

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Work Session

March 9, 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

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

Absent - Administration

Charles Lipsey – Director, Facilities and Operations

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.

Charlie Fulbright supported the motion.

Motion passed 6 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Gray expressed his gratitude on behalf of the NAACP for BCPS hosting the Annual Heritage Quizbowl and for their support of the program. Sam thanked Kyra Wallace, Catherine LaValley, Karen Evans, Kim Carter and Jacqueline Slaby for attending Quizbowl and lending a hand where needed. Sam indicated the Quizbowl would not be possible without the District's support and they really appreciate it.

REPORTS

A. W.K. Kellogg Preparatory High School

Calvin Williams, Principal, provided an update on the WK Kellogg Preparatory High School which included the WK Prep Approach, student demographics, the Arena Model, the Student Experience, the Course Model, Successes, Opportunities for Growth and Enrollment Goals.

Calvin brought Ms. Amelia O'Brian, an Administrator with the program, and two students, Alana Mitchell and Marcelon Milwood, who both spoke about their experiences at WK Prep.

Alana said it has been a great experience, the staff makes you feel very welcome and they make sure you eat. She said students are provided with goal setting sheets (they can choose to set weekly or monthly goals) which help keep them on track, she said it feels like they are a family.

Marcelon commented that WK Prep has helped him a lot because he messed up at the beginning of his High School and WK Prep is a second chance for him to get his Diploma. He said the staff makes sure he attends and keeps up on his work.

Calvin stressed the goal at WK Prep is "Success for Every Student" in an environment that fits their needs, whether they are pregnant or students who work full-time in addition to going to school. Calvin reported most of the WK Prep students can earn their Diploma within two (2) years.

Calvin shared the WK Prep Staff outrageously love the students, they know the students and recognize when they are in need or support and share a solid relationship with them.

Calvin discussed the value of the Bronx Arena Model and the fact that students are now graduating with the knowledge they need to be successful as adults.

Calvin said he is a big fan of celebrating all successes, big and small, so WK Prep has celebrations all the time for attendance, student progress, etc.

Jacqueline Slaby commented she enjoys all the school presentations, but she felt Calvin's presentation this evening set the Gold standard. She said all others should look to his presentation as an example. Jacqueline thought Calvin provided the best explanation of the Arena Model, how it is implemented, and giving students a voice. She thanked Calvin for his presentation and again commented "Gold Standard".

B. Springfield Middle School Service Learning Model

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi reported Springfield Middle School has promoted service learning for several years with ELA classes and clubs. Springfield Middle School has an opportunity to transition to a Service Learning School through Learning to Give, which would allow all students and a great swath of the community to participate in and receive the benefits of service learning.

Kathy Roberts, a teacher at Springfield Middle School, shared she has been using learning service in her classroom for eight (8) years. She reported it provides ownership and authenticity to students. Her students write books and go to Valley View to give their books to elementary students. She said the students love this opportunity and it has resulted in better attendance and a higher completion of work. Her students are also writing their own 30 second commercials.

Dr. Nuzzi reported Learning to Give has submitted a grant to the Guido A. and Elizabeth H. Binda Foundation to establish the evaluation and content integration tools. Battle Creek Public Schools would provide \$25,000 toward the initiative, much of which would be covered by school level grant funds from state and federal resources. It was recommended the Board approve the adoption of an integrated School Learning model and associated middle school program changes for Springfield Middle School.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on March 23, 2020.

C. 2019-2020 General Fund Budget Revision

Laura Ash discussed the Revenue and Expenditures reported in the 2019-2020 General Fund Budget Revision.

Revenue revision areas included 101 Local Revenue, 300 State Revenue, 400 Federal Revenue and 500 Other Revenue.

Expenditure revision areas included 110 Basic Instruction, 120 Added Needs, 130 Adult Education, 210 Pupil Support Services, 220 Instructional Support Services, 240 School Administration, 250 Business Services, 260 Maintenance & Operations, 270 Transportation, 280 Support Services and Technology, 300 Community Services and 600 Indirect Other Funds.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on March 23, 2020.

D. 2019-2020 WK Kellogg Foundation Grant Budget Revision

Laura Ash discussed the Revenue and Expenditures reported in the 2019-2020 WK Kellogg Foundation Grant Budget Revision.

Revenue revision areas included 101 Local Revenue.

Expenditure revision areas included 110 Basic Instruction, 210 Pupil Support Services, 220 Instructional Support Services, 230 General Administration, 240 School Administration, 260 Maintenance & Operations, 270 Transportation, 280 Support Services and Technology, 290 Athletics, 300 Community Services and 450 Capital Improvements.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on March 23, 2020.

E. Valley View PLC Conference Request

Wes Seeley discussed the request to send 10 members of Valley View's instructional leadership team to a PLC Conference in June, after school is out. This would be a training opportunity for lead teachers and coaches throughout the building who lead teachers through 21+ hours of data informed decision making about instruction and intervention. Most of the teachers have never been officially trained to lead these collaboration meetings. The estimated cost is \$21,000. All costs will be paid with Valley View's Title I funds.

Jacqueline Slaby inquired how many schools were trained in this area. Superintendent Carter reported all of the schools have been trained. Dudley Elementary, Battle Creek Central High School, Verona Elementary and Valley View Elementary were originally trained in Austin, TX eight (8) years ago.

There was discussion about the professional development requirement that teachers complete a survey sharing what they learned at conferences, etc. Jacqueline Slaby asked if the Board can review the surveys. Superintendent Carter assigned this task to the Directors to gather information.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on March 23, 2020.

F. Healthcare Simulation Lab Renovation/Construction Estimate

Laura Ash reported the District is currently out to bid to collect pricing on the various components of the construction/remodel of the Simulation Lab at Battle Creek Central High School. Laura passed around a color scheme pallet for the Simulation Lab. The space will be remodeled to include: eight (8) hospital beds, an observation room for both Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). The space will resemble a simulation lab like you might find at a local college or university. The estimated cost is not to exceed \$300,000. All costs will be paid using Sinking Funds.

Catherine LaValley thanked Laura Ash for this information, noting it was super. Catherine inquired about Sinking Funds being set aside to cover this project and Laura reported they were. Catherine said it was great that Sinking Funds can be used for this project.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on March 23, 2020.

G. Healthcare Simulation Lab Rotating Access Columns

Laura Ash discussed the need to purchase six (6) modular rotating columns for the Healthcare Simulation Lab. These rotating columns have to be built and current lead time is 120 days, so we need to get them ordered as soon as possible. The estimated cost is not to exceed \$60,000. All costs will be paid from the Marshall Plan Grant.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on March 23, 2020.

H. Healthcare Simulation Lab Equipment

Laura Ash discussed the need to purchase hospital beds, side cabinets and bed-side tables for each of the eight (8) areas in the Simulation Lab. There is a lead time of 90 days to complete the cabinets, so we need to get them ordered as soon as possible. The estimated cost is \$23,708. All costs will be paid from the Marshall Plan Grant.

Catherine LaValley inquired about the beds being refurbished. Laura shared that Kellogg Community College uses these same beds (Stryker beds that are refurbished and come with a full warranty) and KCC has never had a problem with them.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on March 23, 2020.

I. Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Cheryl Johnson discussed the Employee Assistance Program and the benefits it would provide. The estimated cost is up to \$11,275. All costs will be paid from the General Fund.

Jacqueline Slaby commented that she was surprised to see this request. Jacqueline indicated she inquired, two years ago, if the District had an EAP and was told there was. Cheryl responded there was a program in place a couple of years ago, but it has not been continued.

It was noted EduStaff is not eligible for this service.

There was discussion about how this would be rolled out and how staff would be notified. Cheryl reported everything is confidential and provides a safe atmosphere. Human Resources is working with the MEA and the MEA is very supportive. They are talking with Nate Hunt, Communications Manager, about the best plan for sharing this news.

President Evans shared her past employer, SafePlace, used HealthNet for their Employee Assistance Program and it was a good resource and was used by many.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on March 23, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Carter commented as follows:

- Congratulations to the Lady Bearcats on their Championship win, the first time since 1986.
- She encouraged everyone to check out the BCPS Facebook Pages and our Spring Into Kindergarten efforts. Each student enrolled will receive a BCPS 2023 Future Bearcat-t-shirt.
- Congratulations to the Springfield Advanced Band for receiving all 1's at Festival last Friday, and also to their Director.
- The Urban League Dinner was a great success. It was great to celebrate our own students. She thanked Kyra Wallace for putting on a wonderful event!

- She encouraged everyone to be advocates of Census 2020, every day until it's over. The Census is very important to school and allowing them to receive public funds for Special Education programs, Kindergarten, etc. The survey is available online and completing it online will avoid have Census representatives knocking on your door.

Information about the Census will be sent home with our students and will be provided in English, Spanish and Burmese. April 1st is Census Day, Superintendent Carter finished with "Be Counted In!"

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Jacqueline Slaby shared information about funding opportunities for residents, specifically Senior homeowners with special education students age 17 and under. There are specific loans available to these individuals. There will be informational meetings as follows:

- March 10th at 10:00am at Neighborhoods, Inc.
- March 12th at 2:00pm at Neighborhoods, Inc.
- March 12th at 6:00pm at 7615 Morgan Road, Battle Creek
- March 18th at 6:00pm at Neighborhoods, Inc.

Kyra Wallace indicated she wanted to echo Superintendent Carter on Congratulating the Girls Basketball Team and the Springfield Advanced Band. Kyra also noted the Forensics Team took 2nd Place at their competition.

Kyra Wallace thanked Battle Creek Public Schools for their support of the Urban League.

Catherine LaValley commented as follows:

- She shared that April 1st is the last day to purchase tickets for the Hall of Fame Banquet. She also mentioned Access Vision will be filming this event.
- She wished the Lady Bearcats good luck at Districts, noting they played three (3) games last week.
- She reported the Career Academies Council met on March 5th and had a great meeting. Catherine LaValley mentioned she will need someone to attend the June 23rd meeting from 9:00-11:00am in her absence. This group includes the community and CEO's from several area businesses.
- The CASB Association will meet on Wednesday, March 11th, and will be voting on the Professional and Citizen Awards for this year. The Award Dinner will be the last Wednesday in April at 6:00pm at Homer High School. Catherine LaValley will share the information with Patti Worden, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board, to provide to the Board once it is available. Spouses/significant others are welcome to attend.
- She read to Mrs. Murdock's Kindergarten Class and had a great time. She confused students because she read a book titled "Bad Dog" and there was a picture of a cat on the book cover.
- She encouraged everyone to read as much as they can, since it is Reading Month, and was pleased Superintendent Carter invited people to share what they are reading.

- She congratulated the BCPS Staff on a valuable workshop with the Michigan Department of Education on March 2nd. The District gave a wonderful presentation and it was eye opening to know we are right on track, excellent work!

Charlie Fulbright encouraged Board Members, parents and the community to volunteer to read in our schools, especially this month for Reading Month, but whenever possible as well.

Charlie Fulbright noted March is Women's History Month. He thanked women who serve as advocates for their service.

Charlie Fulbright noted the Michigan Primary is tomorrow and reminded everyone to remember to vote.

Meeting adjourned – 6:45 p.m.

Submitted by
Patti Worden

Kyra Wallace
Board Secretary