

BUCHANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS, BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

DECEMBER 13, 2021

REGULAR MEETING

BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL

CALL TO ORDER

PRESIDENT: Dr. Harvey Burnett opened the meeting at 6:02pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Burnett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Patricia Robinson, Mark Kurland, Phil Place, Carrie Brunsting, Brian Brown, Al Berget, Rebecca Kaltenbach

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION by **C. Carlson**, **SECONDED** BY Member **R. Writer** the agenda for the board meeting of December 13, 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

S. Fain, J. Stubblefield, J. Legault

**SUPERINTENDENT/
DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Buck Staff Recognition December Winner: Margaret Cowles, BCS Food Service. Board Secretary Mrs. Laesch recognized Mrs. Cowles as this month's winner. Mrs. Cowles supervisor had nominated her recognizing Mrs. Cowles as being a wonderful asset to the team at the high school.

Nominees included:

- Dawn Van Dyke, Ottawa Special Education Teacher
- Donna Southwell, BHS Interventionist
- Heather Wilson, BCS Bus Driver
- Kim Klug, BMS Ladies Locker Room Aide/Lunch Aide
- Kristin Shaner, Ottawa Paraprofessional
- Larry Kline, BCS Operations Utility Staff
- Lisa Gregory, Moccasin 2nd Grade Teacher
- Mark Kurland, BCS Assistant Superintendent
- Melissa Sweeney, BCS Food Service
- Michelle Canfield, BCS Food Service
- Miranda Capron, BHS Interventionist
- Nicole Hughes, BMS 5th Grade Teacher
- Sam Bentley, BCS Food Service

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

PRESENTATIONS

School Highlight – Rebecca Kaltenbach, Buchanan Community Schools Food Service Supervisor, presented to the board. Ms. Kaltenbach reviewed with the board that the USDA had granted another waiver for free breakfast and lunches for students for the 2021-22 school year, which has increased participation. She also informed the board of updates from the food service department.

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

**INFORMATION/REPORTS &
NEW BUSINESS**

Board Policy Committee Meeting – Mrs. Berry shared that they had reviewed general updates for Neola policies.

Public Relations Committee Meeting – Mrs. Robinson informed the board of partnering with BRESA for a campaign featuring Buchanan Community Schools highlighting features happening across the district and staff, website update, and communications.

Finance Committee Meeting – Mr. Lee updated the board on their most recent meeting. They reviewed the tax update, ESSER III Survey, audit follow-up as well as a possible recommendation to changing the district’s auditor next year.

Curriculum & Programming Committee Meeting – Mrs. Writer spoke of reviewing curriculum needs and concerns. They discussed the math program with BRESA as well as PLC’s (Professional Learning Communities).

Parent Advisory Committee Meeting - Mrs. Robinson updated the board that there was much excitement from the meeting. They spoke of scheduling at BHS as well as the possibility of offering Spanish at the elementary levels.

Professional Development Committee Meeting – Mrs. Robinson updated members that this committee has been able to meet twice and have been having good discussion.

BMS Student Advisory Committee Meeting – Mrs. Robinson informed the board that two students attended and she had asked them the ESSER III questions to get student feedback.

School Farm Advisory Committee – Mrs. Laesch reviewed with the board that they were wrapping up for the end of the year. They are planning on working on some grants and discussed the farms 50th Anniversary coming up next year.

Superintendent & Buck Parent Conversations Meeting – Mrs. Robinson updated the board on the most recent meeting held at Buchanan Middle School. She was able to have a nice discussion and answer questions.

**COMMUNITY DIALOGUE
CITIZENS CONCERNS**

Don Ryman – spoke against masks.

Stephanie Fain – spoke against masks.

Carla Johnson – spoke against masks.

Julie Legault – spoke against masks, social distancing and quarantines.

15 MINUTE RECESS

MOTION by **K. Laesch**, SECONDED BY Member **H. Burnett**, the Board of Education makes a motion to take a 15 minute recess.

**CLOSED SESSION –
STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

MOTION by **C. Lee**, SECONDED BY Member **K. Laesch**, the Buchanan Board of Education moves into closed session for a hearing on student discipline – Student #6441092385. Time 7:09pm

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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION MOTION by **C. Carlson**, SECONDED BY Member **R. Writer**, the Buchanan Board of Education resolves to return to open session. Time 8:06pm

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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

STUDENT DEISCIPLINE – EXPULSION HEARING MOTION by **H. Burnett**, SECONDED BY Member **K. Laesch**, the Buchanan Board of Education adopts the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the administration has presented to the Board of Education, a recommendation concerning the expulsion of a student who was in violation of Buchanan School Board Policy #5517.01 on Monday, December 6th, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the administration has notified the student and parents involved of the accusations against the student, the recommendation of expulsion, and their rights to a hearing on this date;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Buchanan Board of Education chooses to permanently expel Student #6441092385 from attendance in Buchanan Community Schools effective immediately, the student will be allowed to attend Buchanan Virtual Academy, Step Up or another alternative setting.

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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**



AMENDED TO ADD, MOTION by **H. Burnett**, SECONDED BY Member **K. Laesch**
The student will be allowed to attend Buchanan Virtual Academy, Step Up or another alternative setting.




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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**


ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA MOTION by **K. Berry**, SECONDED BY Member **C. Lee**, the Board of Education approves the consent agenda for the regular board meeting of December 13th, 2021 be adopted as written:

1. Minutes:

-  11-15-2021 Regular Meeting
-  11-29-2021 Work Session

2. Warrants:
 -  Treasury & Expenditure Reports – November 2021
3. Staff retirement as submitted:
 -  Sue Lentz, BCS District Registrar and BHS Guidance Office Administrative Assistant, 24 years
4. Job Description & 1 FTE Approval:
 -  District Registrar
5. Recommendations to Hire as submitted by:
 - Director of Operations, Mr. Al Berget
 - Assistant Athletic Coordinator, Mr. Ryan Frontczak

Recommended Employee	Title
Jacob Robles	Operations Student Utility Staff
Riley Ruelle	Operations Utility Staff
Tony Holt	BMS Wrestling Coach
Doug Zundel	BMS Wrestling Coach

4. Staff resignation as submitted:
 -  Lucie Behrle, BCS KidKare Director

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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

BOARD POLICIES – FIRST READING

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

POLICY	Description
0100	Definitions
0167.3	Public Participation at Board Meetings
0175.1	School Board Conferences, Conventions, and Workshops
1100	District Organization
2710	School Farm Advisory Council
3120	Employment of Professional Staff
6114	Cost Principles – Spending Federal Funds
6152	Student Fees, Fines, and Supplies
8310	Public Records
8320	Personnel Files
8330	Student Records
8450.06	COVID-19 Vaccination, Testing, and Face-Covering Policy (New)

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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**SUMMER TAX
RESOLUTION**

MOTION by **R. Writer**, SECONDED BY Member **C. Lee**, the Buchanan Board of Education adopts the following resolution:

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 2022 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 2022 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, 2022.

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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
CHANGE**

MOTION by **C. Carlson**, SECONDED BY Member **R. Writer**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves the request to leave the BCS Athletic Conference and reinstate the Lakeland Athletic Conference with Berrien Springs, Brandywine, Dowagiac, and Benton Harbor, as recommended by BCS Athletic Coordinator, Mr. Mark Frey.

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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

MOTION by **C. Carlson**, SECONDED BY Member **K. Laesch**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves the Buchanan Community Schools Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) as recommended by the Emergency/Security Planning Committee.

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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

SCHOOL FARM ADVISORY BOARD – MEMBER APPOINTMENT APPROVAL

MOTION by **H. Burnett**, SECONDED BY Member **C. Carlson**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves the recommendation as submitted by School Farm Coordinator, Ms. Jane Mitchell, to appoint Mr. Mark Nixon and Mrs. Melissa Frost as members to the School Farm Advisory Board.

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

Buchanan Virtual Academy Student:

 Katelyn Baker

Buchanan Step Up Students:

 Katy Hess

 Terri Myers

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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

CLOSED SESSION SUPERINTENDENT MID-YEAR EVALUATION REVIEW

MOTION by **R. Writer**, SECONDED BY Member **C. Lee**, the Buchanan Board of Education moves into closed session per Section 8(A) of Open Meetings Act, to conduct a mid-year evaluation review of the Superintendent. Time 8:19pm

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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

MOTION by **H. Burnett**, SECONDED BY Member **K. Laesch**, the Buchanan Board of Education resolves to return to open session. Time 9:06pm

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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Laesch wished everyone a Merry Christmas

Mr. Carlson wished Mrs. Lentz the best.

Mrs. Berry thanked Mrs. Brunsting for working on the grants.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Reorganizational Meeting – Monday, January 10th at 6pm.

ADJOURNMENT

9:12 pm

Mrs. Kelly Laesch, Secretary, Board of Education
(Minutes adopted at the 1/17/22 meeting)