

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Work Session

April 8, 2019

Board Room, 3rd Floor Admin Building, 3 Van Buren West, Battle Creek, MI 49107

5:30 p.m.

PRESENT - BOARD OF EDUCATION

Karen Evans
Catherine LaValley
Kyra Wallace
Patty Poole-Gray
Charlie Fulbright
Art McClenney

Absent

Jacqueline Slaby

Present – Administration

Kimberly M. Carter – Superintendent
Dr. Deborah Nuzzi – Director, Secondary Education
Laura Ash – Executive Director, Financial Services
Chad Osborn – Director, Facilities, Maintenance & Technology
Mitch Fowler – Director, School Data Systems & Innovations
Dr. Anita Harvey – Director, District Transformation
Nathan Hunt – Communications Manager
Heather Hudson – Executive Director, Human Resources

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Evans at 5:33 p.m. All board members present except Trustee Jacqueline Slaby. There were an additional five members of the community present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Catherine LaValley made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Charlie Fulbright supported the motion.

Motion passed 6 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karolynn Ferguson – The Hall of Fame Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser was a success. \$1700 was raised for scholarships. Reminder – the Hall of Fame banquet will be held on Saturday, April 27 at 6 p.m. For the first time, it has sold completely out!

REPORTS

- A. Laura Ash stated that there was a clause in Dean Transportation contract that said the district could extend the contract for five years. She asked the board to consider extending the contract with Dean Transportation for another five years in the amount of \$2,178,556 to be paid from the General Fund.

- B. Laura Ash explained to the board that since the announcement of the outsourcing of Food Services and Maintenance, there has been an increase in absenteeism. She asked the board to approve an addendum to the BCESPA contract to allow an incentive of \$1000 for no more than two call-offs from March 30 – June 30. The total cost would be \$27,898 and will be paid from the General Fund.
- C. Jeff English explained to the board the significant growth at Cereal City Science. With an anticipated additional 18% growth for next year, the annual paper volume must increase. He asked the board to approve \$125,430 for paper stock which will be paid from Cereal City General Fund.
- D. Jeff English stated to the board that living organisms support the activities outlined in the K – 5th grade curriculum. He asked the board to approve entering into a three-year agreement with Berkshire to provide live organisms to support the LIFE Science order fulfillment process. The cost is \$64,635 annually and will be paid from the Cereal City Science General Fund.
- E. Dr. Anita Harvey stated to the board that great things are happening at BCPS. With the opening of Fremont International Academy, technology needs to be purchased to support the learning of the building. This purchase plan will provide technology for the full Fremont International Academy programming; the only exclusion is the 1:1 rollout of Chromebook laptops that will need to be purchased as we grow by one grade each year (3rd grade in 2020-21; 4th grade in 2021-22; 5th grade in 2022-23). She asked the board to approve \$196,460 for technology at Fremont International Academy to be paid from the WKKF grant.
- F. Dr. Anita Harvey stated to the board that in order to create an integrated STEM, inquiry-based, flexible, innovative and engineering design focused student experience, the implementation team has created a comprehensive technology plan. This plan positions BC STEM Innovation Center with a high-tech, responsive platform specifically designed to deliver our desired program outcomes. The technology cost will be up to \$274,349 and paid for with the WKKF grant.
- G. Dr. Anita Harvey stated to the board that we know that a critical piece for increasing our students' reading achievement is to have high quality classroom libraries. As part of our district transformation efforts, we have committed to establishing classroom libraries of at least 1500 books in our K-8 classrooms in four Phases over the course of the next three years. It is recommended that the Board approve Phases 1-4 of this three year plan to purchase books for the K-8 classroom libraries. This purchase would provide 123 classroom libraries with at least 1500 books by the end of the 2021-2022 school year:
 - Phase 1 (2018-2019 grant year): up to \$159,000
 - Phase 2 (2019-2020 grant year): up to \$192,000
 - Phase 3 (2020-2021 grant year): up to \$206, 500
 - Phase 4 (2021-2022 grant year): up to \$206,500

The total cost of the libraries will be \$764,000 to be paid from the WKKF grant.

- H. Wes Seeley stated to the board that during AJK's Cycle I Review, they identified Success For All as a requested resource the help them implement systems for rapidly improving student achievement. The total estimated cost for Success For All is \$68,245 and will be paid with RAG (Regional Assistance Grant) Funds.

- I. Christian Manley stated to the board that Renaissance Learning is a partner of Battle Creek Public Schools committed to supporting quality reading experiences for our students in grades K-8. The Renaissance Learning proposal is for the district to continue the use of Accelerated Reader and the STAR assessment for all students K-8. The cost to renew the program is \$141,273.78 to be paid from the WKKF grant. This cost is different than the original proposed cost of \$117,528.05 due to adding Fremont International Academy and BC Stem. The updated cost will be recommended for approval at the next board meeting.
- J. Christian Manley stated to the board that BCPS adopted Math Expressions as its math curricular resource for all K-5 students in the Fall of 2017. Like the original purchase, the proposal outlines a 6 year renewal for student consumable, and online access, and all teachers' materials/manipulatives necessary to successfully implement the program. It is important that there is alignment among all ELA and Math curricular materials being used to teach our students across all buildings. She asked that the board would approve the Math Expressions curricular resources for Fremont International Academy. The cost is \$34,503.65 to be paid from the WKKF grant.
- K. Christian Manley stated to the board that BCPS adopted Journeys as its ELA curricular resource for all K-5 students in the Fall of 2014. The proposal outlines a 6 year renewal for student consumable, and online access, and all teachers' materials/manipulatives necessary to successfully implement the program. She asked that the board would approve the purchase of Journeys ELA curriculum for Fremont International Academy. The cost is \$29,380.91 to be paid from the WKKF grant.
- L. Dr. Deborah Nuzzi stated to the board that in seeking a model for transformation of WK Prep Alternative High School, the Bronx Arena Alternative High School model was identified as an exemplar for student learning and diploma completion. A small group from BCPS visited in January to determine if the research seemed to be consistent with reality and the consensus is that it is truly an exemplar and could benefit the support and success of all students at WK Preparatory Academy. This recommendation is for the second of two school visits to the Bronx Arena Alternative High School by a group from BCPS. While it does not meet the threshold of the Board of Education from an expenditure level, this recommendation includes traveling out of state with two WK Prep Students. It is important that the BOE is involved in this approval for that fact.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Congratulations to Post Franklin staff and students for an excellent community reading day. It was exciting to see community members from Battle Creek and Kalamazoo join in to bring reading to life for students.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Catherine LaValley – Attended the Post-Franklin community reading event and was very impressed with the variety of book titles available; a believer in fine literacy and this was an exceptional event.

Kyra Wallace – Enjoyed reading at Post-Franklin; informed the board that the Battle Creek Central's Theatre team will perform Hair Spray, April 26-28; and the Forensics team will attend regional as well as state competitions.

Charlie Fulbright – Congratulated Superintendent Carter on receiving the STARR Award that will be presented to her this Thursday at STARR Commonwealth.

Karen Evans – Post Franklin really know how to put on a show – over 50 community members in attendance; congratulations to Superintendent Carter for receiving the Stand Tall STARR award; the SEED banquet will be held on Friday, May 3 at 5 pm, Battle Creek Central commons; the Hall of Fame banquet will be held on Saturday, April 27, 6 pm; and the Joint Task Force combined meeting will be held June 18 at 5 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Submitted by: Gloria O. Wilkerson

Kyra Wallace, Board Secretary