

**BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Regular Meeting**

**May 18, 2020**

**Meeting held electronically pursuant to Executive Order 2020-15**

**Zoom identification number Meeting ID: 826 4307 2618**

**5:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT – BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Karen Evans

Catherine LaValley

Kyra Wallace

Patty Poole-Gray

Art McClenney

Jackie Slaby

Absent

Charlie Fulbright

**Present – Administration**

Kim Carter – Superintendent

Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education

Deborah Nuzzi, Director, Secondary 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

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 5:31 p.m. Karen Evans, Catherine LaValley, Kyra Wallace, Patty Poole-Gray, Art McClenney and Jackie Slaby were present. Charlie Fulbright was absent.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Vice President Catherine LaValley made a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of item A under Reports and item F under New Business, Retention Incentive for Secretaries, District Administrators, Professional Employees and Other Staff.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

Superintendent Carter explained the transparency is based on new information received from the Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference, which will require this to be a budget revision.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Vice President Catherine LaValley made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda Items:

- A. Trust Fund/Comerica (Written only)
- B. Minutes of the Work Session on April 13, 2020 and Regular Meeting on April 27, 2020
- C. Bills for the Month of April 2020
- D. Personnel Changes and Recognition of Retirees
- E. Membership Report
- F. Finance Report
- G. Approval of A.O. Jones Scholarship Applications

Secretary Kyra Wallace supported the motion.

Roll Call Vote.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

## **REPORTS**

### Approval of L-4029 Tax Rate Form

Laura Ash discussed the L-4029 Tax Rate Form which sets the millage rate to be collected on our July and December tax collections for the 2020-2021 school year. The millage rate recommendations are:

General Fund – 18 mills with 9 being collected in July and the remaining 9 in December

Sinking Fund – 2 mills with 1 being collected in July and the remaining 1 in December

Debt Fund – 4 mills with 2 being collected in July and the remaining 2 in December

Laura advised these numbers are consistent with what was approved in prior fiscal years with no changes whatsoever.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **BCAMSC New Course Approval**

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi discussed the required Honors Global Climate Change Course and reported the BCAMSC team came to this decision after a thorough review. There is a need to add something so students have the opportunity to learn next generation science standards and this is a very developed course.

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the Honors Global Climate Change Course, needed to meet the NGSS Standards, as proposed by Dr. Nuzzi and the BCAMSC staff.

Trustee Jackie Slaby supported the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

### **Communications Budget**

Nathan Hunt discussed the Communication Budget presented at the Work Session on May 11, 2020.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked if the District received the information requested at the last meeting about how the additional funds would be allocated.

Nathan Hunt apologized for the delay and reported he asked Patti Worden, Board Secretary, to send an email late this afternoon sharing this information.

Superintendent Carter indicated we would be happy to answer any questions the Board has.

Vice President Catherine LaValley commented that Superintendent Carter's radio ad on WBCK 95.3FM has been tremendous. Her enthusiasm is genuine and it says lots of good information for us.

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve up to \$150,000 for the supplemental Fenton communications as presented to the Board last week, with the WKKF Grant Funds as the Funding Source.

Secretary Kyra Wallace supported the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 5 – 1**

**2020-2021 Chartwell Food Service Agreement (Year 2)**

Laura Ash discussed the Chartwell Food Service Agreement which will be coming from the State of Michigan. Board approval is needed to authorize Superintendent Carter to sign the Year 2 Chartwell Agreement once received. The management fee is \$148,920.00 for a 10 month period and the funds will come from the Food Service budget.

President Karen Evans confirmed that Board Members understood they were authorizing Superintendent Carter to sign the Chartwell Agreement when it is received. All Board Members commented they understood.

Motion by Secretary Kyra Wallace to approve authorizing Superintendent Carter to sign the Chartwell Food Service Agreement for Year 2 in the amount of \$148,920.00 with the Food Service Fund as the Funding Source.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray supported the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

**Lit Camp (Scholastic program) At Home and Digital Companions for Grades K-5 Summer School**

Dr. Chandra Youngblood discussed the Lit Camp program as presented to the Board last week and indicated we are requesting approval tonight to move forward with the Elementary Summer School program using an online version of Lit Camp for up to \$24,000.00 with the funds coming from the CARES ACT Funds.

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the purchase of the Lit Camp at Home and Digital Companions for all Kindergarten through 5th students who are registered for summer school in the amount of \$24,000.00 with CARES ACT Funds as the Funding Source.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray supported the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

**Contract Addendum for NEP**

Superintendent Carter discussed the service extension of the NEP Contract to expand the skills and capacity of the District Equity Leadership Team to strategically design and support the District's approach and capacity to interrupt systems that produce inequities and re-design/ design new systems to produce transformation and positive changes in student outcomes and to provide professional development for teachers on teaching and learning strategies that address the inequities in student outcomes and positively impact learning.

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the service extension of the NEP Contract for work with the District Equity Leadership Team and to provide professional development for teachers in the amount of \$25,000.00 with the WKKF Grant as the Funding Sources.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray supported the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 5 – 1**

**Approval of L-4029 Tax Rate Form**

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the L-4029 Tax Rate Form as presented this evening.

Secretary Kyra Wallace supported the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comments were submitted online via Facebook Live.

President Karen Evans read the following comment aloud:

Melissa Sheppard-Morris  
168 Battle Creek Ave.

Melissa's comment was: why we are not being more informed about the Class of 2020 Graduates? They have lost things that we look forward to our whole childhood lives.

President Karen Evans thanked Melissa for her comment and indicated someone would get back with her, if needed.

**SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Superintendent Carter shared it is pretty appropriate her announcements are around the BCCHS Graduation efforts. She reported:

- At Battle Creek Public Schools, it is extremely important to us that we recognize and celebrate our Seniors. There is a Team of teachers and staff members who have been meeting on a regular basis to design a recognition celebration to make sure all Seniors know we see them and celebrate them.
- We don't know what the Governor will do with the stay-home order, or what the public health crisis will mandate so we are putting several plans in place. She is working with the Communications Team this week regarding a posting of all opportunities, including dates, by the end of the week.

- If social distancing is relaxed in June and July, it is important to the District to have an in-person Graduation ceremony. We have set back up dates on June 26th and July 24th for a BCCHS Graduation ceremony. We cannot provide any other details at this time since it will depend on public health details.
- This Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, families can pick up Caps and Gowns. Interested parties should visit the BCCHS website for specifics.
- The District has ordered yard signs for every Senior, so the community can join us in celebrating them.
- We have created a Virtual Celebration of our Seniors that will air next week on Thursday, May 28th, between 1-2:30 live on Facebook. There are additional online celebrations on Facebook and Instagram. We will continue to provide additional opportunities through our social campaigns.

Superintendent Carter invited everyone to participate in the BCCHS Preview Show. The first session was tonight just prior to the Board Meeting. This is a Freshmen Academy Preview Show that will air every day this week at 5:00pm to preview the Academy, talk about the Link Crew, Meet the Staff and provide great insight into what is happening at Battle Creek Central High School. The Preview Show will also run every day next week at 5:00pm and will highlight the Career Academies and Athletics. She is very proud of the work the BCCHS Team has done with this Preview Show.

Superintendent Carter shared she can't leave a Board Meeting without celebrating our Food Service Team. We are 60 days into this situation and they have served 316,070 meals. They go above and beyond and this is an Amazing Accomplishment in the midst of a crisis. It confirms our families are essential and that we continue to meet their needs. This effort will continue into the Summer as well.

Superintendent Carter advised the SEED Awards are not going to go by without recognition. The ceremony has been postponed to September. She thanked the community members who continue to work on this awesome opportunity.

Superintendent Carter thanked the BCPS Education Foundation who continue to meet and make sure students have access to college scholarships and increase college access.

Superintendent Carter commented that Great Things are continuing to happen at BCPS and BCPS is definitely the place to be and the place to stay!

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Vice President Catherine LaValley shared the Michael Miller Memorial Foundation is having a bottle/can collection from now until May 31, 2020. This Foundation was formed to honor a Battle Creek Central Bearcat who loved football, bowling and Battle Creek Central. The Foundation's focus is helping to beat childhood brain cancer. Those interested in donating can contact Catherine LaValley or check out the Michael Miller Memorial Foundation Facebook page for the number to call. The Foundation is organizing pickup of bottles/cans or you can deliver them.

Vice President Catherine LaValley wanted to wish all 2020 Seniors the very best, noting they have shown us how strong they are. They are missing important moments of their Senior careers and our thoughts are with them. She is very proud of our new Bearcats who will be graduating soon and is so happy for each and every one of them.

Trustee Jackie Slaby wanted to congratulate the Class of 2020, it is well deserved and she sends best wishes to each on their future endeavors.

President Karen Evans commented that she loves our traditional Pomp and Circumstance ceremony. She is enjoying the Senior profiles on the High School Facebook page and feels like she is getting to know the Senior class a little bit. President Karen Evans congratulated all Seniors and she hopes to get together next month and physically shake each of their hands.

President Karen Evans discussed the SEED Awards, noting the Team is getting the Applications out and will work to get them reviewed. The Team hopes to have an announcement of the Recipients by the end of August and to be back in September and to have a celebration assembly then.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57pm.

Submitted by  
Patti Worden

Kyra Wallace  
Board Secretary