

BUCHANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS, BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

APRIL 18, 2022

REGULAR MEETING

BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL

CALL TO ORDER

PRESIDENT: Dr. Burnett opened the meeting at 6:01pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Burnett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: C. Lee

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION by **C. Carlson**, **SECONDED** BY Member **R. Writer** the agenda for the board meeting of April 18, 2022 be adopted as written.

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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mrs. Robinson welcomed all guests.

A. Place, A. Ludwig, B. Dey, K. Dey, C. Franklin, M. Franklin, J. Franklin, A. Binns, R. Tampkins, P. Huffman, K. Cornelius, J. Brackett, C. Lolmaugh, S. Herrman, T. Herrman, C. Hickok, R. Hickok, T. Frantz

**SUPERINTENDENT/
DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Mrs. Robinson addressed the board and guests about the high school restrooms as well as prom.

Buck Staff Recognition April Winner: Rebecca Dey, Ottawa Elementary Paraprofessional. Mrs. Laesch recognized Mrs. Dey as this month's winner.

Nominees included:

- Amanda Horton, BCS Food Service
- Brittney Gmeiner, Ottawa Early Childhood Special Education Teacher
- Erica Neal, BHS English Language Arts Teacher
- Jessica Leenhouts, Ottawa & Moccasin Physical Education Teacher and Interim KidKare Director
- Katy Kaltenbach, Ottawa ECSE Paraprofessional
- Kristy Schlutt, Ottawa Paraprofessional
- Nicole Hughes, BMS 5th Grade Teacher
- Phil Place, Director of Technology

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

PRESENTATIONS

Close Up Trip Student Presentation – Mr. Joshua Wegener along with students that participated in the 2022 Close Up trip to Washington D.C. reported to the board the sights and focuses of this years trip.

Plow Day Invitation – Mrs. Melissa Frost invited the board and community to come experience Plow Day at our school farm Saturday, April 23rd, 2022.

School Highlight – Mrs. Karin Falkenstein, BCS Special Education Supervisor, presented to the board changes to the special education department over the years along with the process of receiving and educating students within the special education department.

INFORMATION/REPORTS & NEW BUSINESS

Public Relations Committee, April 14th Meeting – Mrs. Berry updated the board that they addressed special recognition for student achievement and will be updating the agenda to include a Points of Pride section that will list the Buck Staff Appreciation winners and others. Debuted the first district Spotlight Video.

Facilities Planning Committee, March 15th Meeting – Mr. Carlson informed the board they spoke about the restrooms and water softener needing replacing at Buchanan High School as well as the entryway at Moccasin.

Board Policy Committee, March 31st Meeting – Mrs. Berry spoke to the board that this committee meeting was primarily regular NEOLA updates.

Curriculum & Programming Committee, April 1st Meeting – Mrs. Writer informed the board they met on curriculum audit review of English language arts, they reviewed pacing guides, assessments and materials. They also were able to view the new district website.




Farm Advisory Committee, April 12th Meeting – Mrs. Laesch informed the board they mostly focused on Plow Day.

**COMMUNITY DIALOGUE
CITIZENS CONCERNS**

April Binns

**ADOPTION OF CONSENT
AGENDA**

MOTION by **R. Writer**, SECONDED BY Member **C. Carlson**, the Board of Education approves the consent agenda for the regular board meeting of April 18th, 2022 be adopted as written:

1. Minutes:
 -  3-9-2022 Work Session/Retreat
 -  3-14-2022 Regular Meeting
2. Warrants:
 -  Treasury & Expenditure Reports – March 2022
3. Recommendations to Hire as submitted by:
BCS Director of Operations, Mr. Al Berget

Recommended Employee	Title
Heather Farmer	Operations Utility Staff (contract attached)

4. Coaching Recommendation for Spring 2021-22 submitted by Athletic Coordinator, Mr. Mark Frey:

Coach	Position	Class/Level	Step
Madison Bailey	JV Girls Tennis Coach	6	1

5. Resignations:

 Megan Watkins, Buchanan High School Science Teacher


ROLL CALL VOTE: K. Berry, C. Carlson, K. Laesch, S. Carlin, and 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:

 Devon Renbarger

Buchanan Step Up Student:

 Kyla Rogers

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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**BVA 2022-23 SCHOOL
CALENDAR AMENDMENT**

MOTION by **K. Berry**, SECONDED BY Member **K. Laesch**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves the amended Buchanan Virtual Academy 2022-23 school calendar recommended by Buchanan Virtual Academy Director, Mr. Mark Frey and Superintendent Robinson.

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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**BCS EMPLOYMENT
APPROVAL**

MOTION by **C. Carlson**, SECONDED BY Member **R. Writer**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves the employment of employee 1115957.

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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**2022 CHEER CAMP –
OVERNIGHT TRIP**

MOTION by **K. Berry**, SECONDED BY Member **R. Writer**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves the 3-day Cheer Camp hosted at Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI.

The participating students are expected to depart July 31, 2022 and return August 2, 2022 in accordance with Board Policy #2340.

This Cheer Camp trip will be under the supervision of Cheer Coach, Nikki Coquillard.

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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS
PLAN AMENDMENT**


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

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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**UPDATE AUTHORIZED
BANKING USERS**

MOTION by **C. Carlson**, SECONDED BY Member **R. Writer**, the Buchanan Community Schools Board of Education approves the following individual to be an authorized user on Buchanan Community Schools payroll accounts:

 Laura Morris

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

NAYS: None ABSTAINED: K. Berry **MOTION ADOPTED**

**SCHOOLS OF CHOICE
RESOLUTION**

MOTION by **R. Writer**, SECONDED BY Member **C. Carlson**, the Buchanan Community Schools’ Board of Education, exercising the option permitted by section 105 of the State School Aid Act of 1979, as amended by Public Act 300 of 1996, will accept applications of nonresident students who reside within Berrien RESA boundaries for the available grade level openings as listed below for enrollment into Buchanan Community Schools for the 2022-23 school year and will operate a Schools of Choice program in our district in compliance with the statutory requirements of Section 105. The window for applications for these openings will be May 16, 2022 to June 13, 2022. Available openings for each grade level:

OTTAWA ELEMENTARY	MOCCASIN ELEMENTARY	BUCHANAN MIDDLE SCHOOL	BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL
Kindergarten: 25	2 nd Grade: 5	5 th Grade: 7	8 th Grade: 12
1 st Grade: 7	3 rd Grade: 5	6 th Grade: 5	9 th Grade: 5
	4 th Grade: 8	7 th Grade: 4	10 th Grade: 4
			11 th Grade: 1
			12 th Grade: 0

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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**RFP – BUCHANAN HIGH
SCHOOL NETWORK
INFRASTRUCTURE
UPGRADE PROJECT**

MOTION by **K. Laesch**, SECONDED BY Member **R. Writer**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves Director of Technology, Phil Place’s, recommendation to accept the bid from HAAS Systems for the Buchanan High School network infrastructure upgrade project.

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

NAYS: None ABSTAINED: C. Carlson **MOTION ADOPTED**

**BOARD POLICIES – FIRST
READING**

MOTION by **R. Writer**, SECONDED BY Member **K. Berry**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves the first reading of the following NEOLA revised policies:

POLICY	Description
0167.3	Public Comment at Board Meetings
2410	Prohibition of Referral or Assistance
2414	Reproductive Health and Family Planning
2418	Sex Education
5511	Dress and Grooming
6110	Grant Funds
6114	Cost Principles – Spending Federal Funds
6325	Procurement – Federal Grants/Funds
7440	Facility Security
8600	Transportation
9190	Shop Project Charge

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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

**BEA LETTER OF
AGREEMENT – COVID 19
LEAVE**

MOTION by **K. Laesch**, SECONDED BY Member **R. Writer**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves the attached letter of agreement with the Buchanan Education Association regarding Covid-19 leave effective October 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.



**Letter of Agreement between the
Buchanan -5C Education Association, MEA/NEA and
the Buchanan Community Schools Board of
Education**

COVID-19 Leave

This Letter of Agreement (the "Agreement") is entered into between the Buchanan Community Schools (the "District") Board of Education (the "Board") and the Buchanan -5C Education Association, MEA/NEA (the "Association") as set forth below.

1. **Rationale.** The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on District operations. To provide for the safety and welfare of the District's students and employees, the Board has authorized the implementation of leave as described below to encourage eligible employees to not work in person under the identified circumstances. For purposes of this Agreement, this leave will be known as "COVID-19 leave".

2. **Effective Dates.** COVID-19 leave is available only from October 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

3. **Application.** Up to eight (8) work days of COVID-19 leave is available to a bargaining unit employee who provides written proof of a positive COVID-19 test result from the health department or a qualified healthcare provider. Results from COVID-19 home tests may be accepted with administration approval. Up to eight (8) work days of COVID-19 leave is available to a bargaining unit employee who has not taken a COVID-19 test, but who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms and is directed to isolate as a "probable" COVID-19 case. These eight (8) leave days are cumulative. During the COVID-19 leave, the employee shall receive their normal wages and benefits for their regular work schedule for up to a total of eight (8) work days for the 2021-2022 school year without deduction from the employee's accumulated sick leave. The District reserves the right to request medical documentation of the employee's inability to work.

4. **Return to Work.** If the employee can return to work wearing a mask, using other mitigation measures, or regular testing pursuant to then-applicable Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Guidance, the employee shall return to work and will not be eligible for continued COVID-19 leave.

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5. **No Grievance.** Any District decision about an employee's eligibility for use of COVID-19 leave under this Agreement is not subject to the grievance process in the parties' collective bargaining agreement.

6. **Conformity to Collective Bargaining Agreement.** The terms of this Agreement have been developed through the collective bargaining process between the Board and the Association. Accordingly, the Board and the Association acknowledge and agree that nothing in this Agreement will be regarded as inconsistent with or contrary to the terms of their current collective bargaining agreement or any successor contract. To the extent that there is a conflict or inconsistency between the terms of the Agreement and the parties' collective bargaining agreement, the terms of this Agreement shall control.

7. **Conformity to Law.** If any provision or application of this Agreement is determined to be invalid or contrary to law by a court or administrative District, such provision shall be severed (to the extent required by law) but the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall not be affected unless the severance results in a material change in the benefits or rights of any party under this Agreement. In the latter event, the party claiming to be adversely affected shall give prompt written notice to the other party and shall confer with that party regarding an appropriate resolution of the matter.


8. **Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be governed in all respects by the laws of the State of Michigan.

9. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties, and supersedes any prior or concurrent agreements, written or oral, regarding its subject matter.

10. **Non-Precedential.** The creation and implementation of this Agreement shall not be precedent-setting and shall not in any way bind the Board or Association (or their respective successors) to continue or perpetuate its conditions beyond its expiration date. The parties expressly acknowledge that this Agreement is not and will not become part of the collective bargaining agreement between the Board and the Association.

11. **Expiration.** This Agreement expires on June 30, 2022.


Patricia Robinson, Superintendent


Thomas Brinks, Vice-President

Date: 4/13, 2022

Date: 4/13, 2022

ROLL CALL VOTE: K. Laesch, S. Carlin, R. Writer, and H. Burnett

NAYS: None ABSTAINED: K. Berry and C. Carlson **MOTION ADOPTED**

PROPOSED TREE PLANTINGS AT OTTAWA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MOTION by **C. Carlson**, SECONDED BY Member **K. Laesch**, the Buchanan Board of Education approves Buchanan Tree Friends to plant up to 20 trees at Ottawa Elementary School. Exact planting sites to be determined.

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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

RFP – DESIGN BUILD ARCHITECT

MOTION by **C. Carlson**, SECONDED BY Member **K. Berry**, the Buchanan Board of Education selects Performance Services to move forward with negotiating the final project scope and price for the ESSER fund project.

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

NAYS: None **MOTION ADOPTED**

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Carlson thanked the Close Up group for their presentation.

Mrs. Writer thanked the Close Up students. She also reminded everyone of the Buchanan High School 100 Year Celebration on June 11th.

Mrs. Laesch reminded everyone of Plow Day on Saturday, April 23rd.

Dr. Burnett hopes the middle school D.A.R.E. graduation will be soon.

Dr. Carlin commented on the spotlight video reinforcing great things happening at Buchanan Community Schools.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, May 16th at 7pm following the End of Year Reception at 6pm.

ADJOURNMENT

7:25 pm