

BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday March 18, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President, Denise McBride. Present: Denise McBride, Tom Gross, Heather Curtiss, Rod Cole, Ron Neyer, Curt Gottschalk and Bob Pasch.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said

Tom Gross read the District Mission Statement.

Motion by Rod Cole, seconded by Heather Curtiss to approve the agenda as presented with no additions or deletions. Motion carried 7/0

Motion by Tom Gross, and seconded by Rod Cole to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2019 as presented. Motion carried 7/0

Rod Freeze read the Financial Report.

Denise welcomed guests and gave the opportunity for the public to participate in public comment: Paul Gross spoke.

Denise went over the board rules for public presentations to the board:

Ed Lynch made a presentation – see attached presentation

Fritz Jaessing made a presentation – see attached presentation

The board went into Executive session for personnel issues and Article 8c. This was a closed executive session, Denise did a roll call vote: Present: Ron Neyer, Bob Pasch, Heather Curtiss, Denise McBride, Tom Gross, Curt Gottschalk, Rod Cole.

The board came out of Executive Session.

Motion by Bob Pasch, and seconded by Rod Cole to adjourn at 9:05 pm. Motion Carried 7/0.

Recording Secretary
Rodney Freeze



Denise McBride, President



Curt Gottschalk, Secretary

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

BEAL CITY HIGH SCHOOL

3/18/19

Good evening members of the school board. My name is Fritz Jaessing and I am a community parent and an advocate for the continuous improvement of our educational environment. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of our school community. We all recognize the value of your hard work as board members and appreciate the forum provided for us here to express identified opportunities for improvement. As you reflect upon the issues presented tonight, I urge you to remember that this information is intended as constructive, actionable feedback and by voicing our concerns it is in no way indicating that we hate this school. We are all here because we are proud Aggies, we want the best for our kids, and we want to reinforce the principles and the traditions that once made Beal City a highly respected institution across the Highland conference.

With that said, I would like to read a statement submitted by MHSAA referee William Howes about the incident that occurred on February 20th of this year and involved Superintendent Chilman. A copy of this letter will be submitted to the board.

READ REFEREE LETTER

To whom it may concern,

I am William Howes, a 38 year veteran of sports officiating, and a frequent official in contests involving Beal City. I was in Beal City for a Varsity Boys Basketball contest on Thursday February 20th of this year. A well played game on the floor with issues happening off the floor. The issues started mid fourth quarter when an adult statistician (who was in the crowd not on the bench) showed his displeasure in an inappropriate manor and was asked to leave the facility for this action. The game went on to its conclusion and we left the floor to our room (Officials Room) with game management and were discussing the removal with them when the Beal City Assistant Coach / Superintendent Chilman charged in and demanded that I get my things and get out of his building and to use the side doors NOT the front doors, while game management tried to get him out he repeated his demand. Then while the game management , the Head Coach, and my partners for the game were trying again to get him to leave , he again forced his way in and repeated his demands to me. After this as we were discussing this issue is when I discovered the person asked to leave was his elder son. This is still not acceptable actions in my opinion especially from an administrator of the school. Thankfully this happened to an experienced official like myself instead of a younger official as this situation could have gotten a lot more substantial and possibly physical. Thus losing one more official that we really do need to keep contests going at all levels. All because of the actions by an administrator for a school system and person that is suppose to set examples for the students they are in charge of.

The reason for this letter is this, because of this issue I removed myself from the MHSSA District game in Beal City the following week, I removed myself from baseball and football games involving Beal city in the coming seasons to alleviate any problems with me as this would take the problem to the athletes arena and they did nothing wrong. But as for Mr. Chilman, as of this letter , nothing has been done , he has continued to be present on the bench for all the games played by the Boys Basketball team since the issue happened. With this instance and other instances, many other officials have started to remove and or decline contest with Beal City involved, this hurts the athletes and the game.

I have always appreciated Beal City sports and their coaches and athletes over the years and I am not going to try and tell you what should happen or suggest any type of actions or solutions because that is your responsibility and this is your school system and I have no idea how you discipline the "Head" of this system. This is just to inform you of the situation as it has happened from the other side.

Thank You for your time and I am sorry for the situation as it stands.

Sincerely
William Howes

The school community has brought a significant issue before you regarding the actions of Superintendent Chilman through his involvement with the athletic program. Our students, whom Mr. Chilman preaches to about sportsmanship like it's a religion, are observing his behavior and have lost respect for his leadership. They are also being repeatedly exposed to his violent personality at sporting events and they shouldn't be put in that position. Seeing Mr. Chilman's temper in public makes me wonder how bad it gets behind closed doors. What's it like for the kids in school? Or for the staff and faculty? Or for the school board? Keep in mind that it's not only the Beal City community that is seeing these outbursts and losing respect for our school administration. Parents, coaches, and students from other districts have also seen Bill's sideline decorum and are appalled. The reputation of Beal City schools is being destroyed because Mr. Chilman can't control his emotions on the court.

The pre-meditated confrontation that Mr. Chilman initiated on February 20th with Referee Howes was absolutely uncalled for and disgraceful. That incident alone should be enough to pull him from the athletic program and quite frankly I'm shocked that the school board hasn't taken any action. I know board members are in the stands at games, I know they are aware of Bill's current and historical lack of self-control around sporting events, and I know they are aware of this specific incident. As the school board you are Mr. Chilman's supervisor and it is your duty to hold him accountable when he acts inappropriately. As the community it is our duty to hold you accountable. These are the checks and balances that build a strong chain of command and a strong school.

Mr. Chilman's own personal statement on the school website says he has 3 priorities as the Superintendent: 1. Student achievement, 2. fiscal integrity, and "Third, but not least of all, promote the school district and provide positive school and community relations throughout the Mid-Michigan area." His involvement in our athletic program is compromising that goal. The incidents that we have shared tonight provide enough of a factual basis to not only review Mr. Chilman's duties, authority, and use of time as the Superintendent, but also to remove him from participation in our athletic programs. As an administrator he is setting a horribly bad example to all the parents and kids attending these games, and it is costing Beal City its reputation with the MHSAA and the Highland conference. The only way to ensure that we are sending the right message to our students and to rebuild the Beal City reputation is to remove him from leadership and/or coaching roles in our athletic programs.

A copy of these remarks, Mr. Lynch's remarks, and the letter written by Referee William Howes will be provided to each of the board members for their reference. We request that these documents be placed into the meeting minutes. The community also requests a response as to how this situation was handled by the school board. Thank you for your attention to this matter, we yield the remainder of our unused time.

Respectfully Submitted,

FRITZ JAESSING

ED LYNCH

March 18, 2019

Members of the Beal City School Board,

The first page of the student handbook lists pillars of character: Trustworthiness; Respect; Responsibility; Fairness; and Caring. As adults and leaders in our community, it is our responsibility to model these values in order to help teach our youth. We expect our youth to practice good sportsmanlike behavior using these values, attributes that are read prior to various athletic events – often by our Superintendent.

I am here representing an at-large number of people who are concerned about the continued coaching appointment of Superintendent Bill Chilman. Superintendent Bill Chilman has single handedly brought disrespect to the Beal City athletic program. His unsportsmanlike actions in and around our sporting events are nothing short of conduct unbecoming a school administrator, or parent. His unsportsmanlike actions are a concern in this community for four primary reasons:

- The negative effect this has on our children first and foremost.
- The detrimental impact his coaching has on our academic institution.
- The challenge that is imposed on employees with him in the position of coach: for example, when issues and concerns become an issue of disciplining your superior such as the AD or Head coach handling concerns.
- Lastly the community of Beal City – it is an embarrassment to the community to have any member, let alone our Superintendent display his code of conduct.

Bill has had a history of being unable to control his temper at sporting events. In 2011, he was involved with coaching his older son's basketball team at a game held at Morey courts. He was thrown out of Morey Courts during a game. This behavior was viewed by many in the community and is still talked about today. He was asked to leave a JV football game as a spectator in Clare in 2013.

Many in the community were concerned when he was given approval to be an assistant coach for the boys' varsity basketball team. As a spectator, he was well known for his poor conduct at games. This year alone, three particular incidents stand out that display his inability to control his temper while representing our school:

- The Clare game: he was screaming on the sidelines and the ref, Bruce Moss – a long time, respected ref, pointed his finger at Bill and said "don't make me do something I don't want to do".
- During the last regular season Boy's varsity basketball game vs. Manton on February 21, 2019, Superintendent Chilman stormed into the referee changing room after the game and started screaming at Ref: Bill Howes to get out of his facility and use the side door not the front entrance. This was in retaliation for Ref: Howes ejecting the Superintendent's son from the stands due to relentless poor sportsmanship comments. The Superintendent had to be physically restrained and law enforcement was called to assist.
- At the girl's volleyball quarterfinal game vs. Traverse City St. Francis in Cadillac – we were losing and he walked over to the student section and instructed the student's to chant "bought and paid for" (assuming in reference to them being a school that recruits student athletes). I became aware of this, and about three weeks later I approached Bill to ask him to explain to me

what his intention was of advising the students to chant this, he responded with "that was just me being an asshole".

There are many other incidents that Bill is known for that reflect poor judgement, these include calling a meeting of the football coaches in the middle of a losing season, clearly a role for the AD, not a Superintendent; making frequent visits to the head coach during class time to discuss basketball-related issues; pulling students out of classes to discuss upcoming games; and allowing certain star athletes to play in a game after having received an "absence", in violation of school policy.

I am representing a large number of community members, many who support this effort but were unwilling to come forward from fear of repercussions from speaking out because of their children, coaching position, or position within the school. We are seeking action from the school board to remove Bill from coaching and hold his conduct to the high standard that it should be. We are asking the school board to thoroughly review the job description and responsibilities as his role as Superintendent. We would like to have a commitment from the board that these demands are met and that Bill has a clear understanding of his role so that he can stay in his lane.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Lynch

Fritz Jaessing