

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Work Session

December 9th, 2019

Fire Place Room of the Administration Building, 3 West Van Buren, Battle Creek, MI

5:30 p.m.

PRESENT – BOARD OF EDUCATION

Catherine LaValley

Art McClenney

Patty Poole-Gray

Kyra Wallace

Absent

Karen Evans

Charlie Fulbright (5:52 p.m.) Present

Jackie Slaby (5:37 p.m.) Present

Present – Administration

Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education

Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services

Cheryl Johnson – Executive Director, Human Resources

Mitch Fowler – Director, School Data Systems & Innovations

Anita Harvey – Director, District Transformation

Nathan Hunt – Communications Manager

Charles Lipsey – Director of Buildings and Grounds

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Vice President LaValley at 5:30 p.m. All board members present except Karen Evans, Charlie Fulbright and Jackie Slaby. There were 11 staff and community members present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Kyra Wallace made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Art McClenney supported the motion.

Roll Call Vote

McClenney – yes

LaValley – yes

Wallace – yes

Poole-Gray - yes

Motion passed 4 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lorraine Fahling – encouraged students and staff to take advantage of the BCreative grant/scholarships provided by the Miller Foundation. BCreative provides field trip grants for teachers and scholarships for students interested in attending creative art programs and camps.

REPORTS

- A. Principal Sima Thurman presented an update for Post Franklin Elementary. Post Franklin serves approximately 260 students with 52 staff members. Post Franklin is implementing a new academic system that will exponentially increase academic achievement in Literacy. The latest preliminary data show students performing 6 months ahead of how they scored in years past. The staff has raised expectations and we have maximized instructional time through the “catch-up growth model”. So far we’ve seen a 70% decrease in Office Discipline Referrals since this time last year and a 5% reduction in absences. Post Franklin has several existing school partners’ supports and resources.
- B. Monique Cheeks provided the First Reading of the Board Policy 2450 – Discrimination and Complaint Procedure.
- C. Monique Cheeks provided the First Reading of the Board Policy 5000 – Remote Participation during Board Meetings.
- D. Monique Cheeks provided the First Reading of the Board Policy 1300-2 – Emergency Board Meetings.
- E. Monique Cheeks provided the First Reading of Board Policy 8000 – Service Animals.
- F. Monique Cheeks presented the 2019 Enrollment Report stating that in 2016, our expert made several research based recommendations to help us improve the educational experience in BCPS and stem the tide of out migration. We have been able to implement many of the suggested strategies and are excited to see the impact beginning to show up in our enrollment trends. Most of our enrollment loss occurred at the middle school level. We are working to spread the word about the great opportunities available to our middle school families at BCPS. We also anticipate that as Career Academies continue and spread increased enthusiasm among younger students that will lead to stronger middle school enrollment.
- G. Mitch Fowler proposed sending 13 staff members to the 2020 Michigan Association of Computer Users (MACUL) conference in Grand Rapids, March 12 & 13th, 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Battle Creek Public Schools was awarded the 2019 BC Pride Education Award. Staff member Anthony Pennock also received a 2019 Pride Award for his work as part of the MEA and as an educator. The Winter Band Concert will be held December 10 at 6:30 pm and the Winter Choir Concert on December 11th both at 6:30 p.m. BCCHS will be a part of the Channel 17 Food Fight Friday, December 13; 2019 donations are welcomed.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Art McClenney – invited the community come out and see what the school board is doing, thank you to all of the staff who work hard to make our District a success. Mr. McClenney also spoke about how happy he is with the diversity on the Board.

Patty Poole-Gray – appreciates the School Updates it is good to know what is going on in all of our schools.

Catherine LaValley - happy for the public comment portion on the agenda as it is an important part of our Board Meetings, apologized for any laughter during the discussion on service animals creating a policy will educate us all. Mrs. LaValley attended the play Impromptu at BCCHS and it was very well done.

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Submitted by Kay Smith

Kyra Wallace, Board Secretary