

**BEAL CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 20, 2025 @ 7:00 PM - Media Center**

The regular meeting of the Beal City Board of Education was called to order by President Denise McBride at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Present: Denise McBride, Tom Gross, Brian Locke, Andy Reihl, and Brooke Bechtel.  
Absent: Rod Cole and Bob Pasch.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Member Tom Gross read a section of the School District's Security in the Strategic Plan.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Motion by Brian Locke, supported by Tom Gross, to approve the agenda with an addition to item C under Board Discussion for Curriculum and Education update.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Motion by Brian Locke, seconded by Tom Gross, to approve the September 15, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried 5/0.

Motion by Brian Locke, seconded by Tom Gross, to approve the September 8, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes. Motion carried 5/0.

Motion by Brian Locke, seconded by Tom Gross, to approve the September 8, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes. Motion carried 5/0.

Motion by Brian Locke, seconded by Tom Gross, to approve the October 6, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes. Motion carried 5/0.

**Special Presentations:**

Mackenzie Doyle with Yeo & Yeo presented the Financial Audit for the 2024-2025 school year. No material weaknesses or compliance issues found. Maintaining fund balance above the MDE recommendation due to district size. Bond testing completed with no findings.

**Public Participation: None**

**Correspondence/Informational:**

Financial Reports/Payments:

\$6 million received from the bond sale. Working on investment options with Isabella Bank and Mylaff. FDIC protection is being arranged through repo sweep account. Small issue exemption allows earning more than bond interest rate.

**Approval of Bills:**

Motion by Andy Reihl, seconded by Brian Locke, to approve the September 2025 payments as presented. Motion carried 5/0.

- General Fund: \$685,679.96
- Hot Lunch: \$29,771.85
- Student Activity Account: \$25,586.64
- Custodial Fund: \$0.00
- Athletic Fund: \$9,670.76
- Arbiter Sports: \$3,003.75
- Debt Fund 2012: \$0.00
- Debt 2017: \$0.00
- Debt 2021: \$0.00
- Debt 2023: \$0.00
- Debt 2025: \$0.00
- Capital Project: \$3,558.80
- BCPS Green Fund: \$0.00
- Capital Projects 2023 Payments: \$483,902.21
- Capital Projects 2025 Payments: \$21,555.00

**Discussion Items:**

Letters of Agreements Additions to BCEA Contract: Health Plan Offerings due to MESSA discontinuing the previous prescription plan. Three new plan options requested. No additional cost to the district. Choices are one option (5-tier plan), HSA Plan (2 plans). Would like a decision soon for the timing of Open Enrollment. Schedule B - Yearbook Advisor: No yearbook class this year; therefore, a yearbook advisor is needed. Proposed at 4%. Both items are to be voted on at the next regular board meeting on November 17.

**Personnel:**

Notification of hiring Brad Antcliff as Junior Varsity Girls Basketball coach.  
Notification of hiring Kaylee (Scott) Allen as the Junior Varsity Softball coach.  
Notification of hiring Jeff Hohlbein as the 8th Grade Boys Basketball coach.  
Notification of resignation of Anna Parker-McDonald as the 7th Grade Girls Volleyball coach.  
Notification of hiring Shannon Sharrar as 7th Grade Volleyball coach.  
Notification of volunteer assistant Autume Balcom as 7th Grade Volleyball coach.

**Curriculum Update:**

6th grade language arts curriculum moving from Journeys, used by elementary, to Savants Learning Center, previously Pearson, which aligns with 7th grade curriculum for better continuity. The quote of \$7,257 is good through the end of the month and would be paid through a tribal grant.

**Action Items:**

Motion by Tom Gross, seconded by Brian Locke, to approve the 2024-2025 Financial Statement Audit as presented. Motion carried 5/0. Tom Gross thanks Rod for his hard work.

Motion by Andy Reihl, seconded by Brian Locke, to approve opening a checking account at Isabella Bank to receive tax revenue designated for debt service payments related to the October bond issuance. Motion carried 4/0, 1 abstaining.

Motion by Brian Locke, seconded by Andy Reihl, to approve adding Jason Wolf to all school accounts with Isabella Bank. Motion carried 5/0.

Motion by Tom Gross, seconded by Brian Locke, to accept the resignation of Holli Crowley as the Junior High Track & Field coach. Motion carried 5/0. Brian Locke noted that Holli did a very good job coaching. Denise McBride thanks her for her work.

Motion by Tom Gross, seconded by Brian Locke, to accept the resignation of Chadd Fletcher as the 8th Grade Boys Basketball coach. Motion carried 5/0.

Discussion had regarding school building safety and security in regards to keys, doors, and access. Three rekeying options were discussed: all doors throughout the building; only exterior doors; or no action. A grant has been submitted to cover the cost if approved. The Board decided the best course of action, due to security and safety to have all doors throughout the buildings rekeyed, noting that a rigid enforcement is needed moving forward regarding key issuing and access.

Motion by Andy Reihl, seconded by Tom Gross, to put a bid out to have all doors throughout the building rekeyed. Motion carried 5/0.

Discussion regarding the Superintendent's Annual Evaluation timeframe; three options requesting consideration: evaluate Nov.-Dec. 2025; evaluate mid-year in May-June of 2026 and then a full final evaluation in Nov.-Dec. 2026; or evaluation in Nov.-Dec. 2026. If the first option is desired, two of the seven board members would not be able to evaluate as they have not yet completed the certification to do so. Brooke and Andy need to register for evaluation training. Richelle will assist with getting them registered.

Motion by Brian Locke, supported by Andy Reihl, to conduct the superintendent evaluation mid-year and a full evaluation in Nov.-Dec. 2026. Motion carried 5/0.

**Administration/Director Report:**

Food Service - Marci Faber: Governor's budget includes free breakfast and lunch for all students. Appreciation expressed for the Board's support and willingness to cover costs if needed. The ServSafe exam was completed and passed; Melinda will recertify in December. The health department inspection resulted in no violations, thanks to strong staff training and safety practices. Aggie Spirit Picnic served 511 students, 540 including preschool. September meal averages 83 breakfasts and 196 lunches in elementary; 76 breakfasts and 234 lunches in middle/high school. Apple Crunch had over 750 participants with apples provided from local orchards. Upcoming events: Cafe' Divided-State vs. Michigan on Oct. 23; Halloween Spooktacular on Oct. 31. November 7-9 will be the annual SNAM/MDE conference.

Maintenance & Transportation - Korey Garrett: Working on obtaining CDL to help cover upcoming driver vacancy. The concession well will be tested for content and flow as a possible alternative to drilling a new well. Received approval to pour the storage building floor with added vapor and insulation requirements. Boilers are being serviced and started in preparation for colder weather.

Technology - Ben Eggenberger: Athletic Complex fiber line damaged during construction has been fully repaired with room for future network expansion. A new bell system was installed after the older computer failed on the first day of school. A proper credit recovery grade entry process was successfully implemented in

PowerSchool with GIRESD support. The weather alert issue where alerts were sent to an outdated landline has been corrected. Multiple phone reprogramming updates are complete due to staff changes. Press box temperature exceeds what is conducive to technology. Blinds will be installed, and HVAC quotes for cooling alternatives.

**Athletics** - Chadd Fletcher: Attended MHSAA Update & In-Service on Oct. 1 and AD2AD Training on Sept. 23 and hosted Highland Conference AD Meeting on Oct. 9. Stepping down as 8th grade boys basketball coach to focus on athletic office duties. Reviewed coach recommendations and introduced new softball coaches. Beal is hosting MHSAA Volleyball Districts on November 3, 5, and 6th. Marilyn Gross has stepped in to assist with cashboxes twice a week to assist through the transition period. A moment of silence was observed in honor and in remembrance of Kelly Schafer.

**Elementary** - Jason Johnston: ELA Curriculum review to replace the outdated Journeys program with Amplify CKLA and Intro Reading, with meetings twice monthly, including vendor visits and school observations. Reading and Math Intervention is underway using all available spaces and support to reach as many students as possible. Parent-Teacher conferences held with 95% participation, the schedule format continues to reduce wait times. Used 35j funding to purchase updated Booksource library kits, each classroom receiving 100 new diverse books. Nutrition Club serving 25 students, a significant increase from prior years. Several field trips were completed with positive feedback on student behavior. Wreath Sales now through Oct. 29 with delivery on Nov. 24. Kindergarten dental screens held on Oct. 13 per new state requirement. Families could utilize a personal dentist or health department provider.

**Secondary** - Autume Balcom: Homecoming week was successful, and the student council led parade and assembly effectively. ELA Curriculum proposing to adopt SAAVAS 6th-grade textbooks to unify grades 6-12; grant funding available. SSIT approved on 10/8/25; pending DSIT approval. Purchase deadline: 10/25/25. First data day focused on department curriculum; work to continue on upcoming PD days. 49% participation for parent-teacher conferences. 8th grade had the highest attending (71%), 12th grade lowest (37%). Two students attended RESD leadership meeting; positive experience discussing student voice, mental health, and school/community improvement. Seniors attending CMU College Fair with 40+ colleges/military reps. 35 students took PSAT. Prepping for Veterans' Day Ceremony held November 11. Support is ongoing for staff and students following the passing of Kelly Schafer.

**Finance** - Rod Freeze: Bond 2023 update - financials listed under correspondence. The wall to the three new classroom addition has been removed, classrooms primed, boarded up and fire taped. Team Room is finally moving forward after a long-awaited permit. Stem lab is moving along, currently working on underground plumbing. Track and football field excavation to begin November 17. Drawings for next summer's projects are progressing. Cafeteria doors with correct hardware are on order and should arrive by Christmas break. Goal posts for practice field expected to be delivered soon. Bond 2025 update - financials listed under correspondence. State budget clarified to move forward on its impacts on our district. (Details and breakdown was provided in the report) Still waiting on the budget deal for ORS. Rates are going down, effective for payrolls after 10-1. Accounting Software, the training for new Employee Access. Munis didn't have our sites built to populate with data so we prepped files to upload. We finally have new desks and chairs in the 2nd-grade classrooms and the HS English classroom, and new desks in the HS social studies room. 4094 and 4096 forms submitted, and started work on setting things up in Munis for FID.

#### **Superintendent Report:**

Next month, a first 90-day summary will be provided to the board. Will be out of district this Friday and will be back Monday evening, but accessible by phone or email. Rod Freeze will be the point person during this time.

#### **Board Comments:**

Tom thanked Jason Johnston for sharing the continued positive feedback on the behavior of our students on field trips.

Andy will provide information on the Mt. Pleasant Chamber of Commerce's 1st Annual Community Impact Showcase to be held on Monday, November 17, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, to share with students who might be interested. (Possible Community Service hours to be provided)

Denise mentioned SVSU's MiCareerQuest that took place on October 10, 2025, hoping our students might be able to attend this event next year.

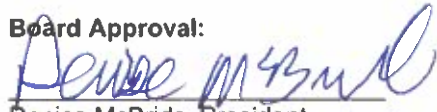
Brooke thanked everyone at Beal who showed up for each other last week.

#### **Adjournment:**

Motion by Andy Reihl, seconded by Brian Locke, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:38 p.m. Motion carried 5/0.

**Recording Secretary:**  
Richelle Williams

**Board Approval:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Denise McBride", written over a horizontal line.

Denise McBride, President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Locke", written over a horizontal line.

Brian Locke, Secretary