

**RECORD OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS
(MINUTES)**

Ft. Mitchell, KY

The BEECHWOOD Board of Education met in the Beechwood Cafeteria at 6:00 PM, on May 13, 2024, with the following members present:

Attendance Taken at 6:00 PM:

Present Board Members:

Mrs. Jeanne Berger
Mr. Bradford Hood
Mrs. Amy Sleet
Mrs. Melanie Stricker
Ms. Norine Sullivan

I. Call to Order

Rationale:

The mission of Beechwood Independent School District is to provide innovative education grounded in tradition. Our educational vision is to inspire students to embrace responsibility, productivity and compassion of a global community. Our vision is communicated to students, faculty, and our community by various media from the printed word to the internet and is exemplified by our district slogan: Innovative education grounded in tradition.

I.A. Call to Order / Roll Call

I.B. Amend agenda to remove item II.B. Superintendent Contract from the agenda

Motion Failed: Motion to amend agenda to remove item II.B. Superintendent Contract from the agenda failed with a motion by Ms. Norine Sullivan and a second by Mr. Bradford Hood.

Mrs. Jeanne Berger	No
Mr. Bradford Hood	Yes
Mrs. Amy Sleet	No
Mrs. Melanie Stricker	No
Ms. Norine Sullivan	Yes

I.C. Staff Members Present

Dr. Mike Stacy, Superintendent
Mr. Alan Yanke, High School Principal
Mrs. Jana Bromley, Asst High School Principal
Mr. Zach Ashley, Elementary Principal
Mrs. Alicia Wittmer, Asst Elementary Principal
Dr. Sarah Schobel, Dir of Curriculum
Mr. Justin Kaiser, Dir of Operations

Mrs. Lauren Steltenkamp, Special Ed Director
Mr. Tim Lillard, Technology Director
Mrs. Stephanie Layton, Business and University Liaison
Mrs. Kristi Ward, Finance Director
Mrs. Lori Reed, Board Secretary

I.D. Recognition of Guests

I.D.1. Danica Gorlewski, State Champion in Creative Lecture Competition at Educator Rising State Conference

Danica Gorlewski was the Kentucky state champion in the Creative Lecture Competition at the 2024 Educators Rising Kentucky State Conference in Louisville on March 6. The Creative Lecture Competition is inspired by the idea of giving a TED Talk and Danica received a perfect score on this competition from her judges at the state conference! She will be moving on to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference in Washington, DC this summer, alongside fellow Beechwood students who also qualified in their competitions at the state conference.

Congratulations on your state championship, Danica, and best of luck at the National Conference.

I.D.2. Austin Bralley, Savannah Starks and Taylor Walton for KMEA accomplishments

Austin Bralley, Savannah Starks, and Taylor Walton to recognize their KMEA high ratings, 6th grade first perfect score at KMEA, Sweet Jazz, and Spring Concerts.

I.E. Public Comment

Each Person wishing to address the Board of Education must sign in. When called upon to speak the person who speaks should stand, give his/her name and group he/she represents, and then address his/her comments directly to the Board of Education Chairperson.

Discussion:

- The following people spoke during the public comment period regarding Superintendent contract agenda item:
 - Sharon Geiger
 - Leah Hildebrant
 - Laura Wooten
 - Andy Cullison
 - Sarah Cummins-Sebree
- Board Attorney, Jeremy Deters, responded to a question from public comment.

II. Discussion and Action Agenda

II.A. SY 2025 Salary Schedule and Stipend Schedule

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the 2024-2025 Salary and Stipend schedule passed with a motion by Ms. Norine Sullivan and a second by Mr. Bradford Hood.

Mrs. Jeanne Berger	Yes
Mr. Bradford Hood	Yes
Mrs. Amy Sleet	Yes
Mrs. Melanie Stricker	Yes
Ms. Norine Sullivan	Yes

II.B. Superintendent Contract Discussion:

Brad Hood

Dr Stacy has done a whole lot of great work for this school. Great things for Beechwood, especially dealing with the State. I have been at Beechwood my whole life. We have never had a superintendent that could deal with the people down in Frankfort to get things done, I think the building says enough about that. None of the other superintendents came close. I have been here for 67 years, my parents graduated from Beechwood, my kids graduated from Beechwood and after some of the emails and unsigned letters that I got I want to know if somebody thinks that I don't care about Beechwood first. A lot of you people don't know what this Board does, we deeply care about it and I resent anybody who thinks that we don't put the staff of this school first. Over the years, while being on the school board, we have had administrators, teachers and parents that are not happy with the school board and the superintendent. It's every year. Whatever it is, but I have to say over the past weeks and months that I feel like the morale at Beechwood right now has declined significantly. I still believe that these issues can be resolved. I believe we can move forward with who we have but in the best interest of the school, I'm going to no on signing of the contract right now.

Amy Sleet

In 1978, I became a Beechwood Tiger. My mother was a teacher at this great institution for 18 years. My sister and myself are alumni and by the end of this month, I will proudly say that I have three children as Beechwood graduates. I am sitting here today as a Board member, and my passion for this school and community has never wavered. In fact, it has only dramatically increased. Why else in the world would someone put themselves through what this Board has endured the past few days. The only common denominator that I can find is for the love of this school, Beechwood Independent. As a Board member, our role is very simple... superintendent, board attorney, facility and finances. Unfortunately, that gets lost in translation. I've listened to our stakeholders. I've taken phone calls, I've answered text messages, I have read emails. Please know that your voice has been heard but the negative and threatening content against this Board is not only unproductive, it is the complete opposite of the Beechwood Way. We can only make decisions on concrete facts. My decision to extend Dr. Stacy tonight is not only an action that was made with much thought and quite honestly, prayer. With Dr. Stacy's leadership, this current administration, direction of the Board, we all should see the clear evidence of the strong academic growth within the school, enhanced facilities all while maintaining a strong fiscal status despite the most recent PVA assessments and being a SEEK-losing district. As a board member, our role is to make the best decisions for district as a whole and what that means looking through a different lens that many others can see we are planning the future success of this school which takes time and quite honestly, it's not finished. We need Dr. Stacy's expertise and experience to finish the existing projects and short-term future goals and to work out our long-term funding issues. Yes, I do see that there is work to be done, hard work, but if you're a true Beechwood tiger then you've learned how to embrace this hard work and not shy away from it. With effective leadership and a strong administrative team, we will continue to be successful for many years to come. Thank you.

Jeanne Berger

First, I would like to add, and I never thought I would have to say this at a meeting, but I want to share that the threats and innuendos made by some over the last few days either by email or Facebook is not an effective way to advocate. However, I do appreciate the many phone conversations and emails from those of you seeking information. With that being said, I am also a proud mom of three graduates of Beechwood. My husband, his siblings, my mother in law and her mom are all graduates of Beechwood. Needless to say, the lines run deep for me and my family within Beechwood schools. I'm confident in the job that Dr Stacy, the administrative team as well as the Board have accomplished in order to complete the vision of facilities, finances, and curriculum for a long-term sustainability plan. We, as a board, make decisions based on what is best for our District and based on facts, not hearsay. We all attend training yearly and have years of experience in our positions. During our time we have had some unprecedented events occur that we have maneuvered through with success. The Board, Dr Stacy, administration, teachers and staff work together. Nothing happens by just one person's efforts. It takes a village to make this school what it is. I appreciate all of you in this room who make that happen. Thank you.

Norine Sullivan

I first started on the Board in 2015. I was actually one of the people who hired Dr. Stacy and I have to tell you he has done an amazing job here. He has done everything that the Board asked of him and more. We never thought we would have a building here, at this point in time. When I first got on the Board, I think we were talking 2030 to even start thinking about getting a new building and we had to up the timeline because that building was going to fail and if we didn't have a building, we wouldn't have a school. I have deep respect for Dr. Stacy, my vote is not about you. My vote is going to be no because I feel like I'm a short timer here. I'm filling in a spot and although I feel very qualified and I have the best interests of the school at heart, I don't think we need to vote on this right now and I think I'd rather wait till the election comes and let the people decide who they want on the school board to make that decision for them. His contract isn't up until next year, so I think next year is the appropriate time to do this. I really appreciate all the people who reached out to me. I have to say that I spent all day yesterday on the phone. I didn't mind, that's part of what we do. I did get to spend time with my kids and thank you. I reached out to those people who texted later. I heard from 61 staff members in the past week. I had people show up at my door. I welcome your opinion. We do listen to what you have to say. We may not agree on things, but that's okay. I do agree with Jeanne. This is a really difficult job for us. We get nothing out of it other than the satisfaction of making this the best school we can possibly have. I hope you guys realize that we may not always see eye to eye but we do want what's best for the school, best for our kids and best for our city. Thank you.

Melanie Stricker

I appreciate those who expressed their opinion in a professional manner. That was much appreciated.

Some people move into our community for our special school and leave right after their kids graduate.

I am not one of those people. I have been fortunate to be around Beechwood my entire life. I was a student for 12 years. I was a student athlete for 6 years. I was a parent for 15 years, with 2 daughters that have graduated from her. I have been on the alumni board for 10 years and I am in my 16th year on the board of education. I love Beechwood.

My vote, every vote I make for Beechwood, is always based on what is best for Beechwood and I don't make decisions on hearsay or allegations.

I am going to vote to extend Dr Stacy's contract because it is the right thing to do. I believe that with all my heart and Beechwood Schools would be lucky to have his expertise for 3 more years. I don't appreciate the accusations I saw on social media. The facts are that we had asked him to extend one year through the Evergreen Clause when we knew we had one year of work. All good Boards do strategic planning, and we realized we have three years of work for him to do and we need his expertise. That is the driver for this vote. There is nothing underhanded about it. I will tell you one silver lining to all the negativity, it gave me an opportunity to stop and think about what this Board has done, the administration and Dr. Stacy and I just think "wow" when you look around and see everything we've accomplished in the last 10 years.

We have transformed our schools academically and we have transformed through our EDGE program. The thing that I get most excited about is our experiential learning. We are one of the few schools in the country that does that. Our facilities are amazing, you just have to look around and see, there are going to be even more amazing in the fall. I think back to where we were 10 years ago when we hired Dr. Stacy. We couldn't even have grass on our front lawn. I think our current state of our academics and our facilities speak for themselves. I'm going to vote yes.

Motion Passed: Motion to rescind Dr. Mike Stacy's contract extension dated July 11, 2022 and approve a new 3 year contract passed with a motion by Mrs. Melanie Stricker and a second by Mrs. Amy Sleet.

Mrs. Jeanne Berger	Yes
Mr. Bradford Hood	No
Mrs. Amy Sleet	Yes
Mrs. Melanie Stricker	Yes
Ms. Norine Sullivan	No

II.C. Tentative Budget for 2024-2025 SY

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the tentative budget for the 2024-2025 school year passed with a motion by Mrs. Amy Sleet and a second by Ms. Norine Sullivan.

Mrs. Jeanne Berger	Yes
Mr. Bradford Hood	Yes
Mrs. Amy Sleet	Yes
Mrs. Melanie Stricker	Yes
Ms. Norine Sullivan	Yes

II.D. Auditor Recommendation and Contract

Motion Passed: Motion to approve Cloyd and Associate's contract for audit services and the proposed fee passed with a motion by Ms. Norine Sullivan and a second by Mrs. Jeanne Berger.

Mrs. Jeanne Berger	Yes
Mr. Bradford Hood	Yes
Mrs. Amy Sleet	Yes
Mrs. Melanie Stricker	Yes
Ms. Norine Sullivan	Yes

II.E. Capital Funds Request (CFR)

Motion Passed: Motion to submit the Capital Funds Request passed with a motion by Mr. Bradford Hood and a second by Mrs. Melanie Stricker.

Mrs. Jeanne Berger	Yes
Mr. Bradford Hood	Yes
Mrs. Amy Sleet	Yes
Mrs. Melanie Stricker	Yes
Ms. Norine Sullivan	Yes

III. Consent Agenda

Motion Passed: Approval to adopt consent agenda passed with a motion by Mr. Bradford Hood and a second by Mrs. Amy Sleet.

Mrs. Jeanne Berger	Yes
Mr. Bradford Hood	Yes
Mrs. Amy Sleet	Yes
Mrs. Melanie Stricker	Yes
Ms. Norine Sullivan	Yes

III.A. Approval of Minutes

III.A.1. April 8, 2024 Finance Corporation

III.A.2. April 8, 2024

III.B. Monthly Bills

III.C. Use of Facility Requests

III.C.1. Football Camp by Franks Family Foundation Non Profit

III.D. Field Trip over 100 miles/overnight

III.D.1. Educators Rising Conference, Washington DC

III.D.2. Choir to New York City

III.E. Pay Application #23 for Phase B

III.F. Cafe Pricing Request

Due to rising costs of food and kitchen resources, we are requesting the following increases for breakfast and lunch prices for the 2024-2025 school year.

Current Pricing

P - 2nd Grade Lunch (\$2.75)

3rd - 5th Grade Lunch (\$3.00)

6th - 12th Grade Lunch (\$3.50)

Breakfast (\$1.75)

Proposed Increases

P - 2nd Grade Lunch (\$3.25)

3rd - 5th Grade Lunch (\$3.50)

6th - 12th Grade Lunch (\$4.00)

Breakfast (\$2.25)

Overall a \$0.50 increase for each.

III.G. Elementary School Fees 2024-2025**III.H. High School Course and Other Fees****III.I. NKU Field and Clinical Education MOA****III.J. NKU Option 9 MOA****III.K. NKU Dual Credit MOA****III.L. Title III MOU with Ft. Thomas an Dayton Independent****III.M. CDIP Phase 4 Reports**

III.M.1. BISD Professional Development Plan

III.M.2. BHS Professional Development Plan

III.M.3. BES Professional Development Plan

III.M.4. Lau Plan Cognia State Submission

III.M.5. Beechwood's Detailed Lau Plan

III.M.6. Continuation of Learning (NTI)

III.N. Payroll-Benefits Job Description**III.O. Media & Production Specialist Job Description****III.P. Pay Date Schedule for 24-25 School year****III.Q. Leave without Pay**

Amy Bushelman - 5/1/24 until 5/24/24 (end of the school year)

Heather Dickman - 4/23/24

Flora Fields - 4/12 , 4/19/24, 5/1/24, 5/8/2024

Linda Nussbaum - 4/17/24

Betsy Stoeckle:

4/12 - 4/26 full day LWOP each day

4/29 - 5/7 half day LWOP each day

5/8 - 5/10 full day LWOP each day

III.R. Pledge Collateralization Agreement**III.S. Dolly Parton Imagination Library****IV. Information****IV.A. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Stacy gave a financial update and expressed gratitude to the legislators for their support in session. Through session we also now have 8 million dollars in bonding potential for construction.

Dr. Stacy gave a construction update. We are hoping for October/Fall Break for opening the new building. We are currently getting quotes, but the Board will have to decide what projects to include in the new phase due to the additional bonding we now have for construction.

IV.A.1. Finance Report**IV.A.2. SBDM Meeting Minutes****IV.B. Personnel Report**New Hires

Celeste Brockett	High School math teacher
Alexandra Robinson	Accounts Payable
Kendra Stanley	Elementary PE Teacher
Julie Wainscott	Internal transfer to Payroll & Benefits

Resignations

Dan Burkey	Date change 4/29/2024
Lucas Springer	Strength and Conditioning coach effective 6/25/2024
Lydia Burlingame	English teacher

V. Agenda in Official Board Minutes

Motion Passed: Approval of making the agenda part of the official board minutes passed with a motion by Mrs. Amy Sleet and a second by Ms. Norine Sullivan.

Mrs. Jeanne Berger	Yes
Mr. Bradford Hood	Yes
Mrs. Amy Sleet	Yes
Mrs. Melanie Stricker	Yes
Ms. Norine Sullivan	Yes

VI. Other Business**VI.A. Board****VI.B. Staff****VI.C. Public****VII. Adjourn**

ATTEST: _____

Secretary

APPROVED: _____

Chairman