

**BEAL CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025 @ 6:00 PM**

The Special meeting of the Beal City Board of Education was called to order by President Denise McBride at 6:07 p.m. The meeting was held in the Library/Media Center at Beal City Public Schools.

Roll Call:

Present: Denise McBride, Rod Cole, Bob Pasch, Andy Reihl.

Absent: Brian Locke. Tom Gross joined the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Rod Cole, seconded by Andy Reihl, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4/0.

Public Participation: None

Board Discussion and Action Items:

Motion by Rod Cole, seconded by Andy Reihl, to approve the hire of Korey Garrett as the Maintenance & Transportation Director. Motion passed 4/0. Korey will start on September 22nd. John Graham will be staying on for the first with Korey, and will be on retainer afterward for questions/support. John has been crucial during this interim period and is greatly appreciated by the district and community.

Board Vacancy Candidate Interviews:

Board Candidate – Brooke Bechtel

- Beal City graduate (2010), lifelong resident; private practice counselor with clinical experience.
- Family: three children, two in elementary.
- Board interest began during CMU internship; mentored by Shepard Schools board member.
- Strengths: mental health perspective, grant/budget management, community involvement.
- Priorities: transparency, supporting teachers, special needs advocacy, and serving as a liaison between school and community.

Board Candidate – Jessica Manley

- Beal City resident since 2017; children attended Beal City Elementary.
- Experience: Rocket cheer coach (10 yrs), founded middle school cheer team; degree in Public & Nonprofit Administration (CMU).
- Professional background in local government with expertise in finance, policy, OMA, and FOIA.
- Priorities: transparency, community trust, student-focused budgeting, supporting teachers, and effective superintendent oversight.

Board Candidate – Jon Thodoroff

- Community member with wife and two daughters; Assistant Jail Administrator, Isabella County Sheriff's Office.
- Leadership roles: Beal City Little League President, Michigan Sheriff's Association Committee Chair, Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority Jail Risk Control Advisory Committee Vice Chair.
- Strengths: policy development, budget management, and community collaboration.
- Priorities: transparency, supporting teachers, addressing special needs, student safety, and mental health awareness.

Board Candidate – Pat Rydman

- Lifelong Rosebush resident; three children in district (6th, 4th, K).
- 25+ years in the electrical field; currently manages 120 employees.
- Strengths: finance management, cost control, material planning.

- Key values: transparency, community trust, student-first priorities.
- Emphasized supporting teachers, welcoming all students, and prioritizing instructional needs (e.g., books) over facility upgrades.

The board discussed all candidates' strengths, deeming them all qualified. After deliberation, Brooke Bechtel was selected as the preferred candidate. Motion by Rod Cole, seconded by Tom Gross, to appoint Brooke Bechtel to fill the board vacancy. Motion carried 5/0.

All candidates will be contacted and encouraged to pursue future school board vacancies.

Adjournment:

Motion by Rod Cole, seconded by Bob Pasch, to adjourn the special meeting at 7:20 p.m. Motion carried 5/0.

Recording Secretary:

Richelle Williams

Board Approval:



Denise McBride, President



Brian Locke, Secretary