

RECORD OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS (MINUTES)

Ft. Mitchell, KY

The BEECHWOOD Board of Education met in the Beechwood Cafeteria at 6:00 PM, on December 09, 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

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. Staff Members Present

Dr. Mike Stacy, Superintendent	Mr. Justin Kaiser, Dir of Operations
Mr. Alan Yanke, High School Principal	Mrs. Lauren Steltenkamp, Special Ed Director
Mrs. Jana Bromley, Asst High School Principal	Mrs. Stephanie Layton, Business and University Liaison
Mr. Zach Ashley, Elementary Principal	Mrs. Kristi Ward, Finance Director
Mrs. Alicia Wittmer, Asst Elementary Principal	Mrs. Lori Reed, Board Secretary
Dr. Sarah Schobel, Dir of Curriculum	

I.C. Recognition of Guests

I.C.1. 11th grader, Lily Parke, Cross Country State Champion

I.C.2. 8th grader, Cecilia Anderson, Christmas Card Design Winner

I.C.3. Norine Sullivan, 1 Year of Service

I.C.4. Steve Meyers, 15 Years of Service

I.C.5. Melanie Stricker, 16 Years of Service

Remarks by Mrs. Stricker: Thank you for the recognition and thank you for your kind words.

It has been my absolute privilege to serve our community and stakeholders for the past sixteen years.

First, I would like to thank my family for their understanding and support throughout my dedication to Beechwood. My wife, Chris who is here, my daughter Emma in New York City, and my daughter Emelia in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Sixteen years is a long time to serve. My family often said Beechwood was another full-time job, and at times it was. I did the math, I was here for 192 Monday nights at board meetings, I only missed one because we planned our family vacations around board meetings.

There were so many other events, just too many to count, which included: special board meetings, various committee meetings, KSBA meetings, Sporting events, Band competitions, chorus performances, Elementary musicals, High School musicals, Santafests, Open houses, Sixth grade graduations, and High School graduations, just to name a few.

Those who know me, know I gave my heart and soul to Beechwood for sixteen years because I LOVE Beechwood! I have loved Beechwood for as long as I can remember at this point, it's fifty-five years and counting.

My Beechwood Story started in first grade. I was a student for twelve years, a student athlete for six years, I played tennis, basketball, volleyball and softball. I received my first varsity letter, in seventh grade and I still remember the pride I felt wearing Beechwood across my chest. This was the 70s and girls were not encouraged to be athletes, thank goodness that has changed!

I was also a Beechwood parent for fifteen years; I am a proud Mom of two graduates. I am on the alumni board; it is great to see some alumni in the audience.

I have done a lot of reflecting this last year, my experience on the Board feels like a Tale of Two Beechwoods.

The first Beechwood

Imagine if you will, it is Jan 1st, 2009. Our campus was wide open, with external doors not locked during school hours. We did not have a school nurse. We did not have an SRO.

Our facilities needed significant improvement. The front lawn did not have grass; it was always littered with gumballs, creating a safety hazard after graduations. Our lower field had a serious drainage issue. We only had turf on the lower field, and it was old. We had numerous injuries during football games and recess.

We had an old category five building which meant it wasn't supposed to be used.

In my early years on the Board, I advocated adding a school nurse and ensured teachers received a stipend upon completing their National Board Certification.

I served as Board Chair for three years. I am very proud of three significant decisions we made during that period:

1. [Approval of a new Mission Statement](#)

I led the process to update our mission statement, which was decades old and outdated. We engaged five representatives from various stakeholder groups, including students, teachers, staff, parents, the Board, Administration, and local business partners.

The process resulted in... the Board approving **“To Provide Innovative Education Grounded In Tradition”**. I am proud of the work we did in 2014, and I think it is pretty cool that it still fits in 2024!

2. [Implementation of the School Resource Officer \(SRO\) Program:](#)

I collaborated with the Police Chief to secure a grant and create a proposal for an SRO program. The city of Fort Mitchell and the Board approved a three-year pilot SRO program and the first day was Jan 1st, 2015

You might be surprised to know; I faced criticism from some who argued that Beechwood did not need an SRO. I firmly believed in the benefits of this initiative. Over the years, we have received overwhelmingly positive feedback about the SRO program and our dedicated Officer Pangallo. Every time I hear someone talking about our SRO, I feel a sense of pride knowing that we made the right decision.

3. [Hiring Dr. Stacy as Superintendent](#)

If you were here in 2015, you know that our facilities were in dire need of repair and improvements. I am proud of the decision to hire Dr. Stacy as our Superintendent, he brought a wealth of experience and a strategic vision for the future

The Second Beechwood

Hiring Dr. Stacy was the first step in our facilities and academic transformation. It started with him building a very talented administrative team. I have always been amazed by all the talent we have in our little school.

Prior to his arrival, we had an administrator revolving door. For the last 10 years, we have had a consistent administration team with average tenure much higher than industry average.

Dr. Stacy's leadership fostered a collaborative and productive partnership between school administration and the Board of Education. Fun fact, at least two of the five of us have been on the Board every year since 2009.

In addition to me serving sixteen years, Jeanne and Brad each have fourteen years of service. It is rare to have three board members with this tenure – average board service is much less especially now.

For the first time in school history, Beechwood had a positive relationship with Frankfort. Dr. Stacy helped us secure state funding which allowed us to transform our facilities.

The slide which will be available after the meeting.

Our Transformation, I think of Beechwood like a wheel, at the center, there are many roles, and like cogs in a wheel, it takes everyone to work together and moving in the same direction to accomplish the things we have accomplished in the last ten years.

Our transformation started with our new Mission, "To Provide Innovative Education Grounded in Tradition" which was the foundation for "The Beechwood Way". We implemented experiential learning with Seminar and The Edge Program. We have over one hundred business partners who provide our students with valuable real-world business experience. The majority of our seniors have a business internship.

We built A Culture of Excellence Academics and Extracurriculars. Beechwood is consistently ranked as a top school in the state and nationally ranked. We have had many STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS, our most recent last Friday, how about that game!

My Beechwood experience has come full circle. As I represented Beechwood across the state and nationally, I felt the same pride I did as a student wearing Beechwood across my chest.

I feel blessed to have been part of a rare opportunity, we started with a vision and dreams ten years ago and turned them into a reality for our students, staff and community. I am so proud of the work this Board and Administration team has accomplished; together we have had one of the best runs in school history. It was not always easy; it took a lot of blood sweat and tears to make it happen. We did all the things people told us we couldn't do and then some.

I am so excited for all of you to see our new state of the art building! I am so proud of this legacy we created which will continue to **foster experiential learning and give our students, staff and community a competitive advantage for decades to come!**

I decided to end my board service on 12/31 because sixteen years is a long time to serve, and we are in the phase of life with aging parents with various health issues. It was not an easy decision, because I love Beechwood and I have LOVED every minute, well most minutes, of representing Beechwood on the Board of Education.

All of you in the room know Beechwood is a very special place! Beechwood will always hold a special place in my heart.

Thank you for listening to my Beechwood story. **Once A Tiger, Always a Tiger!**
Melanie Stricker, Class of 1981

I.D. 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.

Public comments were made by Amanda Klare and Ray Sullivan.

II. Discussion and Action Agenda**II.A. Pepsi agreement**

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the agreement with Pepsi 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. Consent Agenda

Motion Passed: Approval to adopt consent agenda passed with a motion by Ms. Norine Sullivan 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.A. Approval of Minutes**III.A.1. November 11, 2024****III.B. Monthly Bills****III.C. Use of Facility Requests****III.C.1. Band Craft Fair for November 2025****III.D. Greater Cincinnati STEM Collaborative Education 3D Printer Grant**

Recipients: Jennifer Gasser & Amanda Klare

2024- 2025 Grant Terms

GCSC will provide the following resources to Beechwood Elementary - professional development, 3d Printers Club curricula, a new 3d Printer, transportation to the 3d Printers Showcase (up to \$300), club materials stipend (up to \$150) and attendance to the 3d Printers Showcase on Saturday, March 15th , 2025.

III.E. Pay Applications #29 for Phase 6B**III.F. Updated Safety Plan****III.G. Winter Guard/Percussion/Winter Band Stipend Update****III.H. Temporary Workers**

Rationale: Hiring temporary workers - \$10.00 per hour for the first year at Beechwood and \$10.25 after the first year

III.I. Request for shortened school day

Rationale:

Approval for a high school student to be approved for a shortened school day. The ARC team met and approved based on medical provider recommendation and behavior data collected over several weeks at the ARC on Friday 11/8/2024

IV. Mid-Year Updates were presented by:

Dr. Stacy and Heath Preston of Codell Construction - Construction Update

Justin Kaiser - Safety and Traffic Update

Sarah Schobel - Curriculum Update

Zach Ashley - Elementary Culture Update

Alan Yanke - High School Culture Update

V. Information**V.A. Superintendent's Report**

Finance update was shared with the Board. We are on track financially with the annual budget and the construction project. Thank you to Kristi Ward for her work on our audit as well as the application for gap funding due to construction cost changes pre- and post-COVID.

V.A.1. Finance Report**V.A.2. SBDM Meeting Minutes****V.B. Personnel Report**

Leave Without Pay - Stacy Knight from 1/6/2025 - 1/8/2025

Resignations - Guima Camil, Girls Soccer Head Coach

Retirement - Steve Meyers, Maintenance

Basketball - Girls

Camera Operator - Julian Sandburg

Scorer - Annabelle Bishop

Statistician - Juliana Gutierrez

Basketball - Boys

Scorer - Roddy Powell

Statistician - Kevin Dallas

Tennis Head Coach - Anne Arnsperger

Track & Field

Head Coach - Marsha Parke

Assistant Coach - Greg Woodard

VI. Agenda in Official Board Minutes

Motion Passed: Approval of making the agenda part of the official board minutes passed with a motion by Mrs. Melanie Stricker 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

VII. Other Business
VII.A. Board
VII.B. Staff
VII.C. Public

VIII. Adjourn

Motion Passed: Motion to adjourn passed with a motion by Ms. Norine Sullivan 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

ATTEST: _____
Secretary

APPROVED: _____
Chairman

Meeting Minutes December 9, 2024