

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Work Session

June 10, 2019

3rd Floor Board Room, Administration Building 3 West Van Buren, Battle Creek, MI

5:30 p.m.

PRESENT - BOARD OF EDUCATION

Karen Evans
Catherine LaValley
Kyra Wallace
Patty Poole-Gray
Charlie Fulbright
Art McClenney

Absent

Jacqueline Slaby

Present – Administration

Kimberly M. Carter – Superintendent
Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education
Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services
Anita Harvey – Director, District Transformation
Nathan Hunt – Communications Manager
Mitch Fowler – Director, School Data Systems & Innovations
Laura Ash – Executive Director, Financial Services

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Evans at 5:30 p.m. All board members were present except Jacqueline Slaby.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Catherine LaValley made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Art McClenney supported the motion.

Motion passed 6 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anthony Pennock – presented BCPS with an allied flag.

Joe Ratti – glad to reach a BCEA agreement with a step process.

Karolynn Ferguson – in writing read by Trustee LaValley regarding the BCCHS Hall of Fame.

REPORTS

- A. Pride Awards– Pride awards for the month of June were presented to the following: Elizabeth Crofoot, Margaret Gildea, Stephen Phenicie, Shawna Rodgers, Cathy Baisden, Matt Bozo, Charlene Drain, Zena Perry, Tom Starkweather, Mitch Fowler, Angie Morris and Natalie

Vickery.

- B. Breakfast in the Classroom – Wes Seeley discussed with the board the 2019-20 Basic Needs Grant Application for breakfast in the classroom.
- C. Michigan High School Athletic Association – Superintendent Carter stated that every year the interscholastic athletic program requires schools to work through the Michigan High School Athletic Association to promote academic integrity and competitive equity. Trustee LaValley read the resolution to the board. Participating schools are SMS, NWMS, WK Prep and BCCHS.
- D. System 44 – Wes Seeley discussed with the board that secondary special education requests to purchase System 44 to support the increased needs in its reading intervention classes. System 44 Next Generation is proved to help students master the foundational reading skills required for success with the Common Core through explicit instruction in phonics, comprehension, and writing. The cost is \$87,320.46 to be paid from the WKKF grant.
- E. Ann J Elevator Upgrade – Laura Ash stated that the elevator at Ann J Kellogg Elementary is now approximately 30 years old and has become difficult to purchase replacement parts to keep the elevator operable. It is recommended that the board approve the mechanical upgrade of the elevator at Ann J. Kellogg Elementary. The cost is \$105,000 and will be paid from the Sinking Fund.
- F. Tentative Agreements – Laura Ash discussed with the board the tentative agreements for Battle Creek Education Association, the Battle Creek Secretaries Association, the Battle Creek Paraprofessional Association and the Battle Creek Administration and Professional Staff.
- G. WK Auditorium Audio/Visual Upgrade – Laura Ash stated to the board that the audio and visual equipment at WK Auditorium has become obsolete and in some areas parts are no longer available to be purchased. The district would like to donate any equipment that is still working to other surrounding auditoriums. The cost of the upgrade will be \$116,907.60 to be paid from the WKKF grant.
- H. Chartwells Food Service Five Year Award – Laura Ash stated to the board that Chartwells has been a partner with the district for the last 29 years. Its food service manager is an active and contributing member of the Leadership Team. The district and its students have benefited in over \$1,000,000 worth of grants received during their tenure. It is recommended that the board approved the five-year Food Service Management Company contract with Chartwells beginning with the 2019-20 school year. The cost of this contract is \$3,102,986 and will be paid from the Food Service Fund.
- I. L-4029 Tax Rate Approval – Laura Ash stated that the L-4029 Tax Rate sets the millage rate to be collected on our July and December tax collections for the 19-20 school year. The district is levying the same millage rate as the 2018-19 school year.
- J. Secure Window Film – Laura Ash stated to the board that the district received the Security Grant from the Michigan State Police Department which includes placing security film in entrance doors with windows and all first floor windows in all of our schools. The cost is \$321,456 to be paid from the General Fund with 75% being reimbursed from the Michigan State Police Security Grant.

- K. Fremont International Academy Plaster Patching – Laura Ash stated that the district is contracting with Elite Companies as the General Contractor to subcontract with Stanton Interiors, Inc. a specialist in plaster repairs to complete the necessary improvements at Fremont International Academy. It is recommended that the district approve the plaster patching at Fremont in the amount of \$24,450 to be paid from Sinking Fund.
- L. Best Estimate Final Budgets for 2018-19 – Laura Ash presented to the board the best estimate budgets for General Fund, Food Services Fund, Math and Science Center & Cereal City Science, and WK Kellogg Grant Fund.
- M. Preliminary Budgets for 2019-20 – Laura Ash presented to the board the 2019-20 preliminary budgets from General Fund, Food Service Fund, Math and Science Center and Cereal City Science, WK Kellogg Grant Fund and the Custodial Special Service Fund.
- N. MS STEM Innovation Center Café Tables – Michelle Morrissey stated to the board that due to the new café feeding area for the new MS STEM Innovation Center, tables are needed for students to sit for meal service. These tables are designed for approximately 200 middle school students. The costs of these tables are \$19,160 and will be paid from the Food Service Excess Fund.
- O. Technology Vision Report – Mitch Fowler showed a presentation to the board with the vision for the technology department. As part of that vision, the following was presented to the board:
- a. Innovation Zone Professional Learning – BCPS is reimaging education for students in our community with the development of innovation zones. The vision for change has been supported with over \$425,000 in instructional technology and the district has invested over \$100,000 on student learning devices. He is recommending a partnership with Communications by Design will provide participants with a knowledge based to understand the “why” behind instructional technology integration. The cost of this 12 day shoulder to shoulder learning will be up to \$40,000 and will be paid by the WKKF grant.
 - b. BCCHS Business Lab Refresh – Mitch Fowler stated to the board that the existing equipment in the business lab at Battle Creek Central is well beyond their refresh lifecycle. This impacts the learning environment and pace of instruction due to slower performance. The upgrade would allow for faster, more reliable machines with software that mirrors what professionals use in the workforce. The cost of the upgrade is \$18,810.84 and will be paid from the WKKF grant.
 - c. BCPS District Audio/Visual Equipment – Mitch Fowler stated that the existing audio/visual equipment in most BCPS classrooms is well beyond its lifespan. While the technology staff has been working diligently to repair aging projectors, many pieces of equipment are beyond repair. A recent poll of the staff indicated that buildings are in desperate need of projectors. Projectors allow teachers to meet the diverse needs of students by presenting content in a visual and audio format. The cost of this equipment is 20,900 to be paid from the WKKF grant.
- P. Dean of Instruction – WK Preparatory High School – Superintendent Carter discussed the plan for a dean of instruction at WK Prep. This was presented to the board for information on. The salary for this position will be included in the WKKF 2019-20 budgets.
- Q. Battle Creek Central High School Textbook Replacement – Superintendent Carter discussed with the board that business and technology are changing at a swift pace and our instructional

resources need to be up to date to ensure that our students are receiving the most rigorous and accurate preparation possible to support their success in careers and college. It is recommended that replacement textbooks. The cost is \$12,257.50 and will be paid from the WKKF grant.

- R. Community in Schools – Dr. Anita Harvey stated to the board that many children, particularly those living in poverty, face enormous challenges both inside and outside of the classroom; these can affect the school environment for all students. The unique Community in Schools (CIS) model positions highly trained professionals – site coordinators – inside schools to partner with administrators, parents/guardians, counselors, school social workers and teachers to assess students’ needs and provide resources to help them succeed. It is recommended that the board approve \$559,644, funded by the WKKF grant, to procure the services of Community in Schools to implement the CIS model of Integrated Student Supports for BCPS for the 2019-20 school year.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Catherine LaValley made a motion to approve the Battle Creek Education Association agreement.

Art McClenney supported this motion.

Motion passed 6 – 0

- B. Art McClenney made a motion to approve the Battle Creek Secretaries Association agreement.

Catherine LaValley supported this motion.

Motion passed 6 – 0

- C. Art McClenney made a motion to approve the Battle Creek Paraprofessional Association agreement.

Catherine LaValley supported this motion.

Motion passed 6 – 0

- D. Catherine LaValley made a motion to approve the Battle Creek Administration and Professional Staff agreement.

Charlie Fulbright supported this motion.

Motion passed 6 – 0

CONSIDERATION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

Patty Poole-Gray made a motion to go into closed session after a five-minute break.

Kyra Wallace supported the motion.

Motion passed 6 – 0

CONSIDERATION TO RECONVENE

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Carter reminded parents that have the “Greet Up, Meet Up, Eat Up” program serving lunches across the district. Please check our website for the participating locations.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Art McClenney – Attended a wonderful BCCHS graduation; wanted to congratulate our Superintendent on a great job that she is doing. We have come a long way under her leadership and I am just making my feelings known that her contract is up in 20-21. I think that if I could rate her tonight, I would. I think she has done a great job and we have two new members on the board so I am just letting my colleagues know how I feel. If it was up to me, I would like to see that contract extended for another three years. I think she deserves a raise even if it’s just what she negotiated for the staff. That is how I feel. I just wanted to put that out there. Shout out to Ms. Ferguson – she is in our prayers.

Catherine LaValley – Finished up being a popcorn helper at Valley View; able to meet with the Star Base director who works with many of our 5th graders at the Star Base to assist on a level-one evaluation; Post Franklin volunteers event took place where the PF Chorus did an outstanding job; enjoyed the play Hair Spray by our high school theatre department; learned about the Spring String – BC Central Orchestra and NWMS Orchestra put together a program at McQuiston; Spring Band concert had a great turn out with families from SMS and NWMS; attended Senior awards night; attended a conference “From Awareness to Action” put on by a community committee to help us understand ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences); attended WK Prep high school graduation; shared the CISD school board trustees – all member schools were present on June 3, and the vote took place, 11 votes for Kenneth Ponds, 8 for Durwood Booher and 5 for Lisa Hubbard. The two winners are Kenneth Ponds and Durwood Booher for a six year term each; attended the Outdoor Education Center, pioneer cabin; our graduation event was an awesome evening; and attended the BC bombers baseball game.

Charlie Fulbright – Attended the volunteer banquet at Post Franklin – the know how to throw a party, very honored to be there; attended the WK Prep graduation – well attended and amazing; attended my first BCCHS graduation – I had a blast and honored to be there; June is pride month and we received an allied flag at the beginning of the meeting, July 19 is BC Pride parade, downtown BC – please walk and show your support.

Kyra Wallace – great things are happening at Battle Creek Public Schools and I am just excited to be a part of it. There were a lot of activities that I attended for the end of the year.

Patty Poole Gray – Ditto – all the activities and open houses – just glad to be a part of BCPS.

President Evans – Attended graduations – that is our brass ring, why we do what we do to get those kids across the stage and receive that piece of paper; next Tuesday, June 18 at 6 pm we have combined board meeting with the other boards in the BC community; on Saturday is the Juneteenth celebration at Claude Evans Park, 11 – 6 p.m.; received an email from Jim Haadsma regarding coffee hour; he will be doing coffee hours the first Saturday of the month from 9 -11 at Mr. Don’s so if we can maybe make a point of attending one of those and advocate for the support of the Governor’s budget; and then the Pride Parade next month – maybe get a group and show support.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by: Gloria O. Wilkerson

Kyra Wallace, Board Secretary