

**BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Regular Meeting**

**March 18, 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

Art McClenney

Jackie Slaby

Kyra Wallace

**Absent**

Catherine LaValley

Patty Poole-Gray

**Present – Administration**

Kim Carter – Superintendent

Laura Ash – Executive Director

Nathan Hunt – Communications Manager

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by President Evans at 5:30 p.m.

Karen Evans, Kyra Wallace, Charlie Fulbright, Art McClenney and Jacqueline Slaby were present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Charlie Fulbright made a motion to approve the agenda as written.

Kyra Wallace supported the motion.

**Motion passed 5 – 0**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Charlie Fulbright made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda Items:

- A. Trust Fund/Comerica (Written only)
- B. Minutes of the regular meeting on February 24, 2020
- C. Bills for the Month of February 2020
- D. Personnel Changes and Recognition of Retirees
- E. Membership Report
- F. Financial Update
- G. 2019-2020 General Fund Budget Revision
- H. 2019-2020 WK Kellogg Foundation Grant Budget Revision

Kyra Wallace supported the motion.

**Motion passed 5 – 0**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Superintendent Carter expressed her support of and recommended the Board approve the Valley View PLC Conference Request in the amount of \$21,000.00 with Valley View Title I as the Funding Source.

Motion by Charlie Fulbright to approve the Valley View PLC Conference Request in the amount of \$21,000.00 with Valley View Title I as the Funding Source.

Kyra Wallace supported the motion.

Superintendent Carter reported about the PLC Conference, in follow-up to Trustee Slaby’s inquiry at the Work Session on March 9<sup>th</sup>, that Battle Creek Central High School staff reported the PLC Conference changed the way they handle instruction, intervention, small groups, formative assessments and student assessments. They felt it was very informational and beneficial. Ann J. Kellogg, Northwestern Middle School and Verona all agreed how the PLC Conference had a positive impact on their processes. A copy of the report was provided to Trustee Slaby.

Superintendent Carter pointed out the Conference is not until July, 2020 and may get cancelled due to the current COVID-19 climate.

Jacqueline Slaby requested that Superintendent Carter keep the Board updated on the conference and if it were to be cancelled.

**Motion passed 5 – 0**

- B. Superintendent Carter expressed her support of and recommended the Board approve the Springfield Middle School Service Learning Model in the amount of \$25,000.00 with Federal/State Grant as the Funding Source.

Motion by Charlie Fulbright to approve the Springfield Middle School Service Learning Model in the amount of \$25,000.00 with Federal/State Grant as the Funding Source.

Kyra Wallace supported the motion.

Jacqueline Slaby expressed she was not sure this matter was going to be up for a vote this evening. She inquired if there had been an outreach to the community about this and how students and parents felt about it.

Superintendent Carter replied there was a large committee who participated in the discussion and decision to pursue becoming a Service Learning School.

Jacqueline Slaby requested this information be sent out to show who was involved.

Superintendent Carter advised the Recommendation in the Board Packet included this information. She shared that 29 individuals representing the roles of students, GVSU Professors, Learning to Give collaborators, local business, Kellogg Community College and BCPS teachers and administrators were involved and the reasons why parents desire to send their children to a Service Learning School was also included.

**Motion passed 5 – 0**

- C. Laura Ash discussed the Healthcare Simulation Lab Renovation/Construction. Laura advised they were able to work out a cost savings on this project and the total is now \$265,000.00 rather than the \$300,000.00 originally stated.

Motion by Charlie Fulbright to approve the Healthcare Simulation Lab Renovation/Construction in the amount of \$265,000.00 with Sinking Funds as the Funding Source.

Kyra Wallace supported the motion.

Art McClenney commented that it was a nice drawing of the project and asked about the plans for the Lab opening.

Superintendent Carter reported there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony once it is complete.

Laura Ash reported the project is to be done by July 1<sup>st</sup> and will be ready for Summer training and the start of school in the Fall.

**Motion passed 5 – 0**

- D. Laura Ash discussed the Healthcare Simulation Lab Rotating Access Columns. Laura reported they were able to find a more reasonable vendor for this project and realize a reduction in the cost to \$45,000.00 - \$48,000.00 by making the columns standard/stationery instead of rotating. Laura asked to keep the amount at \$60,000.00 as originally requested to be safe.

Motion by Kyra Wallace to approve the Healthcare Simulation Lab Access Columns in an amount up to \$60,000.00 with the Marshall Grant as the Funding Source.

Charlie Fulbright supported the motion.

Art McClenney expressed he thought the Board should approve the original \$60,000.00 amount as requested to leave room for the pricing to go up, in light of COVID-19.

**Motion passed 5 – 0**

- E. Laura Ash discussed the Healthcare Simulation Lab Equipment and reported the hospital beds are the ones used by and recommended by Kellogg Community College.

Motion by Charlie Fulbright to approve the Healthcare Simulation Lab Equipment in the amount of \$23,708.00 with the Marshall Grant as the Funding Source.

Kyra Wallace supported the motion.

**Motion passed 5 – 0**

- F. Superintendent Carter reported she was pleased to share with the Board that we negotiated a lower price for the Employee Assistance Plan with HealthNet. Superintendent Carter expressed her support of and recommended the Board approve the Employee Assistance Program in the amount of \$10,000.00 with General Funds as the Funding Source.

Motion by Charlie Fulbright to approve the Employee Assistance Program in the amount of \$10,000.00 with General Funds as the Funding Source.

Jacqueline Slaby supported the motion.

Kyra Wallace indicated she thought this was the perfect time to be adopting an Employee Assistance Program in light of the current COVID-19 situation.

Art McClenney said he would second Kyra's comment and he feels it's important for the Board to stand behind the employees.

Superintendent Carter agreed and mentioned the financial stress of these times. She noted the Letter of Agreement with HealthNet was signed by all Union Presidents and all were promoting it.

**Motion passed 5 – 0**

- G. Superintendent Carter read aloud the recommendation for continuity of pay for third party vendor personnel and Battle Creek Public Schools (BCPS) non-exempt/hourly personnel. These positions include Bearcat Coaches, Literacy Tutors, long-term guest teachers and guest teachers that are assigned to a building.

Superintendent Carter expressed her support of and recommended the Board approve the continuity of pay for third party vendor personnel and BCPS non-exempt/hourly employees.

Motion by Kyra Wallace to approve the continuity of pay for third party vendor personnel and BCPS non-exempt/hourly employees.

Charlie Fulbright supported the motion.

Jacqueline Slaby inquired about the funding source for the continuity of pay.

Superintendent Carter advised the funding source is whatever the prior funding source, there are different sources based on the position, etc.

Kyra Wallace commented she thinks it's amazing this issue comes before the Board and the Board is able to approve it and avoid major financial hardships for these individuals.

**Motion passed 5 – 0**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Superintendent Carter commented she knows there are lots of questions about things like Graduation, the school calendar for next year, etc. and she still doesn't have any answers. She noted everyone is waiting for answers from the State Leaders and advised she will provide information as soon as it becomes available.

Superintendent Carter reported, at this time, we are scheduled to return to school on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Art McClenney thanked the District for supplying meals to our kids, noting that some kids don't have meals when they are not in school.

Superintendent Carter commented that 2,000 meals were served and the book distribution started today.

President Evans commented it was great LaMora Park staff is reading to kids everyday on Facebook. Superintendent Carter shared more schools will be joining this effort.

Jacqueline Slaby shared information about a Facebook group she co-created and a website she started PeopleHelpingPeople.com to share resources available in light of COVID-19. Jacqueline thanked Nate Hunt, Communications Manager, for his assistance with setting up these sites.

Jacqueline Slaby requested Superintendent Carter or Nate Hunt provide the Board with Talking Points about the continued pay to staff, indicating it will be great to share that with the community.

President Evans wrapped up the meeting by stating she is proud to be part of Battle Creek Public Schools, where great things are happening, even when we're closed.

Meeting adjourned – 5:53 p.m.

Submitted by

Patti Worden

Kyra Wallace  
Board Secretary