

**BUCHANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS, BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**NOVEMBER 17, 2025**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESIDENT:** Mrs. Berry opened the meeting at 6:01pm

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mrs. Berry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** C. Carlson, J. Brackett, J. Brown, K. Laesch, H. Burnett, and K. Berry

**ABSENT:** S. Carlin

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Superintendent Robinson, Michelle Munyon, Phillip Place, Tami Wreggelsworth, Reid McBeth, Kristin Shaner, Lacy Payne

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

MOTION by **C. Carlson**, SECONDED BY Member **H. Burnett**, the agenda for the regular board meeting of November 17, 2025 be adopted as written.

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Carlson, J. Brackett, J. Brown, K. Laesch, H. Burnett, and K. Berry

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Mrs. Berry & Mrs. Robinson welcomed all.

**POINTS OF PRIDE**

November Buck Staff Appreciation Winner – Kristin Shaner, GSRP Teacher  
Nominees included

Bethany Billington, 1st Grade Teacher  
Christina Wilson, Moccasin Behavior Support Specialist  
Hillary Casey, Moccasin Media Assistant  
Jennifer Templeton, Administrative Assistant to Transportation  
Jessica Elliott, BHS English Teacher  
Kara Barrett, Moccasin Special Education Teacher  
Kristine Rettig, 2nd Grade Teacher  
Michelle Trail, Moccasin Custodian  
Sondra Staggs, 6th Grade Mathematics Teacher  
Sydney Ziemke, 1st Grade Teacher  
Tom Cousineau, 4th Grade Teacher

Marching Band placed 10<sup>th</sup> at the MCBA State Championships

Fall Athletics

- Varsity Volleyball Conference Champs
- Varsity Football Conference Champs
- Mens Varsity Cross Country State Finals – 14<sup>th</sup> Place
- Varsity Cross Country First Team All State – Tala Carlin, 18<sup>th</sup> Place & John Keser, 24<sup>th</sup> Place

Veterans Day, November 11 – Celebrating our own BCS staff members who have served: Mike Cornelius, Brandon Nyhuis, Matthew Orsillo, David Short, Derek Tefft, Jessica Walker, BHS substitute Mr. Gene Warner and Harvey Burnett.

**SUPERINTENDENT &  
DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Updates for BHS & CTE, BMS, Moccasin, Ottawa, Athletics & BVA, Food Service, Information Technology, and Operations were provided respectively.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Reid McBeth – Athletics/BVA

Allison Allman, CPA Kruggel Lawton - Audit

**INFORMATION, REPORTS  
& NEW BUSINESS**

Strategic Planning

Facilities & Finance Committee Meeting – October 28 & October 30

Human Resources Committee Meeting – November 5

School Farm Committee Meeting – November 12

Parent Advisory Committee Meeting – November 13

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ADOPTION OF CONSENT  
AGENDA**

MOTION by **H. Burnett**, SECONDED **J. Brackett**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves the consent agenda for the regular meeting of November 17, 2025 be adopted as written:

1. Minutes:

- 10-20-2025 Regular Meeting

2. Warrants:

- Treasury & Expenditure Reports - October 2025

3. 2025-26 Extracurricular Contracts

- Phillip Place
- Brian Bennett

4. Employment Contracts for:

- Tami Wreggelsworth - Payroll & Accounts Payable Clerk
- Jennifer Templeton - Administrative Assistant to Transportation

5. Recommendations to Hire as submitted for:

<b>Recommended Employee</b>	<b>Position</b>
Melissa Sweeney	Custodian
Lacy Payne	Director of Educational Services
David Short	Maintenance & Custodial Supervisor

6. Resignations:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date upon which wages will terminate</b>
Jenette Wetzel	Cook's Help	10/17/2025
Judy Harman-Conrad	Custodian	10/31/2025
Sophia Williams	Custodian	11/12/2025
Aaron Morphew	Bus Driver	11/13/2025
Nathaniel Will	Transportation Supervisor	11/17/2025

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Carlson, J. Brackett, J. Brown, K. Laesch, H. Burnett, and K. Berry

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**BUCHANAN VIRTUAL  
ACADEMY GRADUATION  
CERTIFICATION**

MOTION by **J. Brackett**, SECONDED **K. Berry**, upon satisfactory completion of district requirements for high school graduation, the Board of Education hereby approves:

Buchanan Virtual Academy Students:

- Ali Alsultani

Buchanan Step Up Student

- Rhianan Baird

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Carlson, J. Brackett, J. Brown, K. Laesch, H. Burnett, and K. Berry

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**2025-2026 MHSAA  
ATHLETIC STATE  
QUALIFYING TEAMS –  
OVERNIGHT STUDENT  
TRIPS**

MOTION by **C. Carlson**, SECONDED **J. Brackett**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves upcoming overnight student trips for MHSAA Tournament qualifying teams for the 2025-2026 school year in accordance with board policy #55.06

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Carlson, J. Brackett, J. Brown, K. Laesch, H. Burnett, and K. Berry

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**BTA LETTER OF  
AGREEMENT – TRIP RATES**

MOTION by **H. Burnett**, SECONDED **C. Carlson**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves the attached letter of agreement with Buchanan Transportation Association regarding Trip Rates.




Letter of Agreement Between the  
**BUCHANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION**  
and the  
**Buchanan Community Schools Board of Education**


In consideration of their mutual covenants reflected in this Agreement, the Buchanan Community Schools Transportation Association and the Buchanan Community Schools Board of Education (the Board) agree as follows:

1. Change of Flat Trip Rate: The current trip pay rate of \$17.00 per hour (flat rate for all drivers) shall be changed to a driver's and substitute driver's contracted hourly rate per year, effective November 2, 2025.
2. This Agreement is not intended to set a precedent and in no way modifies any other provision of the parties' collective bargaining agreement.
3. This Agreement expires on June 30, 2029, with the option to set a new expiration date if both parties are in agreement. The District Administration and/or Board of Education has the right to revoke this LOA if needed.

For the Board of Education

  
Patricia Robinson,  
Superintendent

For the Buchanan Education Association

  
Jennifer Schmidkunz,  
President

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Carlson, J. Brackett, J. Brown, K. Laesch, H. Burnett, and K. Berry

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**BOARD POLICY UPDATE**

MOTION by **J. Brackett**, SECONDED **H. Burnett**, the Buchanan Board of Education

approves the following policies:

- Thru October 13, 2025 Update
- District Updates: 5709 Lice, Nits, and Bed Bugs

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Carlson, J. Brackett, J. Brown, K. Laesch, H. Burnett, and K. Berry

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**CONTRACT APPROVAL –  
2025-2026 SNOW  
PLOWING**

MOTION by **C. Carlson**, SECONDED **J. Brackett**, The Board of Education approves the Snow Removal Contract for the 2025-2026 school year with Affordable Asphalt Paving & Bulldozing.

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Carlson, J. Brackett, J. Brown, K. Laesch, H. Burnett, and K. Berry

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**SCHOOL FARM LAND  
LEASE**

MOTION by **K. Laesch**, SECONDED **J. Brackett**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves the attached Farm Land Lease Agreement with Shane Masten for the rental of land at the school farm for a 3 year period ending November 30, 2028. The President and Secretary are hereby authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the board.

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Carlson, J. Brackett, J. Brown, K. Laesch, H. Burnett, and K. Berry

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**CLOSED SESSION –  
OPINION OF ATTORNEY-  
CLIENT PRIVILEGE**

MOTION by **K. Berry**, SECONDED **H. Burnett**, the Buchanan Board of Education moves into closed session per Section 8(h) to discuss an attorney-client privilege written opinion from legal counsel. Time: 6:57pm

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Carlson, J. Brackett, J. Brown, K. Laesch, H. Burnett, and K. Berry

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

MOTION by **K. Berry**, SECONDED **H. Burnett**, the Buchanan Board of Education resolves to return to open session. Time: 7:41pm

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Carlson, J. Brackett, J. Brown, K. Laesch, H. Burnett, and K. Berry

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**SCHOOL STATE AID ACT  
SECTION 31AA**

MOTION by **K. Berry**, SECONDED **C. Carlson**,

**WHEREAS:**

1. Public Act 15 of 2025 amends State School Aid Act Section 31aa, MCL 388.1631aa, to allocate funding for fiscal year 2025/2026 to support school safety and student mental health initiatives, as well as to provide certain competitive grant funding ("31aa Funding"); and

2. To receive 31aa Funding, the District must agree to receive the funding in the form and manner established by the Michigan Department of Education (“MDE”) and either formally opt in or seek a competitive grant; and

3. As a condition of receiving either type of 31aa Funding, the District must agree in advance that, in the event of a “mass casualty event,” as defined in MCL 388.1631aa: (1) the District will be subject to and comply with a comprehensive investigation following such an event, and (2) the District will waive any privilege that would otherwise protect related information from disclosure; and

4. The Board has been advised of and fully informed regarding the legal and practical implications of this waiver requirement, including that it may affect the confidentiality of communications otherwise protected by the attorney-client privilege and other applicable privileges related to a “mass casualty event”; and

5. The Board recognizes that the waiver requirement may expose the District to legal, reputational, and operational risks and that the decision to accept or decline funding carries significant implications for the District’s ability to manage sensitive information responsibly; and

6. After careful deliberation, the Board has determined that, while it fully supports initiatives to enhance school safety and student mental health, it is in the District’s best interest to preserve its legal privileges and make a deliberate, informed election regarding participation in 31aa Funding and that it cannot accept the 31aa Funding unless the waiver requirement is eliminated or modified to preserve the District’s legal privileges.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Board hereby resolves to decline Section 31aa Funding in order to preserve attorney-client or other applicable privileges that would otherwise be subject to waiver under the conditions imposed by MCL 388.1631aa; however, if those conditions are eliminated or modified to preserve applicable privileges, the Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to accept the funding. This decision reflects the Board’s commitment to responsible governance and the protection of sensitive information, while continuing to prioritize student safety through existing programs and initiatives.

2. This decision represents the Board’s careful and deliberate exercise of its discretion, balancing the statutory conditions of 31aa Funding with the District’s responsibility to maintain operational and legal safeguards.

3. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Carlson, J. Brackett, J. Brown, K. Laesch, H. Burnett, and K. Berry

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**WHEREAS**, this Board previously adopted a resolution to impose a summer tax levy to collect 100% of annual school property taxes, including debt service, upon property located within the District and continuing from year-to-year until specifically revoked by the Board.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Board, pursuant to 1976 PA 451, as amended (the Revised School Code), invokes for **2026** its previously adopted ongoing resolution imposing a summer tax levy of all of annual school property taxes, including debt service, upon property located within the District and continuing from year-to-year until specifically revoked by the Board and requests that each city and/or township in which the District is located collect those summer taxes.
2. The Superintendent or designee is authorized and directed to forward to the governing body of each city and/or township in which the District is located a copy of this Board's resolution imposing a summer property tax levy on an ongoing basis and a copy of this resolution requesting that each such city and/or township agree to collect the summer tax levy for **2026** in the amount specified in this resolution. Such forwarding of the resolutions and the request to collect the summer tax levy shall be performed so that they are received by the appropriate governing bodies before **January 1, 2026**.
3. Pursuant to and in accordance with Section 1613(1) of the Revised School Code, the Superintendent or designee is authorized and directed to negotiate on behalf of the District with the governing body of each city and/or township in which the District is located for the reasonable expenses for collection of the District's summer tax levy that the city and/or township may bill under MCL 380.1611 or MCL 380.1612. Any such proposed agreement shall be brought before this Board for its approval or disapproval.
4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Carlson, J. Brackett, J. Brown, K. Laesch, H. Burnett, and K. Berry

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**2025-2026  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
CONTRACT**

MOTION by **J. Brackett**, SECONDED **K. Laesch**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves the district administrative contract for the 2025-2026 school year from December 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 for:

- Lacy Payne, Director of Educational Services

ROLL CALL VOTE: C. Carlson, J. Brackett, J. Brown, K. Laesch, H. Burnett, and K. Berry

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**QUESTIONS & COMMENTS  
FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Board members spoke.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

December 15, 2025, 2025 at 6pm

**ADJOURNMENT**

7:54pm

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Mrs. Kelly Laesch, Secretary, Board of Education  
*(Minutes adopted at the 12/15/2025 meeting)*