, Beecher High School Teacher, for the following: Ms. Routowicz continues to push above and beyond. She recently volunteered to take a group of juniors and seniors to a hero convention day at the Whiting. She is continually looking for ways to improve upon her teaching and the students learning. She's recently was emailing administration at 11:30 pm to make sure there would be coverage for the students if she needed to take the next day off. She did not take the day off. Mrs. Routowicz exemplifies the dedication to move our students forward and we are proud to have her as part of the Buc Town team.

Diane Ferguson, Beecher High School Substitute Teacher, for the following: Ms. Ferguson has a continued above and beyond approach. She works as a title interventionist within the building, making sure her students are on track and focused on learning. Every day she comes in with the positive can do attitude, stops to make sure all teachers are in and accounted for, and begins her rotations of checking in with students. It is because of her dedication that many of the at-risk students remain in class and focused. We are truly proud to have her as part of our Buc Town team.

Old Business

A. Minutes of October 7, 2015 (Regular Meeting) and Minutes of October 21, 2015 (Special Meeting) – Board Secretary Smoot

Motioned by Mr. Smoot supported by Mrs. Rankins to approve the Minutes of October 7, 2015 (Regular Meeting) and Minutes of October 21, 2015 (Special Meeting).

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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.

B. Old Business – Board Members

Mr. Mays – None

Ms. Larry and Dr. Talison discussed the following: Did we ever receive an update on the problem at Tucker regarding the bussing situation in the afternoon? There was an update in your packet. We did receive the additional security that was recommended during their regular work hours. It is not overtime.

Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Loper and Dr. Talison discussed the following: I requested the minutes from the working committee meetings and I'm wondering what happened to them? I don't know but we'll make sure you get them; is there a specific date? Whenever there is a working committee meeting, I want the minutes from that meeting. I had a question about a child on the bus smoking marijuana and I have not received an answer to that either. I wanted to know what the aide's job, and I have not received a response back. I wanted to know the disciplinary action that was taken on an administrator and I have not received that information either. I asked about the hole in the football parking lot and as of today, water is still there. I don't know what the problem is with the maintenance department filling that hole. In the parking lot out front, I asked two years ago that lines be put down where there's no parking and they were put down. When you leave, only one car can go by at a time. Cars are going off of the ramp and someone's car is going to get messed up underneath. Maybe the maintenance department needs to write down "no parking" where the lines are because we still have people parking in that space. People are parking on the sidewalk. If there was an emergency, the ambulance would not be able to through due to cars being parked where they're not supposed to be parked. I hope this is the last meeting that I have to ask for all of the information that I am asking for.

Mr. Smoot – None

Mrs. Rankins, Dr. Talison, Mrs. Loper, Ms. Larry, Mr. Mays, and Ms. Jackson discussed the following: At the special meeting, I did something that was out of order. I already apologized to Ms. Watson because she was the Vice President in charge of the meeting. Whenever there is a special call meeting, we don't have public comments (*board comments*) and I knew it but I proceeded to talk out of order as well as some of the others. I want to apologize to the board because we don't do that. I don't want you to think I did it on purpose, well I did do it on purpose but when she called for public comments, I was only answering the person, but I shouldn't have did it but I did do it. I apologize to Ms. Watson for not acknowledging her and to the board. It hurt my feelings to know that the library closed so quickly. You would think the flood was reaching us right now. The concrete in front, yes it was disturbed, and yes it was leaking, but we didn't do it in a professional manner. I don't remember us saying anything about a closing date to close the library, I don't remember three quotes coming in for us to look at

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to say if we're going to do it or not, how we're going to do it, if it's going to last, etc. The library just closed. There are meetings and things going on and I'm not sure if the library had a chance to call in their books. I don't think it was fair. When we didn't have a library, Mary Manns came to us and said Beecher needed a library. They gave us that grant to renovate the building so that the kids in Beecher could have a library. I feel like we should have got everything together in order with the quotes, we going to close it, and we hope to open it back. How are you going to tell people you're moving the library upstairs here, and you're having meetings and everything else is going on? Ms. Larry mentioned moving it, but the board never discussed what we were going to do with the library. It should have been checked out and discussed. At the working committee I asked for a copy of the grant that our teacher is working for as the interventionist that you said is being paid for out of the grant and a pay scale of how much he is getting. You said it is a union job. I want to know if the grant is paying union wages or what? I asked for it at the last meeting and now I'm asking for it again. I would like to see the teacher that is working as an interventionist, how much he is being paid by the hour in the classroom and he is under a union scale. I didn't know grants came under the union scale; we didn't close the library, the county library system closed the library because they didn't think it was safe. That was not a decision administration made. If you remember, Ms. Larry brought the idea up. We haven't brought anything back because we're still discussing it and the email chain you had says that we are still meeting and I have been feeding you all of the information as soon as I get it. No decision was made by us to close it. They closed it because they didn't want their employees to be there because they felt it was unsafe. That was not our decision and no final decision has been made because I haven't brought anything in concrete back to the board except the original quote that Mr. Hawkins (*Jacob*) got to repair it; all of this literature that you put in here has been going on since September 28th about the library. It was at the last meeting that a quote was brought up about how much it would cost and we don't do business like that. If you're going to have a quote, you put the bid out there, get the bids back, you have to have three quotes and then we look at it to see if we can afford it and if not, then we close it. It was closed that day. We should have had someone checking it out. We need to get on the ball and do business better and in a more professional way if you want to get paid for it; for clarification, we have not decided to move anything and if that is circulating in the district that the board decided to move the library up here, that is not correct. That is a conversation we said we would have at our next committee meeting of the whole and by that time, I'm sure we will have the quotes and all of the information to make a good decision whether to relocate the library, where, etc. It was something that was brought up. We have board members who want to bring ideas up and we welcome them all. Ms. Larry brought the idea up about relocating the library, but we didn't make a decision. It was a suggestion. If it has gone out that we have made that decision, it is not true. Because it is a suggestion does not mean that it is a done deal etched in concrete. We have not decided to relocate it; it was my suggestion because I thought about my community and the kids in the district. The reason we got the library is because of Nate Jonker, former Beecher employee, asked for a pond and Ruth Mott Foundation said before they give us a pond, they would put a library in our community. Ruth Mott Foundation opened the library. Beecher did not open the library or rehab the library. The funding from back then until now is different. Someone can go back to Ruth Mott

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Foundation and ask them if they can help us out. When we take care of business, we're supposed to take care of business the right way. That man just closed the library down all of a sudden like it was life-threatening and he had to get the okay from somebody in this district. He can't just come in our community and close the library down without talking to somebody; yes he can; we have had a committee meeting of the whole and we should have got three estimates. We had one estimate of \$17,000. My opinion is before I put \$17,000 in something, I would rather close it down but I thought we had all of the estimates. If we only have one estimate that is not fair to us and that was wrong how we did things. People have planned things and meetings throughout the building, and it wasn't fair. We are only going on what Mr. Hawkins (*Jacob*) said and not one time did he come to the board and explain what was going on. If you're going to do something in our community, come and face us and tell us what you're going to do. Right is right and wrong is wrong so that we can explain to the community and let them know this is not the board's decision; we didn't have anything to do with the library closing, which was already stated. That was for the person and their staff for their safety. If something happened in that building, even though he (library person) has the power to do that, if he doesn't do it and something happens in that building, the district is liable. It's our building and I prefer it not to be open with that issue because we can't take another hit right now. I'd rather be safe than sorry. I understand what everyone is saying about something should have happened before it got that bad, but right now it's where it is and we had a meeting, we talked about it, we have to get two more quotes, but in the meantime I would be real nervous with having people in that building; at the meeting I did say there should be inspections by the maintenance department yearly. Those are not going on and that's the reason why these things all of a sudden are happening. There's nobody inspecting these buildings. It's just like the roof at the library and all of these other things. There should have been inspections over the years and I have never got anything in the packets saying there has been an inspection and I have brought this up I don't know how many times.

Ms. Watson – None

Mrs. Loper – None

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. Rankins to approve the Authorization for Payment of Bills totaling \$1,444,710.93 for the period ending November 4, 2015.

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

Dr. Talison asked for the following:

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- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Ms. Watson to accept the letter of resignation from Carla Volante, Math Teacher at Beecher High School, effective Friday, October 30, 2015.

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 hire Elizabeth Kibby for the position of Early Head Start Secretary-Level II (Part-Time). All clearances have been met and are on file in the Personnel Department.

(Discussion ensued between Ms. Jackson, Dr. Talison, Mrs. Loper, and Ms. Larry regarding what is the "conditional offer" on the form? The "condition" is pending board approval; why is it on there? It has always been on there. We can let the candidate know that it is conditional pending board approval; that has never been on there before; it is a conditional offer until the board approves it; this has never been on any of the applicant forms or anything that we've had. I have never seen it on there before; we can refer to the other ones, but at this moment we do have a motion on the floor. You asked what it meant; when we get something new like this, I would need for it to be explained to me because I'm not going to vote on just anything. This has never been on any employment application or anything that has come to us; it means pending board approval; are you saying the second and third persons didn't want the job? It just explains what happened to the other candidates that applied.)

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. Kibby thanked the board)

Dr. Talison stated the Beecher Early Head Start monthly reporting information for October 2015 are in your packet, which includes the Enrollment Counts, Home Visit Socialization Completion/Meal Counts, Early Head Start Parent Policy Committee Meeting Minutes, Calendar, and Newsletter.

D. Donation Acceptance

- Motioned by Mrs. Rankins supported by Ms. Jackson to accept the anonymous donation of approximately 20 coats and 20 hats to Tucker Middle School to distribute to Tucker students this winter.

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.

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- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Smoot to accept donated can goods and non perishable food items from Tucker Middle School students to help feed 100 families.

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. Jackson supported by Mr. Smoot to accept 15 CPU's and monitors from the Social Security Affairs Office.

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. Committee Reports

1) Committee #5/Student Hearing Results 10/12/15 – 5:30 PM (Mr. Smoot, Chairperson)

Case #14-24 was re-admitted to Beecher High School effective Tuesday, October 13, 2015; Case #15-01 was expelled for 180 days and may attend New Directions effective Tuesday, October 2015; and Case #15-02 was expelled for 180 days – 10 days served=170 days and may attend New Directions effective Tuesday, October 13, 2015.

2) Working Committee Meeting of the Whole 10/19/15 – 5:30 PM (Mrs. Loper, Chairperson)

The committee received a Priority Schools Report from Mrs. Kentish McWilliams, Director of State & Federal Programs; the committee discussed the Bond Resolution Update; District Finance Update; and Board/Superintendent Concerns. Items requiring action were taken at the Special Board Meeting held on Wednesday, October 21, 2015.

3) Full Board Parent Requested Student Hearing Appeals 11/2/15 – 5:30 PM (Mrs. Chairperson, Chairperson)

Case #14-22 was originally expelled for 180 days and may not attend New Directions effective Wednesday, May 6, 2015. The parent appealed the decision to the full board. Case #14-22's original expulsion decision stands and will continue with the 180 day expulsion and may not attend New Directions. Case #15-02 was originally expelled for 180 days – 10 days served=170 days and may attend New Directions effective Tuesday, October 13, 2015. The parent appealed the decision to the full board. Case #15-02's original expulsion decision stands and will continue with the 180 day expulsion – 10 days served=170 days and may attend New Directions.

4) Finance Committee Meeting of the Whole 11/4/15 – 5:30 PM (Mr. Mays, Chairperson)

The committee received the 2014-2015 audit presentation from Lewis & Knopf, P.C.

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- Motioned by Mr. Mays supported by Ms. Watson to approve the 2014-2015 audit presented by Lewis & Knopf, P.C.

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

Motion carried.

F. Other Business – Board Members

Ms. Watson – None

Mrs. Rankins, Dr. Talison, Ms. Watson, Ms. Larry, and Mrs. Loper discussed the following: I would like to have the number of sub teachers that are subbing in each building as of now; do you mean a full-time sub? Yes; how are things escaping out of the office into the district and the board is not aware of it? What are you referring to? I understand that Mr. Sumpter is going to Dailey and Ms. Hughes will not be at Dailey. Where is this coming from, it has to be discussed somewhere because why would somebody put it out there? That is a very serious question because that is something that I never brought to the board of education's attention. Sometimes we may have side conversations, but that's an issue if people are talking about conversations that we are having just brainstorming. Nothing of that nature has been presented to the board of education; I received a call that Ms. Hughes said she will not be back and that Mr. Sumpter is going to Dailey. I told her I haven't heard anything about it and we have not discussed that; that disturbs me seriously if somebody said had that conversation because sometimes we do brainstorming things without bringing things up and that alarms me profusely; I just wanted you to know because somewhere, whomever you're speaking to, it's a mole somewhere and I just wanted to let you know; I remember the last meeting or the meeting before when Ms. Larry mentioned that maybe we need to do some changes and send Lance to Dailey; I didn't say anything about Ms. Hughes; she didn't say anything about Ms. Hughes but we had people in the audience and that may have been how that came about; I remember her talking about too many administrators at the high school, but we didn't discuss anything about it; it was just a suggestion; yes, but somewhere there are some conversations going on that maybe the superintendent don't know about. Where are they going to put the computers that we are receiving as a donation? We are discussing using them at the parent workrooms at the high school and Tucker; didn't the elementary have something in their room? They have something else that we are rolling out and quite honestly, we don't want the GISD to have to support them and it is only 15; we have a technology guy from GISD that comes here and he insulted some of our employees. They didn't go to the right people to report it and I don't appreciate what he said about Beecher and if he has an attitude like that, and you need to check it out, they need to send us someone else because he does not need to come in Beecher. Anyone that has a bad attitude about Beecher, keep them out because we don't need them; I will speak with you afterwards about it.

Mr. Smoot discussed the following: Do all of our students have enough learning utensils as far as books to take home to complete assignments and things of that nature? Every student in grades 6-12th grade in Language Arts and mathematics have consumable books

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that they can take home. We have classroom sets of every other book that are online and can also be checked out on an individual basis. We do not give books for every student because if you walk through the hallways at the end of the school year, you will see even the consumable books in the hallways. It costs too much money to give every student books, but we do have classroom sets in those subjects and they can check those books out. There are also resources online of the exact same books that the student can look at. We are looking to see if we can have some extended hours at the high school for those students who may not have a computer at home, they can use the library at the high school so they can have access to that technology.

Ms. Jackson discussed the following: I asked about a child who was injured on the playground at Tucker and I did not get a response back on that. I received a call from Mrs. Seltzer about a child that came in contact with a stranger. I would like every time there is an incident like that that a child is confronted by a stranger to get the call to know, but the problem that I have is when I get information like that you say a child was approached by a stranger, where? I don't know. What kind of car or truck? I don't know. What's the use of calling just to tell me that? Even if I'm standing on the street beside them, I wouldn't know. I don't know how the information is coming from the school, but I would like a description or something to go on. I don't know the area of where it happened or anything. Parents are at home and they could be watching, but if we don't know what to watch for, they could get the baby and be gone. When you call me, I would like to get the information of what kind of car it is, the color, area or street, etc. I would appreciate that information when it is passed on to Mrs. Seltzer to give me a call.

Ms. Larry, Ms. Jackson, and Mrs. Loper discussed the following: This is just a suggestion, let Lance (*Sumpter*) do the assistant principal's job and Mr. Adam's job if that is a union job and ask Mrs. Hillaker if she wants to apply for the position at Dailey as the principal. I'm trying to look at all ways to save money instead of hiring people because we cannot afford it. We need to think about our kids because our MEAP scores are down and other test scores are down, I'm looking for the best highly qualified people. If we have highly qualified people to do the position, we can look at those routes too. I believe Mrs. Castle can handle 9th-12th grade by herself. What's going on with JV football, are they winning games? We are paying these coaches to teach football, what is going on? What's going on with the other sports, are they winning games, do they still exist? Let's go back and visit everybody who works for Beecher School District. If JV isn't winning any games, maybe we need to eliminate the coaches or see about getting other coaches. We need to try to save as much money in this community as we can and to try to save our kids in this community from going somewhere else. This is just my opinion and my suggestion; yes, we do have a JV team that played every Thursday and they did win some games and the season is over; thank you for the information regarding the JV team. Ms. Larry we can get you their record so you can have an idea of what their record was for this year; we are paying these coaches and if they're not doing their job and we're paying them, we need to cut something; they must be doing something because when they leave JV, they go to varsity and varsity is certainly winning; some go straight from JV to varsity. I'm trying to find ways to save money and give people double jobs to

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do. Just look into to see what is going on with our employees out here; we will get you the synopsis of their record for the last three years.

Mr. Mays, Ms. Larry, and Dr. Talison discussed the following: We are in a conference. When you're in a conference it requires you to have varsity and JV for the most part, so we have to have a JV team if we want to remain active in the conference. That's what happened in the Big 9, our numbers went down so far that we couldn't have a JV and therefore we had to fall from the conference. It's important to be in a conference because you get conference dollars into the athletic program. It is also important to have a JV team because it is a feeder program for your varsity program to be successful. That's why the JV teams are important. They may not win, they should win and they can win, but the focus for the JV program is to learn how to become team-oriented, learn the system and be the feeder program for the varsity sports program; I understand that, but we're paying dollars out to every employee that works for Beecher. We're paying all of this money, let's go back and visit that, maybe we need to get a different coach. We might be able to save some money if they're not doing a good job; I don't know if it's so much of you doing a good job or not. Sometimes you barely have enough to make a team; then why are we paying a coach? Because we have to have a team; how many coaches do we pay for JV? Two; for clarification, the JV coaches are part of the varsity coaching staff and they break down to JV. All the coaches are at the contract limit and there are 6-7 in total, and they are the coaching staff for the varsity and JV. Those JV coaches are varsity coaches that step down and work with those students as well; it's not going to hurt to check into it.

Mrs. Loper – None

Mrs. Rankins and Dr. Talison discussed the following: Have we hired a music teacher? We have a sub in that position and we posted the position.

G. Public Comments

Public Comments were received from:

Mrs. Loper asked Mr. Smoot to read the announcement; Mr. Smoot complied.

Darren Bagley, Resident – Regarding the Vera Rison Library, I am not a resident of the Beecher School District, but I use the library on a weekly basis and I want to thank you for your support over the years for that building. It is something my family and I use and I want to encourage you to move forward on fixing that building, it's something that's very important to the community particularly in Beecher because unlike other branches of the Genesee District Library, people walk to the that library rather than drive so it's a significant resource there. For the young people in the community, you can see it when you drive by there's a lot more kids hanging out in the street because they don't have the library to go to like they did in the past. Another suggestion, the way I understand the Genesee District Library works is the district library millage funds the staff and the materials and then the community organization supports the building. I am going to contact Mt. Morris Township, because the Vera B. Rison Library is in Mt. Morris Township, to talk to them about supporting it as well so that it doesn't fall all on Beecher

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Schools. I would suggest the board or the superintendent pursue that as well. If they move forward on that, it probably not in time to do the repairs in a timely fashion, but as a longer term relationship, that's something worth pursuing.

Roshawnda Williams, Parent – There are no libraries in the district. I don't have internet for my students to access lessons. Please consider finding some type of funding, fundraising, etc. to try to get it open because we need it. Years ago if we didn't turn in our books, we couldn't get a transcript or our diploma. I watched new people come and go. You all are broken. Its pettiness going on with the board and it's not becoming. It's not proper and it's not what Beecher stands for. I helped get you here and I brought parents to vote you in and what I'm seeing is not in order. This is not the example that you all are supposed to be setting. You have to fix it and do better with your behavior. I need you to act like mature adults when you're talking to each other about any of your issues because you all represent us and you are here to help our kids.

ZsaZsa Orr, Parent – It's a pleasure and privilege to be here tonight. I'm listening to all of the issues as far as finances, books, and library. We have to do our part to raise finances. A lot of parent participation and fundraisers can help. When I lived in California, parents held fundraisers that raised over \$1M each year. If we can go out to the homes to get parents involved and excited, that would help. Let me know what I can do to help.

Mrs. Loper thanked the parents who came out tonight. Regarding fundraising, maybe we can look at our alumni to help.


H. Adjournment

Motioned by Mrs. Rankins supported by Mr. Smoot to adjourn the regular board meeting at 7:04 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

12/2/2015
Date Approved

Minutes taken by Terrie A. Seltzer