



Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
September 11, 2017
7:00PM
BECC Building, Board Room
125. S. Church Street
Brighton, MI 48116

I. Call to Order		
II. Pledge of Allegiance		
III. Roll Call		
IV. Approval of the Agenda		
V. Call to the public		
VI. Superintendent Report A. Toys R Us Buddy Grant		
VII. Board of Education Bulletins		
VIII. For Action A. Minutes of August 28, 2017	Report 17-150	Page 2
IX. For Future Action A. Board Policy 7510 & accompanying fees chart and administrative guidelines. B. Donation, BHS C. Disposal of Property.	Report 17-151	Page 6
	Report 17-152	Page 26
	Report 17-153	Page 29
X. Board Committee Reports		
XI. Second Call to the Public		
XII. Next Regular Board Meeting, Monday, September 25, 2017		
XIII. Adjournment		

August 28, 2017

Board of Education
Brighton Area Schools
Regular Meeting
Monday, August 28, 2017
7:00 PM – BECC

Minutes

I. **Call to Order**

President Burchfield called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

President Burchfield led the board in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

III. **Roll Call**

Members present: Andy Burchfield, Dave Chesney, Ken Stahl, John Conely, Bill Trombley, Roger Myers and Alicia Reid.

Also present: Superintendent Gray, Assistant Superintendent Surrey, staff, press, and visitors.

IV. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented.

Moved by: Chesney

Supported by: Stahl

Voice vote: 7 ayes.

Motion carried.

V. **Call to the Public**

Christina Kafkakis addressed the Board regarding concerns over long bus rides.

Jennifer Bond addressed the Board regarding concerns over large class sizes at Maltby.

Shawn Howell addressed the Board regarding concerns over long bus rides.

Amelia Vachow addressed the Board regarding her concerns as an 8th grade student over the length of bus rides.

Cindy Mullens addressed the Board regarding concerns over long bus rides.

Kimberly Turner addressed the Board regarding concerns over long bus rides and safety issues arising out of overcrowding on buses.

August 28, 2017

Roy Travis addressed the Board regarding concerns over long bus rides and the pickup/drop off schedule near Bishop.

Tanya Cassel addressed the Board regarding concerns over long bus rides.

Sue Ellen Ikens addressed the Board regarding concerns over safety issues arising out of overcrowding on buses.

Amy Zastrow addressed the Board regarding concerns over safety issues arising out of overcrowding on buses and the strain placed on bus drivers to focus on driving and managing large number of children at the same time.

Superintendent Gray explained the district moved from a 3-tier busing system to the current 2-tier busing system several years ago, and the district commissioned two independent studies this summer to assess the performance of the bussing operations. Overall, the commissions gave positive assessments. One potential change that was identified as a means of reducing the duration of bus routes was to reduce the number of stops and make children walk farther to consolidated stops, but that creates other safety problems especially due to the lack of sidewalks in many of the neighborhoods. Dr. Gray further explained that the main problem is a lack of drivers. He explained that BAS has 36 busses, that the Board has budgeted for 30 routes, but the District has only been able to hire 27 drivers despite a raise in salaries and benefits in an attempt to attract new drivers. The district will continue to seek to hire a 28th driver which would be assigned to a route covering the area of concern by the parents in the audience. Dr. Gray also identified the numerous communications and marketing efforts that the administration has undertaken to recruit more drivers, and welcomed input and assistance from the concerned parents in attendance to assist in expanding the recruiting effort.

Trustee Reid questioned whether the district has looked at going to 3-tier system again. Dr. Gray explained that the 3-tier system requires more drivers than the 2-tier system and would require a change in the start/end times which could not be accommodated under the district's current labor contracts because the start/end times are bargained.

Treasurer Stahl noted that there is an industry shortage of CDL drivers.

Trustee Conely noted that busing for high school students was eliminated entirely a few years ago because of budget constraints but was reinstated and then eventually the district entered the bussing consortium with LESA. He further noted that the administration and transportation department is very responsive to parent complaints and the district has done a great job upgrading the fleet.

President Burchfield expressed his appreciation for the concerns voiced by those in attendance and encouraged follow-up to the transportation director. He directed Dr. Gray to have the administration develop a bus driver recruiting plan, which will be reviewed in the next finance committee meeting.

August 28, 2017

Dr. Gray reported that there are currently 7 classroom overloads at Maltby – all in 5th grade classes consisting of 34 students, while the remaining 5th grade classes have 33 students. There are no overloads at 6th grade. Dr. Gray explained that for the past 7 years, the Maltby class size load has been 33 students, and the constant challenge in managing class loads is the classroom space limitations.

VII. **Superintendent Report**

A. Summer School Presentation

Dr. Surrey introduced the Explorers Camp summer enrichment program coordinated by Chris Darkowski. Mrs. Darkowski introduced Kathy Simpson, Diane Tamblyn and Jeri Kay Thomas who collectively provided an overview of the 12-day program known as the Laughing Moon super hero training academy. They explained that the students were presented challenges based on the STEAM curriculum, and the problem-solving challenges included collaboration directly with older students and professionals in design and engineering. Through that collaboration, the students were able to work on designs for projects such as their own house, the imagination station, and Hawkins Media Center utilizing different color themes hung over different areas of space as a way finding model. It is anticipated that the Explorers will continue to assist STEAM teachers during the school year to incorporate their ideas into the STEAM initiatives. At the conclusion of the presentation, each of the Board members and Dr. Gray were given an honorary Laughing Moon super hero cape and participated in the Laughing Moon theme chant/dance.

Vice president Chesney commented that one of the best values in the Explorers Camp program is the enhancement of the students' desire for more learning.

B. Certified Staffing new hires

Henry Vecchioni reported on staffing and explained that some new certified staff hires were added to the list of certified staff hires that were the subject of for future action at the last meeting and the resumes of the added staff hires have been provided to the Board for its consideration at tonight's meeting.

VIII. **Board of Education Bulletins**

Trustee Conely expressed concern that materials are being copied from textbooks in the 3rd or 4th grade level that may have copyright implications. He also questioned whether the LESA bond money was allocated specifically for special education programs, why the net profit in the shared services program

continues to decrease and can the district operate on a balanced budget without the shared services revenue, and whether some or all of the proposed increase in the BEA contract should instead be used for other district operations such as hiring more teachers or raising salaries for bus drivers.

Dr. Gray responded that LESA bond money supplants 50% of the \$45,000 cost per special education student that otherwise would come out of the district's general fund, and that many ISDs in the surrounding counties fund 100% of the cost of the special education programs. He also explained that the net profit margin has gradually decreased over the years for a variety of factors, including a reduction by the state in the FTE formula for shared services, insurance costs and greater competition by other districts to provide shared services teachers. Dr. Gray noted that \$1.5 to \$2 million of one time expenditures have been built into the budget that can be eliminated in any given year to achieve a balanced budget if shared services were eliminated in any given year. He also noted that 6 new teachers could potentially be hired with the additional money that will be spent on the new BEA contract, but part of the additional money is due to the elimination of the 1st step which is important to be able to recruit new teachers to the district. Dr. Gray also explained that the new BEA wage scale places BAS in the bottom third of comparable school districts.

President Burchfield stated that the issues raised by Mr. Conely will be addressed in finance committee meeting.

President Burchfield recognized the football team for a great effort in its recent game against Belleville at the Big House in Ann Arbor and noted the misleading nature of the headline in the paper that characterized the game as a contest between the average team from Brighton and the superior athletes from Bellville, and there is nothing just average about the outstanding students and athletes from Brighton.

IX. For Action

A. Motion: To approve the minutes of August 14, 2017 with a correction on page 4 under the heading Board of Education Bulletins to change the word curriculum to curricular.

Moved by: Chesney

Supported by: Reid

Voice vote: 7 ayes.

Motion carried.

B. Motion: To approve the leave request of Katheryne Friske for the 2017-18 school year as presented.

Moved by: Stahl

Supported by: Chesney

Voice vote: 7 ayes.

Motion carried.

August 28, 2017

Motion: To combine into one motion the approval of new hires that are the subject of Agenda items C and D.

Moved by: Stahl

Supported by: Conely

Voice vote: 7 ayes.

Motion Carried.

C. Motion: To approve the following new hires in Agenda items C and D as presented. Moved by: Chesney

Supported by: Stahl

Voice vote: 7 ayes.

Motion carried.

D. Combined with C above.

E. Motion: To approve the certified staff resignation of Lisa Santioni as presented.

Moved by: Chesney

Supported by: Reid

Voice vote: 7 ayes.

Motion carried.

F. Motion: To approve the Tentative Agreement with BEA as presented.

Moved by: Trombley

Supported by: Chesney

Voice vote: 6 ayes, 1 nay - Conely.

Motion carried.

X. **For Future Action**

A. Board Policy 7510 & accompanying fees chart and administrative guidelines were presented for board review.

Athletic Director John Thompson presented an overview of the existing policy and proposed changes.

Trustee Reid explained that the intent is to revise the policy and better align the concerns and expectations of the community with the usage of the facilities of the fees charged.

President Burchfield raised concerns about the lack of clarity in the policy and lack of oversight when administrative decisions appear to be inconsistent with the policy.

August 28, 2017

Vice president Chesney raised questions to clarify the correlation between the subcategories in the policy and the fee chart at the end of the policy.

Secretary Myers observed that the Board must initially decide what degree of discretion is to be given to the administration in slotting organizations into the chart because that will impact how the policy should be drafted.

XI. **Board Committee Reports**

Vice president Chesney reported that finance committee will meet on Friday, September 8.

Trustee Reid reported that the policy committee met regarding policy 7510 and will revisit the policy to discuss the concerns and issues raised at tonight's meeting.

XII. **Second Call to the Public**

Sherri Osterman expressed her appreciation for all of John Conely's efforts on the Board.

Jennifer Bond expressed her appreciation for the attention given by the Board to the bussing concerns and for providing the open forum to discuss potential resolutions.

XIII. **Closed Session**

Motion: To enter closed session for the purpose of approving the August 14, 2017 closed minutes.

Moved by: Chesney

Supported by: Reid

Roll call vote: 7 ayes.

Motion carried.

Board entered closed session at 9:55 p.m.

Meeting recessed at 9:56 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:56 p.m.

XIV. President Burchfield noted that the next regular meeting is scheduled for **September 11, 2017.**

XV. **Adjournment**

President Burchfield adjourned the meeting at 9:57 p.m.