

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

July 27, 2020

Meeting held electronically pursuant to Executive Order 2020-15

Zoom identification number Meeting ID: 862 8916 6828

5:30 p.m.

PRESENT – BOARD OF EDUCATION

Karen Evans

Kyra Wallace

Patty Poole-Gray

Art McClenney

Charlie Fulbright

Jackie Slaby

Absent

Catherine LaValley

Present – Administration

Kim Carter – Superintendent

Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education

Deborah Nuzzi, Director, Secondary Education

Anita Harvey – Director, District Transformation

Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services

Mitch Fowler – Director, School Data Systems & Innovations

Nathan Hunt – Communications Manager

Laura Ash – Executive Director

Cheryl Johnson – Chief Executive Officer, Human Resources

Wes Seeley – Coordinator of State/Federal Programs & Grants

Charles Lipsey – Director, Facilities and Operations

Absent – Administration

Jeff English – Executive Director

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Evans at 5:33 p.m. Karen Evans, Kyra Wallace, Patty Poole-Gray, Art McClenney, Charlie Fulbright and Jackie Slaby were present. Catherine LaValley was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked questions about the Virtual Academy being voted on tonight. Superintendent Carter explained the difference between the Virtual Academy and remote learning. Trustee Slaby asked if the Virtual Academy will be available all year regardless of COVID. Superintendent Carter advised that it will be.

Motion by Kyra Wallace to approve the Agenda as written.

Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Karen Evans read the public comments aloud.

Rachelle

Dickman Road

How is an 11th grader supposed to be placed in dual enrollment when they haven't taken the accuplacer?

Crystal

167 Barney Blvd.

In the event a child or teacher comes in contact with COVID-19 will the entire class be quarantined for two weeks? Are masks going to be required for k-5 grade? Can we do virtual learning if we don't feel 100% comfortable with face to face?

Kirstin

302 Morningside Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49015

Are all BCPS school buildings up to code? Are all classrooms equipped with HVAC systems for proper ventilation and are fail safes in place for when they malfunction? Have our schools secured PPE funding for all teachers, staff and students and will mask wearing be enforced? Have our schools secured funding for all additional cleaning supplies? Have you hired more teachers and acquired more space to limit class sizes? Do you have means of relieving teachers and staff, with pay, when (not if) they become infected? Are you comfortable and prepared for the possibility of adults and teachers dying? Do you have a response for that?

Brittani Havenaar
1417 Capital Avenue NE

As a teacher, I am very cautious about the way in which we choose to return learning to our students. I understand that there is no perfect plan to help all the problems COVID-19 has played in our community. I want to thank you for hosting a Town Hall meeting for staff to voice their opinions and to be heard in this decision. This being said, I would like to ask that if K-5 does return in-person that all classrooms have Air Conditioning added. Fremont International Academy currently has less than half of its classrooms currently with AC. This last Fall, my first grade classroom reached 95 degrees and resulted in a lot of calls home for students who struggled with the heat. It will be hard to learn with masks, but even more of a challenge with no AC and a mask. I urge you to consider this in your return to learn plan. If one is not purchased, will staff be allowed to purchase a portable AC unit using their own money. I too struggled with the heat. Thank you for all you do and for continuously showing transparency in our district. I also urge you to require all students to wear a mask when attending school, even within the classroom, to reduce the spread of COVID to staff members.

Carla Belyea (Pronounced Bell Yay)
cbelyea@battle-creek.k12.mi.us

I noticed an expectation that teachers in grades 6-12 should be in their building wearing masks at all time while providing remote learning to students in grades 6-12 who will be at home. I wonder how the Board can support teachers in grades 6-12 to remain isolated at home to provide remote teaching without risking catching COVID-19 since janitorial staff will be redeployed in the Elementary buildings. I wonder how the Board can support all teachers K-12 who may have school age children at home who need supervision because of the inevitability that the teacher or the teacher's children may need to be quarantined because of the choices of others.

Anthony
1810 Hamilton Street

Questions I feel like the plan seems to miss is the following scenarios. If a student tests positive in our room do we have to quarantine? Do we have to use our personal time and sick leave? What if this runs out, are we going unpaid? What if someone who lives in the same house as a teacher tests positive? Does that teacher now need to take 14 days off of work to quarantine? Is that time off covered? Paid?

Mary
184 Taylor Avenue

Since every school district around us is going virtual for I believe it's the 1st semester, is BCPS looking to do the same thing? If not, what is the plan to keep children and all staff safe?

Michelle
202 South Avenue, Battle Creek

Hello! I am a parent of three in the school district as well as a driver for BCPS. I have a special needs child who cannot wear a mask. Also, masking in schools has gotten children killed from lack of oxygen (they were wearing N95 masks), cloth masks have been proven to not stop the spread of the virus per Fauci and the CDC, and if you've ever ridden on a school bus, you'd know how hot they can get. Having a driver wear a mask when it's 80 degrees and humid, is dangerous for their health. Both from lack of oxygen, and the distraction of it being on their face. I hope you consider to have online options for those too afraid to attend in school learning, but I'd like to send my children to school mask free, and be able to breathe when transporting students to their respective school. Thank you for your time and dedication to BCPS children!

Preston
Battle Creek 49037

How are 11th graders going to find out about / attend the CACC?

Amanda
149 East Burnham Street, Battle Creek MI 49015

Are schools going back to class or is BCPS all virtual? My child does not learn well with virtual she has to be in a learning specific environment.

President Karen Evans noted the Board would not be responding to comments during the Board Meeting and that someone will get back to people, if an answer is required.

President Karen Evans thanked the public for their comments.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Charlie Fulbright to approve the Consent Agenda items.

- A. Trust Fund/Comerica (Written only)
- B. Minutes of the Work Session on June 8, 2020, Budget Hearing on June 22, 2020 and Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020
- C. Bills for the Month of June 2020
- D. Personnel Changes and Recognition of Retirees
- E. Finance Report

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6 – 0

REPORTS

Esser School Supplies

Wes Seeley discussed the recommendation noting that, as we work on a Reopening Plan, we have determined a need for basic school supplies (paper, pencil, etc.) for students regardless of whether they attend in-person or online. Wes reported school supplies are in high demand at this time and the supply is low. We are bringing this to the Board early so we can place an order, most likely using multiple vendors and paying higher prices due to high demand. The school supplies will be for Elementary and Secondary students. The request is for up to \$20,000.00 using funds from the ESSER Grant.

BCPS Virtual Academy

Dr. Chandra Youngblood discussed the recommendation for offering a BCPS Virtual Academy due to COVID. The Virtual Academy option would be for students and families who do not choose to be instructed in person or in the remote learning setting. It will be beyond what we offer at WK Prep. BCPS Virtual Academy is designed to accommodate families who choose to keep their student's home during Phases 4, 5 and 6 or long-term, all year. The Virtual Academy will be different from remote learning as identified by the Governor. BCPS Virtual Academy will provide a robust virtual academic option, social emotional, state factors from recommendation to ensure return to BCPS when family ready for in-person instruction.

Dr. Youngblood reported we are asking for approval of a curriculum program but are not sure which program we want to use as yet. The recommendation is asking the Board approve a K-12 Virtual Academy as part of the programs being offered by BCPS. A Learning Coach will be assigned for support, accountability and to laminate the connection between the student and BCPS staff.

Secretary Kyra Wallace asked about the Learning Coach and if it would be a certified teacher. Dr. Youngblood said the goal is a certified teacher. Depending on the need of the student, it could be a parapo.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked to clarify around language offerings. Dr. Youngblood said the Spanish will be the option for secondary students and we are still vetting programs to offer at the Elementary (Fremont) level. Trustee Slaby indicated she was asking about EL and student support. Dr. Youngblood apologized for misunderstanding and advised the Learning Coach will be the student support person.

NEW BUSINESS

TrueSuccess Renewal

Wes Seeley noted the TrueSuccess Renewal Recommendation was discussed at the last meeting. Wes referenced a question by Vice President Catherine LaValley about the enrollment number at Valley View Elementary. Wes reported that he checked into that and there was a mistake in the reporting for Valley View and the student enrollment would be under 500 students. He reached out to TrueSuccess and the quote was reduced by \$243.00. TrueSuccess is used for all K-8 buildings. The cost for renewal is \$56,424.50 and would be paid using funds from the WKKF Grant.

Motion by Secretary Kyra Wallace to approve the renewal of TrueSuccess in the amount of \$56,424.50 using funds from the WKKF Grant.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6-0.

HMH Annual Intervention Costs

Wes Seeley discussed the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) Annual Intervention Costs Recommendation was discussed at the last meeting. This is the renewing costs for the Intervention Program, specifically Math 180, Reading 180, System 44 and Reading & Math Inventories. The cost for renewal is \$39,115.73 and would be paid from Title I & WKKF Grant Funds.

Motion by Secretary Kyra Wallace to approve the renewal of the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Annual Intervention Costs in the amount of \$39,115.73 using Title I & WKKF Grant Funds.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6-0.

Fremont AV Updates

Mitch Fowler discussed the Recommendation requesting the funding to complete the remaining A/V equipment at Fremont. The request is for \$20,000.00 from the WKKF Grant Funds.

Motion by Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray to approve the purchase of the remaining AV equipment for Fremont in the amount of \$20,000.00 with the funds coming from the WKKF Grant.

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6-0.

NWEA Contract Renewal

Mitch Fowler discussed the recommendation for renewal of the NWEA Contract which is the assessment tool used to measure academic progress for Reading and Math. It has been used for several years. The renewal cost is \$30,729.50 with the funds coming from the General Fund.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked if the NWEA assessment is for K-12 students and Mitch advised it is for K-8 students. Trustee Slaby asked if NWEA will be ruled out for anyone using the Virtual Academy. Mitch advised the District is exploring this area and invited Superintendent Carter to jump in. Superintendent Carter inquired if Trustee Slaby's question is how NWEA will be used for 6-8 students who choose the Virtual option. Trustee Slaby indicated how Virtual students will use the NWEA assessment tool. Superintendent Carter said that decision has not been determined yet. We are working the NWEA and Dr. Shin to review this information. In following the trajectory of all we have been doing, we should continue using the NWEA assessment because it effects progress. The how it should be administered and to whom has to be decided.

Trustee Slaby asked how the price is calculated. Superintendent Carter indicated the cost is determined by the number of users. Trustee Slaby commented that potentially if the number of users is less, if the assessment is not used for those participating virtually, the cost might be less. Mitch replied the cost wouldn't be more than we are asking for and Superintendent Carter agreed.

Motion by Secretary Kyra Wallace to approve the NWEA Renewal. Secretary Wallace clarified the renewal cost is \$30,279.50, rather than \$30,729.50 that Mitch mentioned. Mitch confirmed and apologized for the oversight.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6-0.

Tracker Application Hosting Contract

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi discussed the recommendation for the learning management system at WK Prep. The management system is the way students receive their instruction and upload their work products to teachers. The program has been highly successful and if we move forward with the 9-12 Virtual Academy, the Tracker will serve as the program for obtaining High School credits.

Dr. Nuzzi commented that she confused when this matter was discussed at the Work Session a couple of weeks ago and she wanted to clarify the contract renews yearly. Dr. Nuzzi noted that she heard her colleagues mention COVID discounts for some of the programs they brought to the Board at the Work Session on July 13th, so she went back and asked about a COVID discount for the Tracker Contract.

Dr. Nuzzi clarified the recommendation she is bringing back to the Board for approve tonight is a two (2) year contract for this school year (2020-2021) and next school year (2021-2022). Dr. Nuzzi advised she was not able to get a COVID discount, but what she did get was a freeze on the contract fee for next year (2021-2022) and the renewal fee is \$35,400.00 for each year and each renewal fee will be due in the year it covers, so we are not paying a double amount all at once. We are asking the Board to approve the total amount of \$70,800.00 for both years, using funds from the WKKF Grant. By asking for approval for both years, we will not have to bring this matter back to the Board next year.

Trustee Art McClenney asked if we are requesting the Board approve both years tonight for the total cost of both years. Dr. Nuzzi indicated we are, the cost is \$35,400.00 per year, for a total cost of \$70,800.00. Superintendent Carter confirmed we are asking approval for both years tonight and then we do not have to bring this back next year.

Motion by Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray to approve the renewal of the Tracker Hosting Contract at the cost of \$35,400.00 per year for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years, for a total of \$70,800.00 using WKKF Grant Funds.

Secretary Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6-0.

MHSAA Resolution

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi discussed the MHSAA Resolution requires adoption by the Board. She noted that last time we discussed the benefits of MHSAA membership for our students and mostly important that it identifies all students, eligible by age, have opportunity to be an athlete.

Motion by Secretary Kyra Wallace to approve the MHSAA Resolution for the 2020-2021 school year.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6-0.

Verona Lead Based Paint Remediation and Cast Stone Repairs

Laura Ash discussed the recommendation and reported the bids have been received and Martin Brothers will be the contractor for the project. They are based out of Kalamazoo. Laura advised the recommendation request is reduced by about \$3,000.00, for a total cost of \$59,381.00 with monies coming from the Sinking Fund. The work is supposed to be completed by August 18th.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked to be reminded of the school start date. Laura replied July 1st is the beginning of the fiscal year. Staff will be back in person on August 16th and 17th, so there may be a day of overlap, but the majority of the work will be done before teachers return. Trustee Slaby asked what if there were a delay and more overlap. Laura advised that if there were a delay due to rain out or something else, the work would be done after teachers were finished for the day or on the weekend, it would be done outside of the school day. Trustee Slaby noted wanting to make sure we are taking precautions for as little exposure as possible. Laura said absolutely.

Trustee Slaby asked if we reached out to a City or County Lead Task Force to inquire about cost savings or a grant for receiving lead abatement. Laura indicated she was not aware these groups existed and thank Trustee Slaby for sharing. Trustee Slaby mentioned it as an opportunity for future projects and Laura agreed.

Motion by Secretary Kyra Wallace to approve the Verona Lead Based Paint Remediation and Cast Stone Repairs in the amount of \$59,381.00 with funding coming from the Sinking Fund.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6-0.

WK Prep Elevator Repair

Laura Ash discussed the recommendation and reported we have updated information received from 2 bidders who completed proposals. Laura advised this project is more complicated. The condition of the housing unit the leaking cylinder sits in is unknown. Until the cylinder is removed, we are not sure what improvements will be needed. The cost to replace the cylinder is \$85,000.00. The cost to revamp the housing unit, if needed, would be \$189,000.00. Laura is recommending if the housing unit needs repair, the Board approve replacing the current elevator with a new one, at a cost of \$215,000.00.

Laura advised the work will begin on Tuesday and Wednesday when they begin the project, if the Board approves this evening. She is asking that the Board allow her, as the Executive Director of Finance, once the information has been received, to replace the elevator if the housing unit also needs repair/replacement. She is asking for approval of \$85,000.00 to replace the cylinder if that is all that is needed and up to \$215,000.00 to replace the elevator should the housing unit need work. Superintendent Carter indicated the request is that the Board approve up to \$215,000.00 for this project.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright asked if the Board approves the project tonight, when we find out this week what the project entails, will all of the work be done before school starts. Laura indicated if it's just the cylinder, the work will be done by the start of school on August 26th. If the elevator has to be replaced, the time frame for a complete replacement is 10-12 weeks.

President Karen Evans asked if the elevator work will be during the school day and affect kids. Laura indicated we probably wouldn't have students in the building anyway, but as is the case when most projects are done, it would be outside the school day so neither students nor staff are disturbed.

Motion by Secretary Kyra Wallace to approve up to \$215,000.00 for the repair and/or replacement of the WK Prep Elevator to be paid from the Sinking Fund.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6-0.

i-Ready Intervention Program for Battle Creek 3rd-5th Grade Students

Dr. Chandra Youngblood discussed the recommendation and explained the purpose of the i-Ready Intervention Program is to create consistency for 3rd 5th Grade students for personalized instruction. This program was piloted this last school year and the cost is \$16,950.00 using funds from the WKKF Grant.

Secretary Kyra Wallace asked if this is a computer-based program or something the teachers use. Dr. Youngblood advised it is a computer-based program that is used like a station. The program provides a report, based on student ids, indicating where those students need instruction on specific skills and then the teacher can pull them into a group. The program has lessons to print out and it can provide professional monitoring. A lot of time was spent on this in professional development last year and we will be adding it in Valley View and Fremont, so more professional development will be needed.

Secretary Kyra Wallace asked if students who elect to do virtual learning will still have access to this program. Dr. Youngblood said virtual students will work on a different program. But if we end up going to remote learning, our students who were face-to-face could access the program.

Dr. Youngblood explained the Virtual Academy is a standalone program and is not intermingled with any BCPS programs.

Motion by Trustee Art McClenney to approve the purchase of the i-Ready Intervention Program for 3rd-5th Grade Battle Creek Students in the amount of \$16,950.00 using funds from the WKKF Grant.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6-0.

Elementary Report Card Revision

Dr. Chandra Youngblood discussed the recommendation for the Board to approve the revised Elementary Report Card presented at the last meeting, noting the purpose of the revision is to update the report card to the new common core and power standards and make it user friendly for parents and teachers. Dr. Youngblood advised there is no cost to the report card revision.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked Dr. Youngblood to talk more about the assessment and how we gauge efficiency and growth with the Virtual Academy. Dr. Youngblood explained it is kind of like an in-house program that assesses kids to see where they are. We are currently vetting programs. A BCPS Learning Coach will be able to pull reports on how long students are logged in, how many times they log in and check their progress. Our Learning Coach will support student learning. The Virtual Academy has to offer the same 4 programs (Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies) as we offer at BCPS. There is a pre-test component to gauge progress.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked what we are doing to measure what we are doing with other curriculums. Superintendent Carter clarified the Virtual Academy is a separate program from BCPS and is self-guided and self-directed. It is an imbedded system and not the same sort of curriculum guided as BCPS. Progress is monitored in the system and students have to hit specific benchmarks and take tests and move to the next level. The system adapts and adjusts based on how students are doing. Dr. Youngblood advised the Virtual Academy students will not get a BCPS Report Card, they will get a system report.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked if the remote and virtual learning are 2 distinct curriculums. She asked how we will look at the District's performance and how we are going to handle the growth of students; will the Board be presented proficiency and growth data for the Virtual Academy curriculum, separate from the other curriculum. Will the virtual be treated separate with no attempt to combine remote and virtual. Dr. Youngblood advised she thinks they should be separate. Superintendent Carter pointed out the need to understand that anyone enrolled in public school has to take State assessments. Summative assessments will be included in the BCPS report and will determine the impact and effectiveness of our overall assessment.

Trustee Jackie Slaby requested the Board receive additional talking points about the Virtual Academy to assist in answering community questions about whether it is the same level of instruction and help families better understand the program. She feels it is important that families have all the information at their disposal to make an informed decision.

Motion by Secretary Kyra Wallace to approve the Elementary Report Card Revision as presented.

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6-0.

ESSER School Supplies

Wes Seeley discussed the recommendation presented earlier this evening to purchase basic school supplies for Elementary and Secondary students prior to start of school. The cost is up to \$20,000.00 using CARES Act Funds/ESSER Grant.

Motion by Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray to approve the purchase of basic school supplies up to \$20,000.00 for Elementary and Secondary students using funds from the ESSER Grant.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6-0.

2020-2021 Board of Education Meetings

President Karen Evans discussed the Board Meeting schedule and referenced the list that was included in the Board Packet. She noted the meeting date changes in December due to the Holiday Break.

Trustee Slaby indicated she had two questions about the Board Meeting schedule. Her first question was the conducting of meetings and if we are following State Guidelines for meeting in-person or remotely. President Karen Evans said we will adjust according to how safe it is, noting right now we are under a Governor's Order that does not allow meetings with more than 10 in a group. President Evans commented as a Board and Superintendent, we are a group of 8 people. As a result, we will meet virtually until it is safe to meet as group. Superintendent Carter added we are waiting for the Executive Order to be lifted and then we will resume in-person meetings.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright commented the MASB indicated virtual Board meetings for Michigan are extended until the middle of August because of the Governor's extension.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked if we can proceed with the current policy in place that indicates we can only do remote meetings three times per year and we have to provide notice. Trustee Slaby asked what we do if Board members are not comfortable with in-person meetings, due to health reasons, do we still follow the current policy in place during this circumstances, or do we adjust so it is easier for people to call-in remote, even if overall Board meets in person. President Karen Evans advised that back when COVID-19 started, the Board voted to adjust policies to go with policies the Governor is giving us, and remote meetings fall under that.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked about the posting locations for Special Meetings. She commented that she knows we post publically in the Library and Willard is slowly reopening, but a lot of public are not using the library services. Trustee Slaby asked what other areas we are posting in, so the public is aware. President Karen Evans advised we have Facebook posts and the Agendas and Board Calendar are on the BCPS Website. Trustee Slaby asked if possible and if we do a District wide mailing, can we include a list of the Board Meetings dates. President Karen Evans said she doesn't see why not.

Trustee Art McClenney asked if the Board Meeting dates are listed on the website. Trustee McClenney commented that he is not willing to expose anyone else to go out and post, although he respects his colleague's question. President Karen Evans noted the Board Meeting dates will be on the website after approved by the Board.

Motion by Trustee Charlie Fulbright to approve the 2020-2021 Board of Education Meeting dates as presented.

Secretary Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6-0.

BCPS Virtual Academy

Dr. Chandra Youngblood discussed the recommendation. To recap, Dr. Youngblood noted we are requesting the addition of a Virtual Academy to offer core content to K-12 students.

Trustee Jackie Slaby noted she is interested in learning further how we will handle discipline, tracking attendance and people not attending. Will we have things in place where school staff is going to reach out? Dr. Youngblood responded we will, it will first start with a Learning Coach to inquire as to barriers (technology, health). Dr. Youngblood advised she just received a chart from Erica Giron as to how to deal with different situations for social/emotional needs.

Trustee Art McClenney asked if a student doesn't participate that day, how are we tracking that along the lines of discipline, does that count as an absence.

Superintendent Carter jumped in and commented that she thinks we are getting confused about the difference in remote learning and the Virtual Academy. She advised that the Virtual Academy is self-directed, and a student doesn't have to log in every day, they can log in 2-3 times a week. It's similar to WK Prep where a student can graduate in 18 months or 4 years, depending on how they schedule themselves. Superintendent Carter advised she will explain the difference more in the BCPS Return to School discussion coming up later this evening.

Dr. Chandra Youngblood discussed we are asking the Board to approve adding a Virtual Academy. Dr. Youngblood discussed the recommendations in the Board Packet, which included information about how long an Elementary student or Secondary student needs to be online. There is flexibility with the virtual program and it will be helpful for families who need that.

Secretary Kyra Wallace indicated she just wanted to say she absolutely appreciates that we looked into this option and made it available to families who want it, this allows us to stand out as a District offering other options for education pursuit.

Motion by Secretary Kyra Wallace to approve the addition of the BCPS Virtual Academy for the 2020-2021 school year.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6-0.

DISCUSSION

BCPS Return to School Plan

Superintendent Carter thanked President Evans for the opportunity to discuss the Return to School Plan and welcomed everyone.

Superintendent Carter thanked the individuals who took the time, when they didn't have to, to determine the best strategy for BCPS to offer. She reminded the community that today is just a proposal plan for discussion. Superintendent Carter asked the Board members feel free to stop her for clarification anytime during the presentation to seek additional information.

Superintendent Carter advised she will talk about the plan, give an overview, and discuss the difference for K-5 and 6-12. She will discuss the health and safety protocols for students and staff, additional information, and next steps.

The BCPS Return to School Plan was formed collaboratively using the MI Safe Road Map released at the end of June as a guide. A Committee was formed to develop a plan of action to present to Superintendent Carter. A couple of Town Halls were held to get feedback from all of the Principals and a broader Town Hall was conducted with over 300 employees participating in Q&As. The plan was re-evaluated and adjusted based on the Principal feedback and now being presented to the Board, with the Superintendent's support.

Trustee Jackie Slaby said the information in the Board Packet mentioned reaching out to some parents, but there were no Town Halls held for families or students. Page 4 of the Plan notes receiving nearly 300 family responses and 250 staff responses, which was a broad reach out to the community. Trustee Slaby asked if our Spanish and Burmese families were surveyed. It was reported that a phone number was set up for Spanish and Burmese families to call and provide their feedback because the survey was too long to translate. Our Family Engagement Coordinators were available to assist in fielding the calls for each language. Trustee Slaby asked if we know the number of people who called into the hotlines. Superintendent Carter indicated we do not.

Superintendent Carter advised the Return to School Plan was developed not just by the MI Safe Road Map, but also the Calhoun County Health Department Guidelines and the information from our survey. There was also a group conducted with students to get their input and their voices were incorporated into the recommendation from the committee.

Superintendent Carter reported the Equity Imperative the District adopted over the last 4 years it continues to guide the work we do and the lens we use to make decisions. The planning in the Return to School plan is anchored on our Equity Imperative. At BCPS we believe that All means ALL. Not all if you have family support, not all if you have two parents in the home and not all if you live in a zip code in which you have privilege. We believe we need to create a system that sees every student by name, need and strength.

Superintendent Carter discussed the BCPS Return to School Plan and noted the following:

- The BCPS Return to School Plan provides families with a choice, although we realize it is a difficult situation to have to decide. There just is no perfect solution for everyone. The Plan is not an “either/or” type of situation, we have to embark upon this “both/and” as far as how do we keep both our students and our staff safe and that is our top priority as we present this proposal.
- Back in the Spring, we had less than 30% student participation, meaning 7 out of 10 students did not participate in virtual learning and will have an adverse impact from school closure.

Also taken into account in the developing of this proposal was a comment from a parent as quoted below:

“As an essential worker the school closure was very difficult for me. It was hard for me to ask my 13 year old to teach and watch my 7 and 9 year old while I worked. I am certain that they did not learn much.”

- COVID Learning Loss goes far beyond seat time. A Two-Month Shutdown means a year or more in lost skills. Research shows concerning projections, such as:
 - 4th Grade Reading Loss – we expect a 34% decline in Reading RIT scores, which is equivalent to 6 months of lost learning.
 - 6th Grade Math Loss – we expect an 81% decline in Math RIT scores, which is the equivalent to 14 months of lost learning.
 - Achievement Gap Expansion – COVID learning loss is expected to add a +20% gap between the highest and lowest-performing students.
 - Learning Recovery Time – an analysis of the Hurricane Katrina aftermath suggests a 4 month learning loss, which requires 2 years of normal seat time to fully recover academic pacing.
- All of the above items were taken into consideration as the District trained to plan how best to educate students.

Superintendent Carter advised the District is proposing the following:

- Grades K-5 return to school full-time in-person, with specific safety protocols. Our area is currently in Phase 4 and Phase 4 allows for the return to school because the virus is slowing and we can make informed decisions as to the next level of care.
- Grades 6-12 will do remote learning live-remote lessons with their assigned teachers.

Superintendent Carter reported:

- If the State moves back to Phases 1-3, the virus spread is significant and we will go to all virtual learning for all K-12 students.
- If we move to Phases 5 or 6, we will move back to in-person instruction for all students.

Trustee Art McClenney said this information might be coming up in the presentation, but he would like to know how we will address matters if the virus should spread. He can wait to discuss this matter if it is coming up in the presentation. Superintendent Carter advised we will be discussing that later in the presentation and thank Trustee McClenney for raising the question.

Superintendent Carter indicated in addition to the plan for Grades K-5 and 6-12, we wanted to make sure we recognized there will be families with circumstances who do not feel safe sending their kids back. She noted just as the family comment at the beginning of this presentation who were concerned about online progress, we have families who are concerned about in-person progress. As a result, we wanted to allow families to choose the option that best meets their needs.

Superintendent Carter advised all of the Calhoun County Superintendents have a weekly meeting with the Calhoun County Health Department to discuss the level of the virus and other concerns. They discuss what it means as a Battle Creek Community and for Calhoun County. They will continue to meet and discuss the local situation to make the best decisions.

Calhoun County Health Department supports face-to-face instruction with the mitigation strategies discussed in place, this is not just a BCPS proposal. While in-person instruction is important for all students, we recognize it's particularly critical for K-5 students to solidify early skills that create long-term academic success. Virtual education presents unique challenges for our youngest learners who are less likely developmentally ready for self-guided work and need more guidance and direction from teachers. Since our elementary schools afford us the opportunity to keep kids contained in classrooms, we have a greater opportunity to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread.

Superintendent Carter shared she heard from another family in the District who shared their child forgot how to write letters, just in this time we have been away.

A huge consideration in the BCPS Return to School Plan as it pertains to Grades K-5 is that we are able to cohort students and keep them in assigned groups and reduce groups intermingling. It is not the same situation for Grades 6-12.

Grades K-5 Safety Protocols include:

- Wearing facial coverings all students and staff all day.
- Increased cleaning protocols. While we are not taking all staff from secondary schools because we will still have staff there in the secondary buildings, not having students in the 6-12 buildings allows us to redeploy some staff to the elementary buildings for additional cleaning.
- Students will spend time in groups, following a model known as “cohorting”.

Grades 6-12 will be fully remote learning, which is different from the Virtual Academy. In remote learning, students will go to class every day and following a schedule in a modified learning format. We are recommending remote learning for the first 9 weeks of the school year. Although we are in Phase 4, unlike in the elementary schools, we are not able to reduce the number of transitions for Grades 6-12, or adjust lunch situations to mitigate the risk of spreading the virus. Before the end of the 9 weeks, we will review the decision to return and how to proceed, depending on the state of spreading.

All students will have a Chromebook on a 1:1 basis. In the Spring, Chromebooks were distributed by family, this time every student will have a Chromebook.

BCPS Virtual Academy – the Virtual Academy was established to meet the unique and individualized needs of our students and their families, any family K-12 who wishes to do so may enroll their children in this all-virtual option.

- This option is for families who prefer that their children participate in school online only for the entirety of the 2020-2021 school year. This may be an appropriate option for families with health concerns.
- Best for students who are able to thrive in self-guided work, with less frequent teacher interaction.

Superintendent Carter noted most students will want 6-12 remote learning, but some K-5 families are not comfortable with sending their students to school so they can choose the Virtual Academy.

BC STEM and Fremont students who attend the Virtual Academy in the 2020-2021 school year may return to their magnet school in 2021-2022 without re-applying.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright asked with the Virtual Academy being for students who thrive in self-guided work, if a K-5 family has health concerns or doesn't want their kids to go to school in-person, how will a Kindergartener be self-guided to do all the stuff they need to do. Superintendent Carter advised there will still be a BCPS Mentor Teacher who will check in with the family. We just want our families to make informed decision as to the level of support they will receive as with the Virtual Academy as opposed to Remote Learning. We don't want to mislead families to think they will have daily interaction with a BCPS Teacher, which is not the case for the Virtual Academy.

Trustee Art McClenney said that needs to be made really clear, i.e., that this is a choice. And that you will not, if he understands correctly, receive the same amount of education as those who are attending class on a day-to-day basis. Superintendent Carter noted it's that they will not have the same level of support from a BCPS Teacher as those attending on a day-to-day basis. Trustee McClenney commented it looks like the rigor of the coursework is pretty high, the students will be challenged and will have a BCPS Mentor Teacher checking-in, but not as often. He asked if the students will receive grades. Superintendent Carter indicated they will, but it is more along the lines of pass/fail or master/learn vs a letter grade.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray asked if we have a child that enrolls in the Virtual Academy and if the family feels it isn't working out, what is the plan for returning back to school. Superintendent Carter said the process would be for the family to contact Student Services to discuss the best plan. Our goal is success for every student. We have a Guidebook that outlines the practice, protocol and who to reach out to for help or support.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright asked if K-5 teachers or tutors who don't feel comfortable returning have an option to be part of the Virtual Academy. Superintendent Carter reported they have the first right of placement, before we would consider outside supports. Trustee Fulbright clarified if that was the same for tutors as well, specifically Edustaff, and Superintendent Carter replied yes. Everything will be dependent on enrollment numbers and enrollment will dictate the number of staff needed.

Trustee Jackie Slaby commented she has 2 questions. First, around the Math and Science Center, how will that roll out. Superintendent Carter advised we are in the process of communicating with other Districts that BCAMSC will also be remote, for the first 9 weeks with a flipped schedule.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray asked about the STEM program, will it be virtual? Superintendent Carter advised that all 6-12 programs including BCAMSC, the Career Academies, Springfield Middle School and Northwestern Middle School will all be doing remote learning and instructed by BCPS Teachers and following their regular course schedules.

Trustee Jackie Slaby said her second comment was about the Tech Center (CACC). She doesn't think the CISD has rolled out their plans, but she is wondering how our students will participate. Superintendent Carter advised we are waiting for the CACC to determine their structure and then determine how to allow our students to be involved.

Trustee Art McClenney asked about face coverings for those in school. He said there is no doubt there will be some parents who want their kids in school and will tell them they don't need to wear face masks. Trustee McClenney wondered how we will address that issue for the safety of other students. Superintendent Carter responded under our rules and the Michigan Department of Education, we have the right of placement and we would have a conversation with the family and let them know if they want in-person instruction, students must wear a face covering all day. It will be very clear that masks are required, unless there is a medical condition, in which case we will work on that on a case-by-case basis and we would require documentation from a physician.

Superintendent Carter reported that we will make sure that BC STEM and Fremont students may return to their magnet schools for the 2021-2022 school year, without having to re-apply.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked if the District is leveraging ways to work with community partners to see that childcare or other needs are met. Superintendent Carter thanked Trustee Slaby and advised that, once we determine a Plan, we will meet with the Bearcat Health Team. The Bearcat Health Team is a group who really believe in the individuality of students and the individual needs they have. She also reported that Special Ed and ELL 6-12 students will have opportunities for face-to face meetings to check in on supports needed.

Trustee Art McClenney commented he knows there is a percentage, he can't remember the exact terminology, in Calhoun County and if we have a certain percentage of the virus spread, the District will take matters to shut down. He asked if that information would be coming up in the presentation. Superintendent Carter said that information is not included because we don't have the exact number yet, but the percent positive test rate is at a level that supports face-to-face instruction at this time. We are also watching the cases per day, per million and it is at a level that the Calhoun County Health Department can support face-to-face. If it rises to the targeted level, which we don't have that number to report tonight, but as County-wide collaboration of School Districts, the Superintendents will make the decision together based on the Calhoun County Health Department information.

Superintendent Carter advised the Superintendents are committed to meeting weekly and watching the numbers on a daily basis to have discussions. They are all prepared to make the flip, as quickly as possible, to keep students and staff safe.

Trustee Jackie Slaby said she had one final question. There has been nothing mentioned around providing internet to families doing remote or virtual and she wondered if that will be in a Virtual Guide to families. Superintendent Carter said we do have a commitment to dismiss the digital divide, based on 1:1 device distribution and internet. We are working with a community team to get a better understanding of broadband access for families.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray asked if we will be providing meals (breakfast and lunches) like we are presently. Superintendent Carter said we will be for 6-12 remote learning students. Depending on approval from the State because we will have to receive funding, but our Plan is to continue food service for all students 6-12.

Secretary Kyra Wallace said thinking about the recommendation for Grades K-5 to be in school, will the CIS workers at the Middle School and High School be doing remote learning. Superintendent Carter said the CIS workers will still be involved because we still have to make sure to connect families to resources, help with basic needs and tutoring, Reading Buddies will be done virtually. There are a lot of basic needs for tutoring and resources.

- BCPS Health and Safety Protocols include:
- Every Elementary building will be staffed with a full-time nurse, unlike other Districts.
- We will have a Care Room for any students waiting to be examined by the school nurse. Students who are sick will be isolated in a designated Sick Student Area, separate from the Care Room, until they are able to go home or to a healthcare facility. Both areas are well ventilated.
- Social distancing signs and barriers for front facing areas.
- Increased cleaning staff available at each Elementary building to support enhanced cleaning protocols.
- Hand sanitizer or soap and cleaning products in all classrooms.
- Desks and workstations arranged with as much physical distance as possible.
- Field trips and assemblies canceled and provided in virtual format when possible.
- P.E. limited to activities that do not involve physical contact with others or equipment.
- Signage to direct the flow of students and traffic to minimize crowding.

Superintendent Carter shared the School Response Scenarios just came out over the weekend and will be incorporated into the BCPS Return to School Plan.

If a student or staff member displays symptoms:

- The symptomatic individual will return home immediately and will remain home until they await test results.
- If negative, they must be symptom-free (without medications) for 24 hours before returning.
- Classmates, family members and teachers with close contact should continue to self-monitor for symptoms.

If a student or staff member tests positive:

- The affected individual will return home immediately (if not already home).
- They must isolate at home for at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared.
- Those with close contact to the individual must quarantine at home for 14 days from the time symptoms appeared. (Includes teachers, classmates).

BCPS will communicate with families and the CCPHD, following the County's recommended tracing protocols for all positive COVID-19 cases.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray asked about the attendance policy and how we will handle attendance if a child is declared positive for COVID. Superintendent Carter said there is discussion the Michigan Department of Education will relax the 188 days; there is an additional need to have representative support about the 1,098 hours and 188 days. Student days missed will be excused absences and not counted as chronic.

Trustee Art McClenney mentioned talk in the District about if staff become sick in school or get COVID, sharing a place or helping put teachers somewhere together, instead of them going home, based on a collaboration effort with other Superintendents and Districts. Superintendent Carter said that has not been considered and never occurred as a thought. She pointed out that BCPS has an EAP in place that the BCPS Board adopted last year. This resource provides for individualized support to staff and the benefit package offers a lot of other supports to staff and their families.

Superintendent Carter said it is not in this presentation, but we are creating relationships with long-term substitutes to have on staff right away to provide a smooth transition if we need to fill some classrooms.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright said, in one of the earlier slides, it noted desks and work stations will be set up differently due to social distancing, but how will that work with a classroom of 30 kids; how can you arrange desks that far apart. Superintendent Carter said first, you cannot and secondly our classrooms are not that many students. She noted the biggest mitigation strategy is mask wearing all day. Once we have students enrolled and student numbers for each class, we will re-distribute students, as needed, to provide smaller classrooms and even out class sizes across Grade levels.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray asked about the buildings that don't have staff in them, what does that mean for Bearcat coaches and monitors. Superintendent Carter thanked her and said this is a good question. We will re-deploying them to other buildings as added support for in-person K-5 classes to have more 1:1 support staff, meaning 1 support staff for every teacher, as best we can, to push into classrooms to help teachers.

Trustee Art McClenney asked in the effort to community spread of the virus and exposure, what is the plan for parents picking up kids, will they be stopped at door. Superintendent Carter said they will not be allowed in the buildings and will call ahead and remain in their vehicle for their student to come out. There are no visitors allowed in buildings during Phase 4. Trustee McClenney asked if that would include 21st Century kids, and Superintendent Carter indicated it does. There are very specific requirements, which will be provided to the Board for approval.

Trustee Art McClenney commented we haven't addressed the Doris Klaussen Center, how might that work? Superintendent Carter advised that Doris Klaussen is not a BCPS program. Trustee McClenney asked if we have students in that program. Superintendent Carter advised they become part of the CISD program and all of those decisions are made through CISD.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray asked if the students are going to be outside on the playground equipment and who will clean all of that. Superintendent Carter advised we have thought about that and are working on a plan for a cleaning protocol. If we cannot clean the equipment on a regular basis, we will consider a different opportunity.

Superintendent Carter shared the following additional information that is important:

Attendance

- For students in Grades 6-12, the distance/remote learning attendance goal is 100% participation.
- Students are expected to attend all live sessions conducted by the teacher and their attendance will be monitored and tracked in the Skyward student information system.

Identification & Referral of BCPS Student Needs

- Research shows social and emotional learning (SEL) is fundamental to academic success and COVID-19 has also created different types of traumatic experiences and high levels of stress for many of our students and families.
- A process has been developed and implemented for accessing additional supports for students. Behavior Interventionists, school counselors and Communities in Schools Site Coordinators will be available to connect students and/or their families to health and basic need services.
- Families in need of additional support should call their school office.

Device Access

- BCPS has invested in technology to ensure that students have access to a digital device to support learning at home.
- Devices will be distributed at the beginning of the year for all students in Grades 6-12.
- Additionally, students in Grades K-5 will have access to an assigned device in school which will be distributed should the need for at-home learning arise.

Services & Supports for Students with Specialized Needs

- In order to ensure that our most vulnerable students have the individualized care they need, some students in Grades 6-12 who are identified at the school level as in need of additional support will be scheduled to attend learning at school in a small group setting during Phase 4.
- Individual contact will be made with each family impacted and transportation will be provided.

Superintendent Carter discussed the Next Steps:

- A document that outlines the BCPS Return to School Plan has been created. It is a Summary & Overview and will be released to the community tomorrow to let everyone know. There will also be recorded calls and text messages sent and it will be posted on our Facebook page.
- A Virtual Town Hall, Live Q&A Session, for community and family members will be held on Wednesday, July 29th, at 5:30 m on Facebook.

Superintendent Carter reminded everyone the situation is ever changing and we are constantly re-evaluating the situation.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked if the Live Q&A Session will be available for families who speak Spanish or Burmese. Superintendent Carter reported this topic was discussed this morning and we are in the process of making arrangements for that. She is not sure what those plans are just yet, but we are very attuned to families with other languages and we are trying to coordinate things. She noted the documents will not be translated in time for a Wednesday meeting.

Trustee Art McClenney asked about busing. Do we know how students are going to be in seats or the plan for busing for spacing. Superintendent Carter advised that Dean is working on that and just put out their plan for BCPS and CISD.

- Masks will be given to anyone on a bus.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be on every bus, at the point of entry.
- Social distancing will be dependent on the number of students on that route. We can't plan until we know the number of students attending in person. To the best of our ability, we will separate students.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright Charlie asked if Pre-K is returning in-person along with K-5. Superintendent Carter reported we are still waiting for information about the Pre-K return requirements, which is why it is not included in the Return to School Plan. The Health Department put out very stringent Guidelines this Summer, which is why we didn't have GSRP. At this time, we are waiting to hear what the budget is (vote was on Thursday), we have no information/documentation on how many seats, and we need to know licensing requirements. We haven't heard from the MDE as yet, although Calhoun County is starting earlier than many other Districts. Dr. Chandra Youngblood commented that we are collecting applications and have all but 40 seats already claimed. She said we have told parents we will take applications and take next steps as soon as we know what those steps are. She has many options in her head.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright requested the Board be copied on the replies to the Public Comment questions asked in tonight's meeting. He would like to know the answers to the questions asked. Superintendent Carter said the Board can absolutely be copied on the replies.

Superintendent Carter asked if there were any other questions and none were expressed.

President Karen Evans thanked Superintendent Carter and all those who have worked on this Plan for their time and jumping through the hoops that changed hourly. President Evans said thank you so much, your work is greatly appreciated.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kaytee Faris

25 Fremont Street

My family is thrilled to hear about the new Virtual Academy. Specifically, we are excited that it will include individualized teaching options and supports that will help students to move at their own pace.

I strongly urge the School Board to support this new Virtual Academy and look forward to learning more about it.

Brenda McGrew

409 McKinley Avenue N

How will we be getting our students to school? If bus than what will that look like? How will the lunch and recess work for all students that get one?

Melissa Butler

54 Magnolia Avenue

What are plans for meals for Middle and High School students?

Mary

Battle Creek

With the pandemic going on, being a school bus driver for BCPS, I see an issue with the masks, I see more masks going out the windows of the school buses more than being in the faces of the children, the beginning of the school year is always hot, it's going to be hard enough on the driver to make sure each child has their masks on along with keeping an eye on the road. Getting these kids to and from school is our number priority, can we all have attendants on our buses?

Veronica Anderson

30 Sycamore Road

There are a lot of schools around going fully virtual. Can BCPS do this to keep everyone safe especially the staff and students? Also classrooms need to be at 10 or lower students if we are going fully back. If Board Meetings have to be virtual then how can having 29 kids in a classroom okay? Especially with no air conditioning and kids cannot wear masks all day and there are staff that their health will not allow it.

Von Bird

595 Capital Avenue NE

Ok

Wayne

Capital Avenue

Why would students/parents in 6-12 choose not to use the Virtual Academy if you aren't giving in-person instruction?

Daniel Bowen
162 Eastwood Drive

I am concerned that our plan does not address several different issues that are concerning as we think about going back to school. How do we mitigate the spread of the virus if we have specials teachers that go to multiple classes in a building as well as multiple buildings? How can we social distance when we have an average of 25 students in a classroom a day? What can we do for those teachers that have their own children that are in Middle School and have to be in distance learning but still have to report every day? I myself have a 7th grader that will be turning 12. I do not feel comfortable leaving my 12 year old son 6-8 hours a day, 5 days a week. That is on top of helping him with his remote learning. What happens when we have students or teachers that test positive? Do we quarantine the entire class? What happens if there are siblings in separate classes? I do not feel like we still have a solid answer on these questions and I am concerned for our educators as we look to return to school. I do agree that no plan will be perfect but a plan that leaves with this many unanswered questions is concerning. I appreciate how difficult these decisions may be and hope that we can resolve all of these issues where everyone feels safe and supported.

Israel Flores
76 Laurel Drive

You talk about equity but Latino and Burmese communities are not included. It is inexcusable that families were not meaningfully engaged and given the same opportunities to provide feedback prior to development of the plan, or that this week there is not already a plan in place for how this information will be shared. These communities are continually treated as afterthoughts. All processes should be included at the same time, with information and plans released at the same time, with parents having the same access to information and same ability to be involved and provide feedback.

Chris
287 Borden

Why are we pushing for sports to continue when it is unsafe to meet in person in 6 - 12?

Virginia Solis
18 New Moon Terrace N

I look forward to reading the plan in its entirety once it is posted, but on the surface I believe this plan is a disservice to our students, the effects of which will be immeasurable and lasting. I have 3 students attending BCCHS this Fall, all of whom had issues with the virtual learning in the Spring. I am against this plan and I think parents should have had a choice, virtual or in-person. We know our kids best and what works for them. However, I also know you are trying your best and cannot please everyone. I will reserve further judgment until I see the whole plan myself. But I have many many questions and concerns.

Deanna
57 Briarcliff Lane

Why is my son who is medically challenged required to go to regular ed class with no nurse in the classroom, but my daughter who has no medical challenge allowed to stay home and do distance learning because of grade difference. I feel it should be the other way around.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Superintendent Carter thanked everyone who really thought through all the information in the BCPS Return to School Plan, noting Administration and First Responders will have more work to do in the morning as we continue to grow. Superintendent Carter also thanked all staff members. This process has not been easy and is not perfect, we will remain responsive and flexible to meet the individual needs of our students and look forward to continuing to do so.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Art McClenney thanked the District for the Return to School Plan that was put together. He noted he did his homework, he reviewed the CDC Guidelines for Back to School and has plenty of notes. Trustee McClenney commented it has been a really difficult decision, as he has shared with Superintendent Carter and the parents he has talked to. Kids are close to his heart, no matter what age and this virus, if one kid gets sick and others catch it, it ignites. There will be a “new normal” now and he doesn’t like that term. He feels the Board and the public have been given as much information as possible to make this decision. Trustee McClenney again thanked Superintendent Carter and the staff, and the Board now has a week to think about this Plan. How he feels about it is that he’s not happy about the Plan, but for the majority it is a great plan. It’s not the perfect answer, there just isn’t a perfect answer, but that’s the way it is. He commented to the other Board Members, we have a lot of thinking to do and have to do what is best for kids.

President Karen Evans commented we always keep kids and staff as our number one priority.

Trustee Jackie Slaby commented that he looks forward to the District prioritizing language access in future initiatives so all families feel included. She noted it is clear we need to work on this as it is a challenge for our District. We need to rise to that challenge and make sure that, especially around COVID-19 measures and access to programs, all families have access to the information at the same time.

President Karen Evans said thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone that was part of the Virtual Graduation for BCPS, it was amazing and very well done. Kudos to Nate Hunt and the people he hired to assist on this project. It was an amazing Virtual Graduation. President Evans invited those who haven’t seen it to watch it on Facebook because they will love it. She is looking forward to the WK Prep Virtual Graduation on July 30th. President Evans further shared that Nate Hunt has asked her to plug the BCPS/MEA Reopening Questions Facebook Live Event on Wednesday at 5:30pm for the community to see questions others have.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54pm.

Submitted by
Patti Worden

Kyra Wallace
Board Secretary