

Beecher Community School District

A regular meeting of the Beecher Board of Education was held on December 2, 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, and Oceolar Denson Watson; Mr. Smoot was absent.

Mrs. Loper asked board members and audience for a moment of silence in memory of Henry Lean Hill, former crossing guard and former member of the Beecher Booster Club, who passed away on Wednesday, November 18, 2015.

December 2015 Recognitions

Dr. Talison recognized the following individuals:

Micah Brown, Jr., Leondris Davis, Jr., Jamier Dudley, Zy'mere Gee, and Dre'von Holloway – Tucker Middle School Students, for the following: These young men worked hard during the 7th Annual Tucker turkey give-away. They began their volunteer time at 7:40 AM setting up tables, preparing food boxes, unloading turkeys and assisting parents by carrying boxes to their cars. These young men also assisted with the break down and clean up at the end of the event.

Ja'ce' and Te'ir Chin-Kee-Fatt – Beecher High School Students, for the following: Ja'ce' and Te'ir are both remarkable young ladies. Ja'ce' is being recognized for reading a poem and her bravery in speaking so eloquently about the Beecher group at the 1st Healing Heart Breakfast held in conjunction with Ele's Place. Te'ir is being recognized for the outstanding job she has accomplished while working through her personal difficulties. Both have undergone a difficult period in their lives during the past year or so. We are proud of you and admire your courage. Keep up the good work.

Aliyah Ford – Beecher High School Student, for the following: Aliyah has had her share of difficult moments as well. Aliyah doesn't mind sharing the changes she has overcome with her behavioral issues. Ele's Place has played a tremendous role in her change. We are proud of you and admire your courage. Keep up the good work.

Mrs. Loper stated we have Mr. Tim Stein, Flushing Schools Superintendent and Michigan Association of School Administrators Region V President and Steve Tunncliff, Carman-Ainsworth Superintendent with a special presentation for our superintendent. *(Mr. Stein stated every year one superintendent out of 60 districts in Genesee County and the Thumb is recognized for quality of work that they do. Mr. Stein shared the press release and presented Dr. Talison with the plaque and certificate on behalf of Michigan Association of School Administrators)*

Old Business

A. Minutes of November 4, 2015 (Regular Meeting) and Minutes of November 18, 2015 (Special Meeting) – Board Secretary

Motioned by Mrs. Rankins supported by Mr. Mays to approve the Minutes of November 4, 2015 (Regular Meeting) and Minutes of November 18, 2015 (Special Meeting).

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

Motion carried.

B. Old Business – Board Members

Mr. Mays – None

Ms. Larry – None

Ms. Jackson, Dr. Talison, and Mrs. Loper discussed the following: I requested some information on a child that had an accident, I had said Tucker but it was at Dailey, and I was wondering when I would get that information about a child that was injured a while ago? The information was in the packet that Friday; what Friday? The Friday after the board meeting; I didn't see it; it was in the packet but we can pull the information again; we will make sure it is in the packet again.

Mrs. Rankins, Dr. Talison, and Mrs. Loper discussed the following: Did we discuss changing the hiring process or are we in the midst of changing things? If you recall at the board training from the MASB, a question was asked and we wanted to outline the process that was taking place. That was a synopsis of what we do so that every board member will know the process. If there are any changes that you would like to see we can discuss it. This is documentation of the process. Nothing has changed; it seems like a new one because we had one. We should have been given a copy of the old one if we are going to make changes with the new one; there wasn't an existing documented process written down; when was this change? The process hasn't changed we just wrote it down from A-Z so that everyone could see it. The member asked board members and no one could detail the process so we wrote it down to share with the board what the process is; it is not a new process, it is the current process; yes, it is just documented; would you like some changes to that because we can discuss that? Yes; we can have that as part of our working committee meeting of the whole.

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 \$964,566.30 for the period ending December 2, 2015.

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

Motion carried.

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

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None

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

D. Donation Acceptance

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Mays to accept the donation of \$100 from UAW Local 659 for Dailey Elementary to be used for Thanksgiving baskets.

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. Mays to accept the donation of 100 turkeys from Mr. Tucker and the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, Flint Alumni Chapter to be donated to Tucker Middle School.

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

Motion carried.

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Mays to accept the following donations for Dailey Early Head Start families:
 - 16 Thanksgiving food baskets from the UAW Local 659 Union Members
 - 10 Thanksgiving food baskets from Family Worship Center Church International
 - 10 Christmas food and gift baskets from Family Worship Center Church International

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

Motion carried.

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Mays to accept the donation of 50 turkeys from The 5th Annual JaVale McGee Great Turkey Giveaway to be donated to Beecher High School.

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

Motion carried.

E. Field Trip Approval

1) Dailey Elementary

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- Motioned by Mr. Mays supported by Ms. Jackson to approve the Dailey Elementary 1st grade field trip to Impressions 5 in Lansing, MI departing on Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 8:45 AM returning at approximately 3:00 PM. A tentative roster is included with the final roster to be on file prior to departure.

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

Motion carried.

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Mays to approve the Dailey Elementary 1st grade field trip to Ann Arbor Children's Museum in Ann Arbor, MI departing on Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 8:45 AM and returning at approximately 3:00 PM. A tentative roster is included with the final roster to be on file prior to departure.

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

Motion carried.

- Motioned by Ms. Jackson supported by Mr. Mays to approve the Dailey Elementary 1st grade field trip to Potter Park Zoo in Lansing, MI departing on Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 8:45 AM and returning at approximately 3:00 PM. A tentative roster is included with the final roster to be on file prior to departure.

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

Motion carried.

F. Committee Reports

1) Working Committee Meeting of the Whole 11/16/15 – 5:30 PM (Mrs. Loper, Chairperson)

The committee discussed the Budget Overview; Library Update; Policy #5611-Due Process Rights; Dailey Elementary Concerns; and Board/Superintendent Concerns. Items requiring action were taken at the Special Board Meeting held on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 5:30 PM.

- This is considered the first reading of Policy #5611-Due Process Rights. Board members, if you have any corrections or additions, please let me know prior to the next board meeting as at that time, it will be considered for the second reading.

2) Working Committee Meeting of the Whole 11/18/15 – 5:45 PM (Mrs. Loper, Chairperson)

The committee received board/superintendent training from Scott Morrell, MASB Senior Facilitator.

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- 3) Committee #6/Student Hearing Results 11/30/15 – 5:30 PM (Ms. Larry, Chairperson)**
Case #14-11 was re-admitted to Beecher High School effective Tuesday, December 1, 2015.
- 4) Finance Committee Meeting of the Whole 11/30/15 – 6:00 PM (Mr. Mays, Chairperson)**
The committee discussed the Deficit Elimination Plan.

G. Other Business – Board Members

Ms. Watson discussed the following: Congratulations to Dr. Talison for his award. I am really proud of you.

Ms. Jackson discussed the following: In one of our informational packets, we had a letter saying that there was a strange car at Dailey one night. That was on a Thursday. I have a problem with a stranger being on the property at night on a Thursday and the response from the director of that department doesn't respond back until Monday. If our employee is in the building alone and call because they see this, which is what they are supposed to do, from Thursday until Monday is unacceptable. I received a call and I received a letter about the young man that was approached going to Tucker. The letter was mailed out on the 10th of November. The car was described and everything was described of what happened, etc. If I get this, who am I going to look for? What race? There wasn't a race of who was driving the car and I'm sure that was one of the main questions that somebody should have asked the child. I don't know who I'm looking for because I can see every race in that same color of car and if it's in our school district, how am I supposed to know who it is? The letter and the phone call were very incomplete and I'm sure some parents are wondering the same thing, why wasn't the information completed the way it should have been.

Ms. Larry discussed the following: Congratulations to Dr. Talison for a wonderful job. I always told you that your work speaks for your actions. No matter what we say to you or tell you, your work always speaks for your actions. When we received our packet yesterday, it said December 4, 2015 and our board meeting is December 2, 2015.

Mr. Mays discussed the following: I would like to congratulate Dr. Talison. Sometimes we don't recognize, but I would like to congratulate you for being recognized as a trailblazer in our region and for being brave enough to step out and do it instead of say it. Congratulations.

Mrs. Rankins, Dr. Talison, and Mrs. Loper discussed the following: I had requested some information and I have not received it yet. I wanted to know the person that's working where the jobs were exchanged, what was the grant paying that person that worked in the interventionist room? I want to know what was paid by the hour and what was being collected by the teacher in that room? The teachers do not get paid by the hour. We put in a contractual rate for the year and that's what is paid in the grant; can I get a copy of what the grant was paying that teacher to be in that room? Does that

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include Saturday work? No, that is separate. That is miscellaneous pay, which is additional; is the Saturday work in the budget? It comes out of the Title I budget. It is a part of another section in the grant; I want a copy of the grant; specifically, you want outlined in the grant where that position is paid from? Yes and how much it is. There was an exchange in that room so is the other person going to receive the same thing as the person who was in there was getting. I just want to see what the grant says; we will make sure that all of the board members receive a copy.

Ms. Jackson and Mrs. Loper discussed the following: When the budget and everything was done and the problem with GISD right now, I would like to know who all was part of the final say-so to close it and say this is what we're going to do? Okay.

Mrs. Loper discussed the following: As many of you have heard, and it is no secret that all school districts are facing financial challenges, I was approached yesterday about some of the challenges that Beecher is facing and rumors of what they heard. It is very difficult during this time, we are facing challenges, but I would like to encourage you, instead of all of the rumors, we are having meetings, it is very hard to make some of the decisions that we have to make. First and foremost, our students come first and our decisions will be made with their interest first, what is best for them. We will also, and we do, consider and look out for our employees and this community because what we do affects our community and our employees. I am encouraging you, instead of hearing all of the rumors, we are having a meeting on Monday (*December 7, 2015*) to meet with folks who are going to present information. I encourage you to come, it's at 5:30 PM and we're going to continue with different meetings, so that you can hear and maybe there is a question we don't know to ask or maybe have forgotten to ask, you can ask. It's at 5:30 PM and that way you will know why we're making the decisions that we are making and why we are considering the things we have to consider in order to make the best choices for the district. It's no secret and we have nothing to hide. Monday is a very informative meeting we're going to be presented some information that is brand new to us, therefore you will hear it first-hand it. Please come to the board meetings. Don't wait until it affects your job, your community, your child or the school your child goes to, come and hear what's going on. We welcome you and your input. We can't stop the rumor-mill, but we can at least offer you the opportunity to get the information so that you have it first-hand.

H. Public Comments

Public Comments were received from:

Deatrius Burks, Parent – Whatever cuts you make please consider the whole matter. Making cuts as far as the classrooms go, it will affect our children. We already made cuts; they don't have books. Please consider the whole matter. It's the children; adults have to get over it and move on. Consider the children when cuts are made because when children are affected, the community is affected, and people move out of the community and everything shuts down and we don't want to do that to our kids.

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Roshawnda Williams, Parent – Congratulations Dr. Talison. Whatever cuts you have to make, make sure you think about everybody. I know your job is difficult and I know it hurts you on every level. Make sure you do it as a whole and just get along. Every decision you make it affects my kids and everybody’s kids. I’m glad you are going to take our input as far as what we can do to help save money.

I. Adjournment

Motioned by Mr. Mays supported by Mrs. Rankins to adjourn the regular board meeting at 6:33 PM.

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

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by



, Secretary

Beecher Board of Education

1-6-16
Date Approved

Minutes taken by Terrie A. Seltzer