

BUCHANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS, BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

MARCH 15, 2021

REGULAR MEETING

VIRTUAL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

PRESIDENT: Dr. Harvey Burnett opened the virtual meeting at 6:04pm

ROLL CALL

VIRTUALLY PRESENT: C. Lee, K. Berry, C. Carlson, K. Laesch, S. Carlin, R. Writer, and H. Burnett

ABSENT: None

OTHERS VIRTUALLY PRESENT: Superintendent Patricia Robinson, Mark Kurland, Phil Place, Al Berget

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION by **K. Laesch**, SECONDED BY Member **C. Lee** the agenda for the board meeting of March 15, 2021 be adopted as written.

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Lee, K. Berry, C. Carlson, K. Laesch, S. Carlin, R. Writer, and H. Burnett

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

None.

**SUPERINTENDENT/
DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Buck Staff Recognition March Winner: Chris Froelich, Teacher at Buchanan High School. Board Secretary Mrs. Laesch recognized Mr. Froelich as this month's winner. Buchanan High School Principal, Mrs. Stacey DeMaio, acknowledged Mr. Froelich for being the forerunner for the BHS Bucks Clothing Closet. She remarked how on numerous occasions he has found clothes in the lost and found, washed them and met with the student in need to give them clothes and a chance to change during the day. Mr. Froelich has been a champion for meeting student needs in and out of the classroom.

Nominees included:

- Amy Beck, Ottawa Teacher
- Bobby Cauffman, BCS Operations Utility Staff
- Brian Pruett, BHS Assistant Principal
- David Garland, BMS Teacher
- Jessica Leenhouts, Ottawa/Moccasin Teacher
- Karin Falkenstein, BCS Special Education Supervisor
- Kristine Rettig, Moccasin Teacher
- Lisa Gregory, Moccasin Teacher
- Melissa Seddon, Ottawa Teacher
- Missy Lyon, BMS Teacher
- Natasha Holesinger, Ottawa Teacher
- Paula Witherow, BHS Teacher
- Stacey DeMaio, BHS Principal

Updates for BHS, BMS, Moccasin, Ottawa, Athletics/BVA/CTE, Special Education, Business Office, Operations, Food Service, Information Technology, Transportation and Assistant Superintendent were provided respectively.

PRESENTATIONS

School Highlight – Mrs. Shelby Beasley, Buchanan Middle School Principal, presented to the board. She presented a video created by BMS students and staff of activities that they had been partaking in the past couple months.

Executive Team Updates - Superintendent Robinson and the Executive Team provided their updates respectively.





Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan – Assistant Superintendent, Mark Kurland reviewed BCS extended COVID learning plan and the items required by the state. He advised with school being in-person, there was no changes for the reporting in March.

**COMMUNITY DIALOGUE
CITIZENS CONCERNS**

None.

**ADOPTION OF CONSENT
AGENDA**


MOTION by **C. Lee**, SECONDED BY Member **R. Writer**, the consent agenda for the regular board meeting of March 15th, 2021 be adopted as written:

1. Minutes:
 -  2-16-2021 Regular Meeting
 -  2-17-2021 Special Meeting
2. Warrants:
 -  Treasury & Expenditure Reports – February 2021
3. Staff retirement as submitted:
 -  Sonia Barlow, BHS Guidance Counselor, 24 years
4. Recommendations to Hire as submitted by:
 - BCS Operations Interim, Mr. Al Berget
 - BCS Operations Supervisor, Ms. Sophia Williams
 - BMS Principal, Mrs. Shelby Beasley
 - BHS Principal, Mrs. Stacey DeMaio
 - BCS Transportation Director, Mr. Mahlon Williams

Recommended Employee	Title
Baily Trail	Operations Student Utility Staff
Ethan Cauffman	Operations Utility Staff (Contract attached)
Mary Claire Reynolds	Instrumental Band Aide
Paula Witherow	BHS Special Education Teacher
Joann Watkins	Bus Driver
Percy Tobar	Bus Driver

5. Coaching Recommendation for Spring 2020-21 submitted by Athletic Coordinator, Mr. Mark Frey:

Coach	Position	Class/L evel	Step	CAP
Larry Monsma	JV Baseball Coach	6	4	None
Erik Johansen	Girls Varsity Tennis Coach	4	2	1, 2

6. Staff resignation as submitted:
 -  Sheldon Kurtzweil – Instrumental Band Aide

7. Reconfirmation of Buchanan Community Schools Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan


ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Lee, K. Berry, C. Carlson, K. Laesch, S. Carlin, R. Writer, and H. Burnett

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**BUCHANAN VIRTUAL
ACADEMY GRADUATION
CERTIFICATION**

MOTION by **R. Writer**, SECONDED BY Member **K. Laesch**, upon satisfactory completion of district requirements for high school graduation, the Board of Education hereby approves:

Buchanan Virtual Academy Student:

 Mayson Ludolph

Buchanan Step Up Students:

 Dalton Mattimore

 John Wallenfang

Mrs. Robinson congratulated our BVA and Step Up graduates.

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Lee, K. Berry, C. Carlson, K. Laesch, S. Carlin, R. Writer, and H. Burnett

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**PETITION FOR EARLY
GRADUATION –
BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL
JUNIOR, CALEB JANOWSKI**

MOTION by **C. Lee**, SECONDED BY Member **K. Laesch**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves the petition for Caleb Janowski – junior year honor student, to graduate with the class of 2021 as he will have fulfilled the Michigan Merit Curriculum at the advanced program course level.

Mrs. Robinson congratulated Caleb for all his hard work and graduating early.

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Lee, K. Berry, C. Carlson, K. Laesch, S. Carlin, R. Writer, and H. Burnett

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**BOARD POLICIES – SECOND
READING**

MOTION by **R. Writer**, SECONDED BY Member **H. Burnett**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves the second reading of the following NEOLA revised and new policies:

POLICY	Description
8450.05	Emergency Temporary Telecommuting Policy (New)
6114	Cost Principles – Spending Federal Funds
6325	Procurement – Federal Grants/Funds

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Lee, K. Berry, C. Carlson, K. Laesch, S. Carlin, R. Writer, and H. Burnett

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**INCREASE SUBSTITUTE
TEACHER PAY**

MOTION by **K. Laesch**, SECONDED BY Member **K. Berry**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves the increase in substitute teacher pay as follows:

\$120 – Daily Substitute (no extra long-term sub pay)

\$140 – Permanent Substitute

Mrs. Robinson shared how BCS has been struggling to find subs and keep subs to fill our vacancies. Dr. Carlin asked for how long the raise would be in place to which Mrs. Robinson responded there is no end date, we will reevaluate at the end of the year.

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Lee, K. Berry, C. Carlson, K. Laesch, S. Carlin, R. Writer, and H. Burnett

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

PERFORMANCE SERVICES

MOTION by **C. Lee**, SECONDED BY Member **H. Burnett**, the Buchanan Board of Education has selected Performance Services Inc. (PSI) team to provide architectural and construction management services on an “as needed basis” for projects. PSI will assist the district with long term planning, architectural and construction management services and bond support activities. In addition, PSI will work to utilize local contractors, provide no charge order guarantees, educational programming analysis, open book pricing, collaborative development and bond services to aid the school with informing the public.

Mrs. Robinson spoke of the facilities committee meeting in which 3 companies shared their ideas. One of the goals includes improvements to Moccasin Elementary and Buchanan High School. BHS will be 100 years next year. Mrs. Robinson explained they will do a facilities audit and present to the board.

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Lee, K. Berry, C. Carlson, K. Laesch, S. Carlin, R. Writer, and H. Burnett

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**TRANSPORTATION
GPS/NAVIGATION/
STUDENT ID CHECK
INSTALL**

MOTION by **K. Laesch**, SECONDED BY Member **C. Lee**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves Director of Transportation, Mahlon Williams’, recommendation to install GPS/Navigation/Student ID checks to Buchanan Community School buses from Synovia.

Mrs. Robinson informed the board that Mr. Williams presented to the finance committee. Mrs. Laesch was concerned with the costs of badges if replacements are needed, Mr. Williams stated once there is a bar code to be scanned for the child, paper ones can be printed.

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Lee, K. Berry, C. Carlson, K. Laesch, S. Carlin, R. Writer, and H. Burnett

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

BUS LEASE

MOTION by **C. Lee**, SECONDED BY Member **R. Writer**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves Director of Transportation, Mahlon Williams’, recommendation to:

1. Sell Bus #2 and purchasing Bus #9 off lease for \$53,000.00
2. Lease 3 Conventional Buses 3 years @ \$15,986.00/year

3. Lease 2 Front Engine Buses 3 years @ \$18,936.00/year

Mrs. Robinson informed the board that we have a number of bus leases that will be in need of renewal at the end of this school year. We are looking to purchase bus #9 which is a handicap accessible bus. Mr. Williams is working on obtaining grants for the buses as well so that lease costs might be reduced for the district. He explained leasing also helps with maintenance costs since repairs are covered.

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Lee, K. Berry, C. Carlson, K. Laesch, S. Carlin, R. Writer, and H. Burnett

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**TRANSPORTATION E-Z
ROUTING APPROVAL**

MOTION by **K. Laesch**, SECONDED BY Member **R. Writer**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves Director of Transportation, Mahlon Williams', recommendation to replace Poly Plot with E-Z Routing.

Mr. Williams explained that Poly Plot uses Michigan State Maps which are not as up to date as Google Maps. Here Comes the Bus APP is not working because it is not syncing with the Poly Plot maps. With the E-Z Routing system, the parents can log into the system and make the requests. Mrs. Laesch also commented that GPS will be nice when we have sub drivers. She also appreciated the hands on system.

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Lee, K. Berry, C. Carlson, K. Laesch, S. Carlin, R. Writer, and H. Burnett

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**TRANSPORTATION POWER
GATES APPROVAL**

MOTION by **C. Lee**, SECONDED BY Member **R. Writer**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves Director of Transportation, Mahlon Williams', recommendation to purchase and install 2 power gates for the transportation and maintenance lot.

Mr. Williams explained the gates are currently manual and it is hard to get the gates open in the winter. He also stated that in the event of an emergency, someone would have to go out and physically close the large gates. With the power gates, they will automatically close to keep access to that area to only those whom are permitted.

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Lee, K. Berry, C. Carlson, K. Laesch, S. Carlin, R. Writer, and H. Burnett

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**ADOPTION OF THE 2020-21
AMENDED BUDGET**

MOTION by **R. Writer**, SECONDED BY Member **C. Lee**, the Buchanan Board of Education, in accordance with the General Appropriations Act, accepts the Buchanan Community Schools amended Budget Appropriations Resolution for the fiscal year 2020-21 as presented. Said documents to be entered into the minutes of this meeting and to take immediate effect.

Mrs. Robinson stated this allows us to correct any gaps for the final amendment.

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Lee, K. Berry, C. Carlson, K. Laesch, S. Carlin, R. Writer, and H. Burnett

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**INFORMATION/REPORTS &
NEW BUSINESS**

Hall of Fame Winners – Mrs. Robinson announced the winners, Mr. James Jesse, Mr. Lloyd Miller, and the 1985 Class “C” State Baseball Champions. Board members shared in congratulating the winners.

Facility Planning Committee – Mr. Lee provided an update to the board. There were three construction/architectural companies who presented to the committee; Site Logiq, Owens, Aimes & Kimball, and Performance Services. The committee felt most comfortable with Performance Services because the bond, construction/project managers and architect are all under one umbrella so there could be no finger pointing. They convinced the committee that they would do the project at high speed and lower cost since they are all under one roof.

Finance Committee – Mr. Carlson briefed the board of the most recent meeting. Don Sovey presented information on zero based budgeting. He does site assessments which mostly cover the budget in the business office and better uses of our resources. It is an outside look of our budget and where the money is getting spent. Mr. Carlson also said the committee reviewed the budget amendment, substitute teacher pay and items related to transportation.

**QUESTIONS & COMMENTS
FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Mrs. Laesch thanks BMS for the invitation to walk through the halls and view their decorated classroom doors for Black History Month. She spoke of the honor of Trinity Young. Mrs. Laesch commented that maple syrup is still going strong at the school farm and thanked Mr. Nixon for all his hard work.

Mrs. Writer also spoke of the wonderful door decorations at BMS. She appreciates all the updates that every school and district department provide to the board each month. She also thanked Dr. Burnett and other members of the community for putting on the Mental Health Forum.

Dr. Burnett gave a shout out to Mrs. Robinson and the Administrative team for their districtwide lockdown drill exercise. D.A.R.E. graduation will be in April.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, April 19, 2021 @ 6pm

ADJOURNMENT

7:27 pm