

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Work Session

October 14, 2019

3rd Floor Board Room, Administration Building 3 West Van Buren, Battle Creek, MI

5:30 p.m.

PRESENT - BOARD OF EDUCATION

Karen Evans

Catherine LaValley

Patty Poole-Gray

Charlie Fulbright

Art McClenney

Kyra Wallace

Absent

Jacqueline Slaby

Present – Administration

Kimberly M. Carter – Superintendent

Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education

Deborah Nuzzi – Director, Secondary Education

Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services

Anita Harvey – Director, District Transformation

Nathan Hunt – Communications Manager

Mitch Fowler – Director, School Data Systems & Innovations

Laura Ash – Executive Director, Financial Services

Cheryl Johnson – Chief Human Resource Officer

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Evans at 5:30 p.m. All board members were present except Jacqueline Slaby and an additional 14 community and staff were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Catherine LaValley supported the motion.

Motion passed 6– 0

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REPORTS

- A. 2018-19 AUDIT – Mr. Matthew Kelly from Plante Moran presented the audit for 2018-19. The district is doing a great job. Congratulations to BCPS.

- B. INSTRUMENT REPLACEMENT - Dr. Deborah Nuzzi stated that music education has long been an important part of education for BCPS students. From the Pride of the State marching band, to chorale, jazz band, and the annual Band Follies, Bearcats for generations have had

their lives and educations enriched by the BCPS music programs. Our music program is in dire need of new instruments after several years of love and use by our students. It is recommended that we purchase new instruments to replace broken and old instruments. The cost of the will be \$24,315 to be paid by the WKKF Grant.

- C. KIDS READ NOW SUMMER READING CONTRACT – Dr. Chandra Youngblood stated that for the last two summers, Battle Creek Public Schools used contracted services to conduct the Summer Slide Reading Program with Kids Read Now after years of having independently implemented the Summer Slide Reading Program. The contracting of the services made the process of purchasing books, mailing books to students throughout the summer and collecting data for monitoring the program throughout the summer months much more efficient. Although, we usually sign the contract in the spring, by signing early we can save \$6000 in early bird discounts. We are in the 3rd year of the three year United Way Early Grade Reading (K-3) Grant and have these funds available by taking advantage of the discounts we can allocate these additional funds to our purchasing Literacy night books for Preschool, 4th and 5th grade students. The cost of the contract is \$63,756 and will be paid through United Way EGRAP (Early Grade Reading Achievement Program).
- D. UNITED WAY 18-19 YEAR END REPORT – Wes Seeley discussed the United Way Programs – Breakfast in the Classroom, Early Grade Reading Achievement Program (EGRAP) and Multi-Tiered System of Support.
- E. MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDIO / VISUAL REFRESH – Mitch Fowler stated that as part of the BCPS’s commitment to providing a world-class infrastructure, the Department of Technology, Student Data, and Innovation would like to recommend that BCPS enter into a partnership with Digital Age Technologies (DAT) in order to install upgraded audio/visual equipment in learning spaces at NWMS and SMS. This upgrade will provide students and staff with a consistent and predictable audio and visual experience. The cost of this upgrade will be \$176,687 and will be paid through the WKKF Grant.
- F. BCCHS SECURITY CAMERA REPLACEMENT – Mitch Fowler stated that student safety is important to BCPS. After completing an audit of BCCHS’s security cameras, it was found that the cameras needed to be replaced to ensure consistent and reliable security footage. The cost of the camera replacement is \$12,367 and will be paid through the WKKF Grant.
- G. 2020-2021 BCCHS COURSE GUIDEBOOK – Dr. Deborah Nuzzi we through the 2020-21 course guidebook with the board highlighting specific changes or additions to course offerings.
- H. SKILLED MAINTENANCE & FOOD SERVICES AGREEMENT – Laura Ash stated that the BCESPA, MEA/NEA represents skilled maintenance staff and food service staff that are within five years of retirement, as specified in the collective bargaining agreement, employed by Battle Creek Public Schools (the “District”). The BCESPA agreement expires June 30, 2022. The Agreement has a wage and insurance re-opener 2021-22. The district’s bargaining team followed the negotiations goals approved by the Board during the 2018-19 collective bargaining season. This affects approximately 16 people.
- I. CONSTRUCTION MANAGER FOR BCCHS HEALTHCARE SIMULATION LAB – Laura Ash stated to the board that BCPS recently received \$842,858 from the Marshall Plan for a healthcare simulation lab at the high school. The lab will provide hands-on experiences for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and Certified Nursing Assistance (CAN) programs. The district will need to convert a classroom on the 3rd floor of the high school into eight

hospital rooms for student instruction. The District is working with Elite Companies as construction manager for the project. Elite will complete all Requests for Proposals, make recommendations on sub-contractor selections, design timelines, monitor progress to make sure that timelines are met, monitor project safety so student/staff members are safe at all times, complete field inspections, file necessary construction permits, product review to ensure quality materials are used for the construction phase, and weekly updates provided to the owner and architectural and engineering firm. The cost is \$24,000 and will be paid through the WKKF Grant.

- J. ARCHITECTURAL SERVICE FOR BCCHS SIMULATION HEALTH LAB – Laura Ash stated that the district needs to convert a classroom into eight hospital rooms for student instruction. The district has worked with C2AE/TMP architectural and engineering services in completing the most recent bond project at the high school. We are asking the board to approve architectural and engineering services from C2AE/TMP in the amount of \$18,500 to be paid through the WKKF Grant.
- K. REVIEW OF 2019-20 BOARD CALENDAR – Superintendent Carter stated to the board that there was just one addition to the calendar. On May 18, the meeting will involve the Superintendent’s self-evaluation and on June 15, we will have a special board meeting to discuss the Superintendent Evaluation. Superintendent Carter gave the board a copy of the monthly calendar that her cabinet highlight items to share with the board to see if any members of the board wanted to add any items for discussion.
- L. 2019-20 DISTRICT SCORECARD & GOAL – Superintendent Carter stated to the board that it is her recommendation that we stay on the path with the goals that had been outlined in the Strategic plan and not deviate from that. Other measures can be reviewed and adjusted we the strategic plan is altered.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Thanked the staff at the schools for all of their continued hard work; discussed the Hall of Fame Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser; and reminded the board of the BCPSEF tailgate that will take place this Friday (October 18) at 5 p.m. in the High School Commons.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Patty Poole Gray – Visited Dudley and NWMS and was highly impressed with the security in both of those schools; attended the Management and Oversight of the Superintendent workshop in Lansing this past Wednesday. It is a workshop recommended for all board members.

Charlie Fulbright – Also discussed the BCPSEF tailgate but added that there are extended hours so if you don’t go before the game, you may stop by afterward. They will be in the HS commons until 8 p.m.; and reminded the board of the Habitat Build on Saturday, October 19. It will be at 390 Avenue A in Springfield from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Art McClenney – Discussed the Hall of Fame Spaghetti Dinner on October 22 at Barista Blues beginning at 5 p.m. Tickets are available at the door.

Catherine LaValley – Also highlighted the spaghetti dinner, attended the girls high school swim meet, attend the Post Foundation fundraiser and found it to be a huge success; reminded the board that the

reservations for the CASBMA dinner need to be turned in this Wednesday; and stated she had additional questions regarding the audit but would discuss in a different setting.

President Evans – And with that, meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Submitted by: Gloria O. Wilkerson

Kyra Wallace, Board Secretary