

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Work Session

January 13, 2020

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

5:30 p.m.

PRESENT – BOARD OF EDUCATION

Karen Evans

Charlie Fulbright

Catherine LaValley

Kyra Wallace

Patty Poole-Gray

Jackie Slaby

Absent

Art McClenney

Present – Administration

Kim Carter – Superintendent

Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education

Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services

Mitch Fowler – Director, School Data Systems & Innovations

Anita Harvey – Director, District Transformation

Nathan Hunt – Communications Manager

Laura Ash – Executive Director

Charles Lipsey – Director, Facilities and Operations

Absent - Administration

Cheryl Johnson – Chief Executive Officer, Human Resources

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Evans at 5:30 p.m. Karen Evans, Charlie Fulbright, Catherine LaValley, Kyra Wallace, Patty Poole-Gray and Jackie Slaby were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Jackie Slaby supported the motion.

Motion passed 6 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Amy Withers, a long-term sub, thanked Catherine LaValley for the many things she does for BCPS students. Amy commented that Catherine was a great example of what a Board Member should be and she appreciates Catherine's support.

REPORTS

DeMaso Scholarship Presentation – Dr. Deborah Nuzzi discussed the DeMaso Scholarship awarded to Kathy Roberts, a teacher at Springfield Middle School. Kathy Roberts is the 5th recipient of the DeMaso Scholarship. Dr. Nuzzi introduced Kathy Roberts. Kathy Roberts discussed the opportunity the scholarship provided for her to travel to Brazil and Mexico. Kathy was able to re-connect with an exchange student (Esperanza) her family had hosted years ago. Kathy visited a Montessori school in Mexico and a public school in Brazil. She also visited a Library and Public Museum in Brazil. She returned home with \$3,000.00 and talked with the DeMaso sisters who were eager to sponsor Esperanza coming to the U.S. for a similar experience as Kathy had there. Kathy will be giving a public presentation on her trip at the Battle Creek Museum on April 20, 2020 at 3:00pm.

Valley View Update – Greg Bish provided an update on Valley View Elementary which included student scoring, attendance, school partners, supports & resources, achievements & challenges, and focus areas.

GVSU Education Overnight Summer Camp – Dr. Deborah Nuzzi discussed the GVSU Education Overnight Summer Camp. BCCHS would like to send a group of up to 32 rising senior high school students to the overnight GVSU Teacher Education Camp June 8-12, 2020. Students who complete the week-long camp will be awarded a \$500 stipend from GVSU. The Board asked about adult chaperones on the trip and Dr. Nuzzi said she would check into this. The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on January 27, 2020.

Chromebooks & Charging Carts (Ann J Kellogg) – Wes Seeley discussed the request to purchase additional Chromebooks and charging carts at Ann J Kellogg to support the increased needs in intervention classes. System 44 and other online based computer programs are currently being used at AJK in its intervention classes and RtI classes. The increased use of computer-based support in these classes has produced a need to purchase additional computer devices. It is recommended to purchase 90 Chromebooks and 3 Charging Carts. The estimated cost is \$24,750 for the Chromebooks and \$2,745 for the charging carts, up to \$27,495 total. All costs will be paid with AJK's Title I funds.

Chromebooks & Charging Carts (Verona) – Wes Seeley discussed the request to purchase additional Chromebooks and charging carts at Verona to support the increased needs in its intervention classes. Online based computer programs are currently being used at Verona in its intervention classes and RtI classes. The increased use of computer-based support in these classes has produced a need to purchase additional computer devices. It is recommended to purchase 60 Chromebooks and 2 Charging Carts. The estimated cost is \$16,500 for the Chromebooks and \$1,800 for the charging carts, up to \$18,400 total. All costs will be paid with Verona's Title I funds.

Reading Mastery Teacher & Student Intervention Material – Wes Seeley advised that, during the last Cycle Review, Verona Elementary found a need to add layered support for its students in basic reading foundation skills; Phonics, Vocabulary, Fluency, & Comprehension during its intervention block. Reading Mastery is a complete intervention program that uses Direct Instruction to help students master essential reading decoding and comprehension skills. It is recommended to purchase Reading Mastery teacher materials and student materials of varying levels (as determined by student need). The total cost will be \$13,467.

LaMora-Park Elementary 95% Group Contract – Wes Seeley reported that, during the last cycle review, LaMora-Park Elementary found a deficit at being able to target specific skill deficits for individual students. 95% Group instructional materials and processes are uniquely designed to provide targeted instruction on specific skills. The diagnostic screeners are aligned with the instructional materials and a continuum of skills allowing teachers to begin instruction at a student's lowest skill deficit. Struggling readers are able to master simple concepts before moving onto more difficult skills. Lessons are scaffolded to allow for gradual release of responsibility in the learning process from teacher to student. 95% Group's methodology, materials, and support is research-based and has results to show its effectiveness. The Low Bid is up to \$22,620.

Dudley Elementary 95% Group Contract – Wes Seeley reported that, during the last cycle review, Dudley Elementary found a deficit at being able to target specific skill deficits for individual students. 95% Group instructional materials and processes are uniquely designed to provide targeted instruction on specific skills. The diagnostic screeners are aligned with the instructional materials and a continuum of skills allowing teachers to begin instruction at a student's lowest skill deficit. Struggling readers are able to master simple concepts before moving onto more difficult skills. Lessons are scaffolded to allow for gradual release of responsibility in the learning process from teacher to student. 95% Group's methodology, materials, and support is research-based and has results to show its effectiveness. The Low Bid is up to \$12,826.

Valley View Elementary Math Coaching – Wes Seeley discussed Valley View Elementary's current achievement data shows their student growth in math is flat. Their classroom walk-through data also shows the need to support teachers in implementing more effective math instruction practices. It is recommended to contract with Calhoun ISD for 20 days of Math Coaching at a cost of \$645 per day. The coach would support all teachers with a more intense focus on the classroom teachers with the identified highest needs, based on achievement and walk-through data. The total cost will be \$12,900.

Chromebooks (English Learners Program) – Wes Seeley indicated that, through various grants, the district has purchased numerous online and computer-based programs to support our English Language students. The increased use of these computer-based support has produced a need to purchase additional computer devices. It is recommended to purchase 50 Chromebooks. They will be distributed based on school need (5 for schools with low EL populations of students & 10 for schools with higher EL populations). The estimated cost is \$13,221. All costs will be paid with Section 41 funds.

Jackie Slaby requested a larger overview on the Chromebook and Charging Cart items and asked about old equipment. Mitch Fowler reported he is taking the old equipment out of the cycle. Superintendent Kim Carter discussed that Title I Funds determine each school's needs, not each building needs the same things. Catherine LaValley said she is pleased with the use of Title I Funds for technology.

The Chromebooks & Charging Carts, Reading Mastery Intervention Material, 95% Group Contracts and Math Coaching will be voted on by the Board at the Regular Meeting on January 27, 2020.

BC STEM Branding – Dr. Anita Harvey provided sample pictures of BC STEM Branding ideas and discussed the request for the School Board to approve the use of up to \$24,018.33 of WKKF Grant funds total to Burrell for design and Source One Digital for creation and installation of the branding elements in the halls of Battle Creek STEM Innovation Center.

Jackie Slaby inquired about the supplies for the chalkboard idea. She likes the STEM lettering for the doors but wondered about having the rest of the artwork be plain without the STEM lettering in case something else was put in its place. Jackie asked about alternatives that might be available from community artists. Superintendent Carter responded that the goal is to make the building and artwork have a professional feel and it was not the best space for a community mural type project. Charlie Fulbright suggested using the professional designs for the building and possibly having the artwork around the chalkboard be community designed artwork.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on January 27, 2020.

Classroom Libraries Furniture – Dr. Anita Harvey discussed the District wanting to increase student reading achievement by establishing high quality classroom libraries of at least 1,500 books in K-8 classrooms. The additional books will result in the classrooms needing storage furniture for the books. Pictures of storage furniture were provided to the Board and Dr. Harvey recommended getting the furniture from 2 vendors:

Hertz Furniture: up to \$68,000

Ann J Kellogg, Valley View, BC STEM, Northwestern, Dudley, LaMora, Verona

School Specialty: up to \$32,000

Fremont International Academy, Post-Franklin, Springfield

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on January 27, 2020.

DISCUSSION

- A. Board Meeting Guidelines / Group Norms - President Evans discussed the Board Meeting Guidelines are 5 years old and wondered if the Board wanted to make new ones. She discussed her attendance at a recent MASB Training and that many School Boards stick with 5-6 guidelines. Jackie Slaby thought this was a great idea. President Evans asked each of the Board members to email their top 3 choices to her.
- B. CASBMA Nominations – Catherine LaValley discussed the CASBMA nominations are due by 4:00pm on February 1st. LaJune Tabor Montgomery from the WK Kellogg Foundation was mentioned as a worthy nomination. Board Members are to email their nominations to Patti Worden, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education, to be included in the Board Packet for the January 27th Regular Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Carter discussed we've had a great beginning of the year. We launched it with the Governor's Visit and Superintendent Carter publically thanked Nate Hunt, Communication Manager, for making it a smooth visit despite it being last minute notice. Superintendent Carter also discussed the Grand Valley Outreach Center on West Michigan Avenue that is open to the community and post-secondary educators.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Kyra Wallace commented that she attended Grand Valley State University and is very excited to see what takes shapes with the partnership with BCPS. She also mentioned that she attended the Follies and it was a really nice program with a lot of alumni taking pride.

Two upcoming community events were mentioned:

January 18, 2020 – Marantha Original Church Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast at 9:00am.

January 28, 2020 – Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation Dinner & Workshop at New Level Sports hosted by Battle Creek Transformation Group from 6:00-8:00pm.

Catherine LaValley discussed the SEED Application deadline being the 31st and the opportunity of \$500 to student K-11. There is also a Facebook page.

Catherine LaValley mentioned the rescheduled Saturday Follies being this Saturday, January 18th, at 7:00pm.

Catherine LaValley discussed attending many Winter programs and indicated it was a nice way to kick-off the Holiday season. She also enjoyed attending the BCCHS All City Bowling Tournament for which she donated pizza and was proud of the good sportsmanship displayed by BCCHS. She also enjoyed attending the Bearcat Girls Basketball Game held on Chuck Turner Basketball Court.

Meeting adjourned – 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by
Patti Worden / Kay Smith

Kyra Wallace
Board Secretary