

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Work Session

February 11, 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

Absent

Jacqueline Slaby
Art McClenney

Present – Administration

Kimberly M. Carter – Superintendent
Dr. Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education
Dr. Deborah Nuzzi – Director, Secondary Education
Laura Ash – Executive Director, Financial Services
Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services
Chad Osborn – Director, Facilities, Maintenance & Technology
Mitch Fowler – Director, School Data Systems & Innovations
Dr. Anita Harvey – Director, District Transformation
Nathan Hunt – Communications Manager

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Evans at 5:33 p.m. All board members present
Trustee Jacqueline Slaby and Trustee Art McClenney.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Catherine LaValley made a motion to approve the agenda with the change of wording on Item VII.
Change the word “negotiations” to Attorney/Client Privilege.

Kyra Wallace supported the motion.

Motion passed 5 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCUSSION ITEM

President Evans brought the discussion to the board of allowing for public comments at the end of the meeting as well as the beginning. The rationale behind this was to accommodate community members arriving after the initial Public Comment portion of the agenda.

The consensus of the Board members present was that beginning February 25, public comments will also be taken right before the superintendent comments.

REPORTS

- A. Jeff English discussed with the board that given the sales growth of the business, Cereal City Science needs to convert the garage space to an area for storing inventory and finished goods. The project would involve installing an interior access door to the garage space. The cost of the project would be \$11,950 with the funding source being the Cereal City Building and Site Fund.
- B. 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, our implementation team has created a comprehensive furnishing plan. The plan would create spaces specifically designed to deliver the desired program outcomes, including but not limited to rigorous learning, engaged learners, creating the necessary technology interface/intersections to minimize/eliminate any need to facility spend and responsive just-in time learning environments for students and staff. The cost of this project would be up to \$534,582 using the WKKF grant as the funding source.
- C. Deborah Evans presented to the board the Innovation Centers School Mint Briefing. The purpose of this was to demonstrate the parent's application process for admission into the STEM Innovation Center or Fremont International Academy.
- D. Dr. Anita Harvey stated to the board that in preparation for the reopening of Fremont Elementary as Fremont International Academy in the Fall of 2019, the team need to purchase furnishings designed to create a welcoming safe and engaging learning environment. The plan will provide furnishings from implementation through the 5th grade class in 2022-2023. The goal is to purchase durable, high-quality furniture that will enhance student learning while complementing the renovations taking place throughout the building. The recommendation includes furniture for all classrooms, library, computer lab, main office reception, and other educational spaces. The cost of this project is up to \$346,800 using the WKKF grant as the funding source.
- E. Wes Seeley discussed with the board that Ann J Kellogg Elementary requests to purchase System 44 to support the increased needs in its reading intervention classes. System 44 Next Generation is the proven foundational reading program designed for the most challenged readers in Grades 3 – 12+. Based on AJK's most current cycle review, they identified the need to use System 44 for a deeper diagnostic on students' reading skills and to determine needed individual reading interventions. They currently own 20 System 44 licenses, an additional 64 System 44 licenses are needed. The cost of these licenses is \$43,660.23 and will come from AJK's Title I budget.
- F. Wes Seeley stated to the board that with new studies and discoveries on learning abilities surfacing, it's imperative for educators continue their learning about trends in their students' development. The ASCD (Association Supervision Curriculum & Development) conference will help our administrators find best practices to help renew/rekindle their strive for achievement in their buildings. Principals will commit to taking the learning from the conference back to their respective building to implement transformational strategies. The recommendation is for thirteen people to attend the ASCD Empower 19 Conference in Chicago IL, March 16-18, 2019. The total cost is estimated to be \$24,000 to be paid from the Title II

cost center.

Catherine LaValley made a motion to approve to send thirteen people to the ASCD Empower 19 Conference in Chicago, March 16-18. This conference will be paid from Title II funds in the amount of \$24,000, and is being approved tonight due to registration deadlines.

Kyra Wallace supported that motion.

Motion passed 5 – 0

- G. Wes Seeley stated to the board that Valley View Elementary requests to purchase additional Chromebooks and charging carts to support the increased needs for project-based learning, research and application opportunities, and web-based intervention programs. The purchase of these computers will provide 1-1 devices for the 3rd through 5th grade students, and will allow them to reallocate Chromebooks to the K-2nd grade classrooms. The reallocation of resources will allow the kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade classrooms an increase in technology to support intervention and the development of technology based application skills needed at the higher grade levels. The cost is up to \$88,970 and will be taken from Valley View's title I fund.
- H. Wes Seeley stated to the board that the Model Schools Conference is a yearly conference that highlights schools and districts that are beating the odds when it comes to academics and achievement. Springfield Middle School has sent a team the last two years and implemented strategies learned in all areas of the school. It is recommended that the board approve the participation of SMS's principal, assistant principal, instructional coach, and five ILT – eight people in total, at the Model Schools Conference in Washington, DC, June 23-26, 2019. The total cost will be \$13,670 and will be taken from SMS's Title I fund.
- I. Wes Seeley stated to the board that the Post-Franklin Elementary identified a need to provide more of its teachers with training in evidence-based reading instructional practices. It is recommended that the board approve Post-Franklin sending five staff members and its principal to the Orton-Gillingham training in Grand Rapids, Michigan on February 28 – March 1, 2019. The total cost for registration, hotel, travel and food is estimated to be \$13,375. All expenses will be paid from Post-Franklin's Title I budget.

Catherine LaValley made a motion to approve to eight people to the Orton-Gillingham training in Grand Rapids, February 28 – March 1. This conference will be paid from Post-Franklin's Title I funds in the amount of \$13,375 and is being approved tonight due to registration deadlines.

Patty Poole-Gray supported that motion.

Motion passed 5 – 0

- J. Wes Seeley gave the board an overview of the United Way Basic Needs grant application. The grant will cover things like Breakfast in the Classroom and Weekend Food packs.
- K. Laura Ash presented the General Fund Budget Overview for the 18-19 Budget Revision.

NEW BUSINESS

Laura Ash stated to the board that during the week of January 28 – February 1, school was canceled due to the weather. Many hourly positions are filled by staff contracted through EduStaff, a third party staffing agency. Because BCPS appreciates the work and commitment of its contracted and hourly staff, and in recognition of the hardship of an unexpected and extended closure, we recommend the

district pay a non-precedent setting stipend for the week of January 28 – February 1 equal to 80% (four days) of what they would have earned had they worked that week. This one-time payment of \$30,987 will impact the General Fund.

Before a motion was made, Charlie Fulbright and Patty Poole-Gray decided to abstain from voting as they have family members who would fall in the category of those to be paid. There was not a quorum to vote, so a Special Meeting will be held tomorrow, February 12, to vote on this one item of business.

CLOSED SESSION

Catherine LaValley made a motion to go into closed session to discuss Attorney/Client privilege.

Charlie Fulbright supported that motion.

Motion passed 5 – 0

7:10 p.m.

RECONVENE

Catherine LaValley made a motion to reconvene.

Charlie Fulbright supported that motion.

Motion passed 5 – 0

7:55 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Congratulations to Deb Evans and her team for a very successful STEM program.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Patty Poole-Gray – Completed first level of CBA certification.

Catherine LaValley – Attended in the BCAMSC STEM challenge.

Charlie Fulbright – Attended the morning STEM program, Deb did an amazing job; attend the valentine dance at Post Franklin; reminder that count day is Wednesday, February 13 – attendance matters.

Karen Evans – Attended the Urban League sponsored MLK dinner – Kyra did an excellent job; spoke with Trustee Slaby. She would like to see a more active role in advocacy, maybe invite Jim Haadsma to some of our meetings; looking for dates to schedule Board Retreat will focus on self-evaluation and equity work.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Submitted by: Gloria O. Wilkerson

Catherine LaValley, Board Secretary