

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Work Session

March 11, 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
Kyra Wallace
Patty Poole-Gray
Charlie Fulbright

Absent

Jacqueline Slaby
Art McClenney

Present – Administration

Kimberly M. Carter – Superintendent
Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education
Deborah Nuzzi – Director, Secondary Education
Chad Osborn – Facilities Director
Heather Hudson – Executive Director, Human Resources
Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services
Anita Harvey – Director, District Transformation
Nathan Hunt – Communications Manager
Mitch Fowler – Director, School Data Systems & Innovations

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Evans at 5:30 p.m. All board members present except Jacqueline Slaby and Art McClenney.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Catherine LaValley made a motion to approve the agenda with the following changes: Add G. Year 3 Renewal of Rigorous Curriculum Design and H. Spanish Curriculum and Consulting Support under V. Reports.

Charlie Fulbright supported the motion.

Motion passed 5 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Casey Bess – in support of the positive changes happening at the high schools.
Karolynn Ferguson – talked about the Spaghetti fundraiser and the banquet for the Hall of Fame.

NASHVILLE ACADEMIES VISIT

President Evans discussed the Nashville Academies visit. Nashville School district has been using this model for 12 years. It was refreshing to note that change does occur.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PROPOSAL

Superintendent Carter went over the information regarding Governor Whitmer's budget proposal and how it will impact education. Talking points were discussed in favor of supporting this proposal.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- Dr. Chandra Youngblood discussed the summer reading program. She stated that based on Kids Read Now, participating students saw significant and substantial improvements in reading scores versus non-participants; students gained 1.8 days worth of reading skills for every book they reported reading over the summer; and students who read all nine books saw an increase of 16 days of reading skills as compared to those that reported no books read.
- Dr. Chandra Youngblood stated that BCPS is once again implementing a Summer Slide Reading Program during the summer of 2019. By engaging student in reading throughout the summer, the goal is to reduce the effects of the "Summer Slide", where student lose academic skills and knowledge over the summer. The cost of the program is up to \$73,395 and will be paid from the United Way EGRAP grant.
- Chad Osborn stated to the board that when 13 classroom units were upgraded several years ago, the heating/cooling was not connected to the building management system. In order to adjust the heating or cooling for those rooms, they had to be adjusted manually. It is recommended that the board approve the 13 classrooms to be connected to the building management system by ControlNet. The cost is \$11,000 and will be paid from the Sinking Fund.
- Dr. Deborah Nuzzi stated that 17 students from Springfield Middle School would like to attend Washington, DC, June 19 – 23, 2019. The cost for each student is \$940 and they have raised all the money themselves. This trip will not cost the district anything. Jason Moose is the instructor and there will be an additional two chaperones attending.
- Chad Osborn, in the absence of Laura Ash, presented to the board the service agreement for custodial services with GCA. The total amount of the contract is \$1,896,347 to be paid from Operations and Maintenance.
- Brenda DeMott, in the absence of Laura Ash, presented to the board the Calhoun ISD 2019-20 General Fund Budget. She stated that the Michigan Complied Law (MCL) 380.624 requires each local school district to adopt a resolution, following the review, which indicates the board's support or disapproval of the ISD Budget.
- Superintendent Carter asked the board to approve the proposal submitted by HMH (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) to revise and refine our 9-12 ELA curriculums over the summer of 2019 for the 2019-20 school year. The cost of this work will be funded by a Michigan Department of Education grant specifically written to support curriculum development.
- Dr. Anita Harvey stated that research began by analyzing the finding from Marilyn Castillo, an external consultant who presented to the elementary magnet curriculum team in August of 2018. Two of the curricular resources that Ms. Castillo suggested – Calico Spanish and Sonrisas Spanish – responded to the RFP and submitted proposals; Calico Spanish was

selected. It is recommended that the board approve the purchasing of the basal resources from Calico Spanish and begin outlining the work alongside Ms. Celeste Green, founder of Spanish for Kids, who currently leads all Spanish instruction and foreign language instruction at Ypsilanti International Elementary Schools. She has also volunteered to help with hiring for the Spanish teacher position and share the posting throughout her network to attract additional candidates. The cost of this service will be \$15,801 and will be paid from the WKKF grant.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karolynn Ferguson – Stated that the ticket purchase deadline for the Hall of Fame banquet is April 1. There are only 50 spots left.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Carter stated that the district is beginning to announce the end of the school year has been extended to June 11 as the last day for all schools except NWMS, whose last day is June 12. Shout out to Jen Gregor for working with the students with International Woman's Day grade walk-outs; congratulations are extended to the new Honor Roll Society Inductees and the staff who work tirelessly with them; and to a job well done by the lady bearcats that battled to the end of the basketball season.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Kyra Wallace – Shout out to the Forensics team who participated in two tournaments this past week end and placed.

Patty Poole-Gray – Congratulations to Dudley, Post Franklin and NWMS on their black history programs.

Charlie Fulbright – Reminded the board of the Adult Education graduation to be held on Friday, March 22, at 6 p.m. in the Miller Stone building,

Catherine LaValley – Congratulated the 34 National Honor inductees, kudos to the lady bearcats, will be reading to students at Post Franklin and Verona during this month of March.

President Evans – Reiterated the Adult Ed graduation on March 22; March is reading month and she will be at Post Franklin on the 28th; Hall of Fame Spaghetti dinner at Barista Blues on March 26 and the Hall of Fame Dinner on April 27. Tickets are \$35 and the final date of purchase is April 1.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Submitted by: Gloria O. Wilkerson

Kyra Wallace, Board Secretary