

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Work Session
August 10, 2020**

Meeting held electronically pursuant to Executive Order 2020-15

Zoom identification number Meeting ID: 868 6339 1938

5:30 p.m.

PRESENT – BOARD OF EDUCATION

Karen Evans
Catherine LaValley
Patty Poole-Gray
Charlie Fulbright
Art McClenney
Jackie Slaby

Absent

Kyra Wallace

Present – Administration

Kim Carter – Superintendent
Dr. Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education
Anita Harvey - Director, District Transformation
Dr. Deborah Nuzzi, Director, Secondary Education
Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services
Mitch Fowler – Director, School Data Systems & Innovations
Nathan Hunt – Communications Manager
Laura Ash – Executive Director
Cheryl Johnson – Chief Executive Officer, Human Resources
Wes Seeley – Director of Grant, Federal Programs and Adult Education
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, Patty Poole-Gray, Charlie Fulbright, Art McClenney and Jackie Slaby were present. Kyra Wallace was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to amend the Agenda regarding Item E (Calhoun County Wellness). The funding source will be ESSER Funds and At-Risk Funds instead of WKKF/Title I (split) and General Fund; and also to add the WK Kellogg Marquee Replacement as Item C under New Business for approval this evening.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

Discussion

Vice President Catherine LaValley advised she was so happy to see the report in the Board Packet about the Marquee Replacement and that it is on the Agenda tonight. In order to get it going and not wait to start the work until September, that is why she included it for approval tonight so we can start the repair on this valuable sign.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Karen Evans read the Public Comments aloud.

Andy

51 Castle Drive, Springfield

How will you deal with K-5 kids wearing masks for PE and recess? Wearing a mask for PE and recess restricts their breathing.

President Evans thanked Andy for the comment and noted the Board appreciates it.

REPORTS

BCCHS Career Academies Endorsement

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi discussed the BCCHS Career Academies and commented that “Great Things Are Happening at Battle Creek Public Schools!” Dr. Nuzzi noted she was very excited to share the presentation put together by the Career Academies Implementation Team and to discuss the extra components the program offers for students graduating from the Career Academies.

Dr. Nuzzi reported the Career Academies Implementation Team developed several components allowing students to graduate not only with a High School Diploma, but also with a Career Academy Endorsement on their Diploma.

These components will begin for the Class of 2024 and Beyond. Dr. Nuzzi advised there is a way for those graduating sooner than 2024 to achieve this Endorsement.

- Component 1 - Digital Portfolio

The Digital Portfolio is created in alignment with the 21st Century Employability Skills. Students create this portfolio over the course of their Career Academies experience with the lens of demonstrating their career, college and community readiness. This portfolio will be something they take with them upon Graduation, as well as utilize within the Career Academies for mock interviews, industry mentor feedback, job applications and interviews, and their Senior Capstone course.

The Digital Portfolio contains the following components:

- “About Me” Page
- “My Future” Tab
- Resume
- References and Letters of Recommendation
- Demonstration of Competency in Portrait of a BCCHS Graduate Components
- Reflection Upon their Learning

- Component 2 – Career Academies Programming

Students must participate in at least 80% (12/15) of the following BCCHS Career Academies student experiences:

- Career Panels
- Career Exploration Fair
- Mock Interviews
- College Visits
- Declaration Day
- Industry Tour
- Job Shadow
- Sophomore Future Track
- Career Academy Showcase Event
- Career, College and Community Signing Day

- Component 3 – Pathway Internship

BCCHS Career Academies students must complete an internship in accordance with the BCCHS Internship Guidelines.

Pathway Internships may be fulfilled through the following options:

- BCCHS Career Academies Partner Organization Internship
- Goodwill Connects Summer Employment
- Pathway-Related Volunteer Hours
- Student-Sourced Employment
- Career Technical Education (CTS) / Work-based Experience Credit

- Component 4 – Pathway-Related Courses

Students must have an average GPA of 2.0 in pathway-related courses.

- Freshmen Seminar
- Career Connections
- Sophomore Elective per pathway map
- Junior Elective per pathway map
- Senior Elective per pathway map
- Senior Capstone

Students are not held responsible for cancelled events or attendance due to illness. Transfer students are excused from events prior to their enrollment at BCCHS.

- Modifications for the Classes of 2022 and 2023

To ensure equity, requirements for the Classes of 2022 and 2023 will be modified to reflect the following:

Students in the Class of 2022 must fulfill the following requirements to earn a Career Academies Endorsement:

- Complete Digital Portfolio
- Participate in two events – Career Academy Showcase Event and Career, College and Community Signing Day
- Complete a Pathways Internship prior to April 15, 2022
- Have an average GPA of 2.0 in the pathway-related courses of Junior Elective, Senior Elective and Senior Capstone

Students in the Class of 2023 must fulfill the following requirements to earn a Career Academies Endorsement:

- Complete Digital Portfolio
- Participate in two events – Career Academy Showcase Event and Career, College and Community Signing Day
- Complete a Pathways Internship prior to April 15, 2023
- Have an average GPA of 2.0 in the pathway-related courses of Career Connections, Sophomore Elective, Junior Elective, Senior Elective and Senior Capstone

Dr. Nuzzi shared the anticipated cost for an entire graduating class is less than \$2,500.00 per year for Endorsement Seals and Graduation Honor Cords.

Dr. Nuzzi reported a survey was conducted for community feedback and the results showed an overwhelming 98.4% of respondents agree or strongly agree that they support the establishing of the Career Academies Endorsement to recognize the achievement of students who have demonstrated full engagement with BCCHS Career Academies.

Trustee Jackie Slaby commented she is really glad about the investment in this program and that we are actually looking to make sure once a student graduates it really means something and is celebrated at their Graduation; she is excited about that.

Trustee Jackie Slaby indicated she saw the community feedback section of the presentation and wishes we would've had more feedback from students, noting it looked like only 1 student replied and about 15 caretakers. She asked if the survey was interpreted in different languages. Dr. Nuzzi replied she could not confirm at this time, but she will get this information. Trustee Slaby commented about this being a great chance to reach out to all families, she would like to get input from non-English speaking families and has concerns we couldn't identify if that was done because it is very important, but overall this was a good investment.

President Karen Evans asked if the Career Academies Endorsement is similar to the Math & Science Center Seal and Dr. Nuzzi indicated it is. President Evans said she is excited about the program.

Zenworks Software Renewal

Mitch Fowler discussed the Zenworks Software Renewal. This is the software that allows access to the network and deals with storage on network devices. The renewal cost is \$15,510.00 with the source being the General Fund.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright asked if the renewal is for one year and Mitch indicated it is.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on August 24, 2020.

Exacq Software Renewal

Mitch Fowler discussed the Exacq Software Renewal. This is a one year license renewal for the security camera software. The renewal cost is \$25,329.28 with the source being the General Fund

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray asked if this software is for all of the security cameras in all of the buildings. Mitch said yes, they all work on the same system, with the exception of a few cameras at BCAMSC that, for historical reasons, have their own renewal. The cost for those is around \$1,200.00 and he hopes to combine the cost for those cameras with the others in the future.

President Karen Evans confirmed these costs cannot be paid from the building funds because it's for software and Mitch indicated that was correct.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on August 24, 2020.

WK Kellogg Marquee Replacement

Mitch Fowler discussed the recommendation for the WK Kellogg Marquee. The recommendation is for the repair of the Marquee, instead of replacement. The repair cost is \$39,990.89 with the source being the WKKF Grant. Mitch reported we completed the RFP process and based on the scores for cost and strength and other factors, Fritz Signs was chosen as the vendor.

The work to be completed involves replacing the video boards on the marquee to get a sharper more high quality picture, to update the software we use to do that and to repaint the metal around the marquee to be in line with our identity guide and branding. We will not be starting from scratch.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked how long it will take to make the repairs. Mitch replied that he is not sure, but he will reach out to Fritz Signs for an estimate and get back to the Board with a timeline.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray asked about the High School Marquee, is that marquee included in this project. Mitch advised it is not, that will be a separate project down the road.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright commented he was looking at the different bids and sanctions. He noticed Ad-Tronics was the lowest bid, but it didn't have any checkmarks and he wasn't sure what that means. Mitch shared that part of the RFP process is for vendors to complete a couple of documents, which have to be notarized, indicating they do not have a relationship to the Board, etc., and the bid is marked incomplete if the documents are not notarized; and it disqualifies the vendor from the RFP process.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked Mitch where RFP's are posted. Mitch advised they are posted on our website and in a State-wide system. He has also sent this RFP to quite a few contacts he has, who have various contacts throughout the State.

President Karen Evans commented she is excited to get the WK Kellogg Marquee fixed, it's a high price tag but that's the nature of the beast.

Calhoun County Wellness

Monique Cheeks discussed the Wellness Program Contract with the Calhoun County Health Department. This Contract will provide the District with six (6) full-time Nurses in Elementary buildings. The 7th Elementary building will be covered by the School Nurse who is on staff. This results in all Elementary buildings having a Nurse on-site.

Monique shared data points from the Calhoun County Health Department that our nurses assisted with 2,553 unduplicated students (at least one time service provided), 7,039 total services provided, including but not limited to illness, injuries, absentee case management, action plan development, medical procedures, chronic illness and other various services.

Monique is bringing the Wellness Program Contract to the Board tonight for approval. The cost for this service is \$229,869.99 and the source will be At-Risk Funds in the amount of \$120,000.00 and ESSER Funds in the amount of \$109,869.99.

Vice President Catherine LaValley commented she noticed in the Contract that it reads Ann J and Post-Franklin will share a Nurse. Monique responded we are no longer going to do that. Ann J is going to get the 6th Nurse in the Contract and our District Nurse will cover Post-Franklin.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked if that will be updated in the Contract. Monique indicated the Calhoun County Health Department will update and she apologized for not having that updated before the Contract went to the Board.

2020-2021 BCPS Student Handbook

(Code of Conduct, Elementary, STEM MS, BCCHS)

Monique Cheeks discussed she was bringing the Student Handbooks back to the Board this year. She advised that, for the most part, the Handbooks look like they have in previous years. Monique advised that, at the end of each Handbook, a COVID-19 Addendum has been included, which addresses things like facial coverings, visitor information and attendance changes as they relate to online practices. The visitor information in the Handbook is relevant to doing business as usual, which we are not at this time. The Virtual Handbook contains the full attendance information, but she wanted to reference it in the Student Handbooks as well.

Vice President Catherine LaValley commented that around Page 52 of the BCCHS Student Handbook it references the Cell Phone Policy. Vice President LaValley asked if that will be printed/included in the Student Handbook. Monique indicated she added language referencing that students and staff should visit their School Office to get the updated Cell Phone Policy because she hadn't received a updated version in time to include in the Handbooks. Vice President LaValley asked that the Board receive a copy of the updated Cell Phone Policy after Monique receives it and Monique said she will provide it to the Board.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked if all Principals are returning this year because all of the Principals are listed in the Elementary Handbook. Monique said the Principal list in the Elementary Handbook was current and included all Principals who are returning. She noted the other Handbooks contain current Principal Lists too. Vice President LaValley thanked Monique.

Burrell Follow-Up Brand Tracker Research

Nate Hunt discussed the proposal that is in response to our Brand Tracker we have been running for the last 3 years with Burrell Communications. The cost for this service will be \$10,550.00 and the source would be the WKKF Grant.

Nate shared the Brand Tracker looks at our family awareness and perception of the District based on marketing efforts throughout the year. We are now in Year 3 and seeing great and positive trends, especially with the rejecter families, who are families that live in our District but are choosing to send their students elsewhere.

Nate reported we received great feedback on the survey questions, representing what families would like to see in a School District and that is trending up with our rejecter families. We have been stagnate in surveying what it would take for rejecter families to consider sending their students back to the District in the next year and what we would like to do now is take a closer look and conduct question/answer style forms and do more sitting down with the families that are choosing out, to discuss and dig deeper into why not send their students back now. The hope is that this will provide us with data to help guide our communications and might be a turning point as to what we can do to tweak our communications to draw families back.

President Karen Evans asked if this work will focus on BCPS residents that are choosing out and finding out why and what we need to look into doing to get our students back. She noted our students belong here, BCPS is the best School District around. Nate indicated we have some answers, but they don't go very deep. This work would dig deeper. President Evans commented she is excited about the work.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked if the surveys will be interpreted for our Spanish and Burmese families. Nate replied they will and the work will follow what we do with the Brand Tracker every year, using the services from the Burnham Center and Voces. The survey will include incentives for those families who participate. Trustee Slaby asked when these surveys are taken. Nate advised toward the end of the school year each year, noting this last year COVID-19 through the timing off. Trustee Slaby asked if the Board could see an example of the surveys. Nate advised he will send the summarized report and the full version, which is very long, to the Board. Superintendent Carter reminded the Board this information was included in the End of the Year Board Report as well.

Trustee Slaby asked to clarify that she would like to see what the survey looks like when parents/care takers receive it. She was less interested in the data. Nate indicated he will look into that.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on August 24, 2020.

BCPS Elementary Virtual Academy
Pearson Connexus Virtual Program

Superintendent Carter asked that we make a quick adjustment to the Agenda, noting that in order to spend the money to get students enrolled, we need to ask the Board to approve the Pearson Connexus program this evening. Superintendent Carter asked President Evans if there was an opportunity to add this matter to New Business for a vote.

President Karen Evans replied if we need to get this done, we will. President Evans asked for a Motion. Vice President Catherine LaValley clarified this is the virtual program for Grades K-5 and asked what about Grades 6-12? Superintendent Carter reported we already have the program for Grades 6-12, it is part of the WK Prep program so there will not be a need to spend additional funds for the virtual program for Grades 6-12. The program for Grades K-5 is a brand new program as a result of COVID.

President Karen Evans asked for a Motion to add this to New Business.

Motion by Trustee Charlie Fulbright to add the BCPS Elementary Virtual Academy to New Business as Item D.

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6 – 0

Dr. Chandra Youngblood thanked the Board. She shared that, after the Board approved the BCPS Elementary Virtual Academy at the July 27th Regular Meeting, 3 companies were vetted and reviewed. Virtual programs are new for Elementary Schools and there are not many that offer Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies, which the State requires. Pearson Connexus was chosen because their program offers all the things we need.

This platform will meet the needs of families who are choosing to keep students home during Phases 4, 5 and 6. This program also offers Art, Spanish and project-based enrichment classes for REACH students. There is online and paper/pencil time and a full curriculum to work within.

This platform allows our teachers to do weekly class meetings. Dr. Youngblood recommended the teachers do true success character programs during the weekly class meeting time; students can also schedule time if they need support.

Dr. Youngblood advised she has reached out to Voces and the multi-culture center to inquire about their ability to operate lab settings so students who speak Spanish or Burmese can have someone at those centers support and help them with interpreting the program, if necessary. The request has been made, but not solidified yet.

This platform allows for accommodations for IEPs, 504 Plans and REACH.

Dr. Youngblood is looking into virtual field trips, noting the OEC has started recording videos, and there is a way to embed those in the Pearson platform so students can have those experiences as well.

The Pearson platform is compatible with Skyward and we can give grade reports from Skyward.

Dr. Youngblood reported that because this company has unique features, not offered by others, she secured a Sole Source Letter from Pearson. We will follow the Battle Creek calendar and student attendance will be monitored.

Dr. Youngblood closed by reporting she is bringing a recommendation to the Board this evening to approve the Pearson Connexus program for the BCPS Elementary Virtual Academy at a cost of \$449 per student, which includes professional development, parent orientation and all courses needed for K-5 students in the 4 core subjects with 2 specials. Spanish will be available to any students enrolled in the BCPS Virtual Academy. Pearson Connexus requires a minimum of 250 students and Dr. Youngblood reported we had that in the first 24 hours of enrollment opening. The minimum cost for this program will be \$112,050.00 and up to \$500,000.00 maximum, using the ESSER Funds.

Dr. Youngblood will provide an update to the Board in September once we have final numbers.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright inquired if Voces and Burnham Center assistance would be a separate cost and not part of the \$500,000.00. Dr. Youngblood replied it is an ask right now. We are trying to figure out how to serve our students that need interpretation and translation support and this was just an idea. Dr. Youngblood advised she is open to other ideas.

Trustee Jackie Slaby clarified it would be an additional cost and we would have to contract with the Burnham Center to support our students. Superintendent Carter said it all depends on whether we can get community volunteers. We are asking the community to step up in areas where they can help provide support, but we are not that far into the conversations. Dr. Youngblood shared that many people have asked how they can help support.

Dr. Youngblood reported we have two upcoming BCPS Elementary Virtual Academy presentations coming up this week. On Tuesday, we will have Facebook Live Event for our English/Spanish Families and on Wednesday there will be a Zoom Session for English/Burmese Families.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked if the presentation was to parents and Dr. Youngblood said yes. We have received a lot of questions about the BCPS Elementary Virtual Academy and we wanted to answer.

There was discussion that if the Board approves the Pearson Connexus program for Phases 4-6, what happens if we go back to Phases 1-3, would we switch back to something else. Dr. Youngblood indicated that, although it is not clear what we would do in all of the scenarios, we are encouraging that students stay in the Pearson Connexus program for a full semester and if we go to remote learning in a month, the virtual students would stay virtual, but could swap at the end of the semester. Trustee Slaby confirmed that, if we went back to Phases 1-3, this program would still be available K-5 and Dr. Youngblood indicated it would.

Trustee Jackie Slaby commented two Mondays ago, the Board approved the BCPS Virtual Academy and clarified tonight is for approving the program to be used for the BCPS Elementary Virtual Academy. Trustee Slaby asked if we conducted an RFP. Dr. Youngblood indicated we did not, she vetted 3 companies. She and Monique Cheeks met with them and discussed the matter with the District Auditors, who said the program chosen would have to mirror the curriculum that is offered face-to-face. Dr. Youngblood offered to share the information from the 3 companies and noted the Committee took some of the questions from the Board and parents and met with each company twice. The Pearson Connexus program was chosen because it best fit our needs with Spanish, an accelerated program for REACH and it was Michigan aligned. Superintendent Carter reported that because of that, Pearson Connexus is a Sole Source vendor and an RFP was not necessary and the Sole Source Letter Dr. Youngblood received was included in the Board Packet.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray asked how parents sign up for the BCPS Virtual Academy. Dr. Youngblood reported we called it a Choice form and it went live last Thursday night, In the first 12 hours, we had 250 Applications. Elementary Applications will be accepted until September 11th to allow families a couple of weeks to see how the school year is going. Dr. Youngblood noted we expect another wave of Applications after the informational meetings this week.

We will use the number of Applications received by this coming Friday night for planning staff and professional development with Pearson Connexus. Superintendent Carter inquired where the Application is located. Dr. Youngblood advised it is on a platform Nate Hunt created on our website. Dr. Youngblood discussed the reasons for enrolling in the Virtual Academy is for families who do not want their students to return to face-to-face learning at all. The difference between virtual and remote learning is that remote could go back to in-person learning.

Trustee Jackie Slaby inquired what the enrollment communication looks like for families who don't have internet access. Dr. Youngblood replied that is one of the questions asked on the form, if the family needs Chromebooks and/or hot spots. Trustee Slaby clarified she means if they (families) don't have internet access, how do they know to sign up. Dr. Youngblood advised the Robocalls went live at the same time as the Application and someone has given out her cell number because she has received a lot of calls. President Karen Evans noted that Nate Hunt added a chat text and email about this, as well as it being published in the Shopper and Nueva Opinion. Trustee Slaby asked if there is an option for families to pick up a paper Application. Dr. Youngblood advised there is not a paper Application but if families want to call, we will find someone to help them enroll.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright asked about the Virtual Academy and if the teachers who are conducting weekly meetings with students are BCPS teachers or do we have to get teachers. Dr. Youngblood replied it will be BCPS Teachers, noting we will do a shifting of staff pending the final number on August 13th. Then we will know how many students are expected to show up and we will assign staff that way.

Dr. Youngblood commented she will have better a picture on August 24th. Trustee Charlie Fulbright asked if we could potentially have more than once-a-week meetings if there are more students attending. Dr. Youngblood said we are still in discussions about all that, but we will have to see what the percentage is first. There are so many unknowns right now, but the intent is not to do any hiring. We have Literacy Specialists and Instructional Coaches that can step in. We can use Pearson teachers too, but that would be an additional cost, so we don't want to do that.

Community Action Agency – Coburn Lease Extension

Laura Ash discussed the request from Michelle Williamston, Chief Executive Officer for the Community Action Agency to extend the current Lease Agreement on the Coburn facility for an additional five years. They have also requested permission to complete Capital Improvements to the existing building in the amount of \$56,447.00. Improvements would consist of extending the parking lot and creating an additional enclosure for office spaces.

The contract would be modified as follows: current agreement ends June 30, 2023 and we would extend the contract to June 30, 2028, which is an additional five years.

Laura shared BCPS receives a monthly lease income of \$4,041.67 or \$48,500.04 per year from this Agreement. The Community Action Agency is responsible for all utility and maintenance costs for the site.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray asked what activities go on in the Coburn building. Laura advised she believed it was a Head Start program. Dr. Chandra Youngblood confirmed it is the Community Action Head Start program full-day preschool. They also run a half day program at Doris Hale on Main Street.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked who is paying for the Capital Improvements. Laura advised the Community Action Agency.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on August 24, 2020.

Urban Garden Lease Agreement – New Level Sports

Laura Ash discussed the request from New Level Sports to create an Urban Garden on 71 Blanche Street which is currently a vacant property owned by BCPS. The Lease Agreement would allow the creation of an Urban Garden to enhance student educational opportunities and cultivate community involvement. Children will be able to plant and watch vegetables grow while serving their community. A second component of the Urban Garden is to sell vegetables in the community.

Laura shared the background of this property and indicated back in 2016, the District entered into a Lease Agreement with Battle Creek Green Infrastructure to plant trees, but in 2019 Battle Creek Green Infrastructure requested to be released from the agreement citing an inability to complete the lease obligation.

The District worked with our legal counsel to create an agreement that will allow New Level Sports “Urban Garden” the ability to create improvements to the vacant property such as: irrigation and storage or tool shed. Urban Garden will not make any alterations or additions to the property without permission from the District. Property will be maintained per the agreement and maintenance covered. New Level Sports will be responsible for fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals and that all processes abide by all applicable laws, rules, regulations, policies and ordinances.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked about the Lease amount. Laura advised the prior Agreement with Battle Creek Green Infrastructure was for \$1. We waived the \$1 fee with New Level Sports because this is a collaboration for students and families and there is no cost to the District.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked who pays for the water supply and Laura said New Level Sports. Trustee Slaby asked if the District is held harmless if someone is injured on the property. Laura advised the Agreement includes liability insurance the District must hold and liability insurance New Level Sports must hold.

President Karen Evans asked if there were any further questions about the Old Wilson property. None were received.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on August 24, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

Calhoun County School Wellness

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the Calhoun County School Wellness agreement in the amount of \$229,869.99 with the funding sources being ESSER and At-Risk Funds.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6 – 0

2020-2021 BCPS Student Handbook

(Code of Conduct, Elementary, STEM MS, BCCHS)

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the 2020-2021 BCPS Handbooks, specifically the Code of Conduct, Elementary Student Handbook, STEM MS Student Handbook and the BCCHS Student Handbook.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6 – 0

WK Kellogg Marquee Replacement

Motion by Trustee Charlie Fulbright to approve the WK Kellogg Marquee repair in the amount of \$39,990.89 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

Vice President Catherine LaValley supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6 – 0

BCPS Virtual Academy

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the BCPS Elementary Virtual Academy for Grades K-5 with the Pearson Connexus program as the provider, for up to \$500,000.00 with the funding source being the ESSER Funds.

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6 – 0

DISCUSSION

Middle School Bond Discussion

Superintendent Carter shared the Middle School Bond Exploration presentation and commented that she and Laura Ash have been looking at the District needs for the last couple years and the work needed to complete a total transformation for the children that we serve.

Superintendent Carter made a point of noting this topic is just a discussion tonight; we don't have all the answers but we thought it was an important point in the process to inform the Board about work behind the scenes. Again, we are in exploration mode and no decisions have been made.

Superintendent Carter shared we want to explore a Middle School Bond. She wanted to start by talking about the things that brought us to this point and invited Board Members to stop her at any point to ask questions.

Superintendent shared the Bond Exploration presentation which provided the following information:

- Urgent Need for Change
 - Declining Enrollment
 - A 40.53% decline in the Fund Balance over the previous 5 years
 - Expenses continued to exceed revenue
 - Early Warning designation by the State for ongoing financial stress
 - Inability to provide competitive wages
 - Families throughout the community were not having enough positive experiences with the District
 - A large number of students entering school with limited readiness skills
 - Current curricular resources and instructional practices were not meeting the needs of the students we serve

- The Journey from Good to Great – Six Goals for Greatness
 - High Academic Achievement
 - Healthy Organizational Culture
 - Human Capital Strategy
 - Effective and Efficient Use of Resources
 - Active Partnerships With Our Community
 - World-Class Infrastructure

Superintendent Carter discussed that we had a lot of things going on but because we had an amazing group working in Administration with the Board, we created a Strategic Plan during 2015-2016 and created the Six Goals For Greatness to focus on strategies and initiatives we would employ to disrupt inequity.

Superintendent Carter's presentation provided a history walk for those not on the Board at that time by reporting the following:

- Phase 1 Goal – Creating a Financially Solvent District
 - Expansion of smaller learning communities across the High School to address increasing truancy, increasing failure rates and decreasing achievement levels
 - Implementation of Early College programming
 - Implementation of an Alternative High School in unused building to provide a safety net for underperforming students
 - Restructuring of elementary schools

Superintendent Carter advised we have met these goals through these actions:

- We met the goal of expansion with the Career Academies
 - We have graduated several students with college programming with KCC
 - We met the Alternative High School goal with the launch of WK Preparatory High School, which has had amazing success at transforming life outcomes for the students served. We have increased the number of graduates and hold Graduations more than once a year.
 - We restructured the Elementary buildings to be K-2 and 3-5 buildings, with Valley View being the only K-5 building. We have seen significant achievement increases as a result of these changes.
 - Most excitedly we have created a financially solvent district and our revenue now exceeds expenses, which allowed for us to provide the cushion needed to keep staff amidst the COVID pandemic. Kudos to the Board for creating successful outcomes for students.
- Phase 2 Goals - Equity by Design
To create sustainable, transformational change a network of supports must be implemented alongside international strategies aimed at dismantling structural inequities. In addition to confronting the school choice policy the following strategies are intended to increase the number of opportunities available to BCPS students and staff and thereby improve outcomes for kids.

Enrollment – Teacher Retention – Student Achievement

Progress:

- Elementary Transformation – In Progress
- High School Transformation – In Progress
- Middle School Transformation – Next Focus Area

Superintendent Carter reported over the last four years we have implemented strategies for trying to get back our families who have migrated out of BCPS, we have improved the teacher recruitment process and are seeing positive results with student achievement.

We are now ready to move to next level.

The beginning of our Strategic Plan focused on the Elementary Transformation. We created the International Baccalaureate Program focusing on literacy skills.

The second focus was on the High School Transformation. We created the Career Academies, early college and dual enrollment with GVSU.

The next level for focus is the Middle School Transformation. We are very focused on Northwestern Middle School and we recognize that it serves our most vulnerable population and is in need of more opportunities for students. Many have asked where we are in the implementation plans for NWMS and Superintendent Carter shared that conversations are occurring.

The District has been working with a non-profit called “Purpose Built Communities”. The aim of this group is to change neighborhoods in order to change lives. There have been conversations about what can we do at NWMS to accomplish that work, which includes:

- In early March of 2018, Purpose Built began conversations with community members to determine if Purpose Built’s program revitalization was a fit for Battle Creek.
- In early 2019, several community leaders, members of the Battle Creek School District and Kellogg Foundation representatives visited Atlanta to see success in action
- In October 2019, a Steering Committee was assembled to start developing a strategy for a neighborhood in Battle Creek – the area surrounding Northwestern Middle School rose to the top to begin work
- The Steering Committee continues to meet in person and most recently virtually due to COVID to continue to work with the goal of developing a 90 day work plan

Superintendent Carter shared information about the East Lake Project in Atlanta to show the project in action and what is possible. Nothing is complete and the Steering Committee will be having conversations in the community about others to add and then develop a 90 day work plan around transformations in the area.

Superintendent Carter shared that, after informing the Board about the Purpose Built Communities Plan, we would like to go out into the community and get feedback about the Purpose Built Communities holistic approach to assist Dudley Elementary and Northwestern Middle School students.

Superintendent Carter shared that the Purpose Built Communities model is a holistic approach to building a health neighborhood based on the premise that schools can’t outperform the areas in which they serve. The children we serve in those areas are at a disadvantage. For her, as Superintendent, it is important to see education as a part of the solution, but not the whole solution. We need to create opportunities for students and families.

Purpose Built Communities’ model for a defined neighborhood is based on 3 cradles:

- Mixed Income Housing
- Cradle-to-College Education Pipeline
- Community Wellness

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked referenced Page 8 of the presentation and inquired who brought this idea to Battle Creek. Superintendent Carter advised that, back in 2018 through the District's relationship with the WK Kellogg Foundation and our work with them on their \$51,000,000.00 Grant, she was asked to partner in the work to bring this forward.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked if this work was being shared with other Districts. Superintendent Carter indicated it was not specific to a neighborhood and school, but to an area and a school and is built on the premise that you have to start small before you can go big across the city. Trustee Jackie Slaby inquired if this will now be introduced to the larger community. Superintendent Carter replied that it will be introduced to some community, but we are in the early beginning stages, after having been in the exploratory phase of what is possible for creating outcomes. There is a lot of work to be done to develop relationships and bring people in the area into the conversation. Superintendent Carter advised she was bringing it up tonight because it is relevant to the Bond work we are exploring.

Superintendent Carter shared community members of the Battle Creek Steering Committee include New Level Sports, United Way, Sojourner Truth Institute. There are 14 different individuals who are serving on the Steering Committee and discussing the work and additional individuals to be involved. This is a community led initiative and now community workers will become involved. Superintendent Carter will provide a list of the Steering Committee members' names to the Board, along with further information about the Purpose Built Communities non-profit organization.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked how the work with Purpose Built Communities is connected with other community efforts like BC Vision. Superintendent Carter advised she sits on those Councils, as well as several economic committees. This work would be a Sub Committee to the larger work of BC Vision. The groups are working really hard to see how things can be integrated so they are not competing with each other. The Purpose Built Communities work doesn't get in the way of any of the other work being done and is aligned to the work of BC Vision.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked for more follow-up, she would like to see more examples about Atlanta and their outcomes. Superintendent Carter replied that she debated whether to include more information and is glad to. She thanked Trustee Slaby and advised she will send additional information about the Purpose Built Communities work in Atlanta to the Board.

Superintendent Carter indicated Battle Creek Unlimited, the City of Battle Creek, housing partners and community partners would all be part of these conversations to help determine how we can leverage resources to make a holistic change.

- Transformation Plan

This work segway's on neighborhood revitalization and meets our goal to transform the Middle School. It also supports what we have been exploring for Northwestern Middle School to be transformed to a K-8 innovation center focusing on visual and performing arts to round out the District's portfolio of innovative options.

Superintendent Carter discussed that, in order to meet that aim, we have to begin exploring options to find the structural change to help provide what Northwestern Middle School students need.

Superintendent Carter turned the presentation over to Laura Ash.

Laura discussed the initial thoughts for Northwestern Middle School, which include:

- New Entry Canopies for the Main Building and Auditorium
- Areas to support a concentration on the Arts:
 - Digital Graphics Video
 - Vocal Music
 - Instrumental Music
 - Dance Studio
 - Art Classes
 - Modernize Auditorium
- Addition of 2 Kindergarten Classes
- Remodeling to refresh the building: windows, doors, lighting, casework painting throughout and modifications to the heating, ventilation, and addition of air conditioning

Laura shared that Springfield Middle School will be transitioning to a Service Learning School through Learning To Give allowing students and a portion of the community to participate in and receive the benefits of Service Learning. Service-learning provides internal motivations to engage:

- Purpose – Students become aware of needs larger than their own
- Mastery – Students are engaged in activities that apply and expand their learning
- Autonomy – Students take a role in directing their own experience

Laura discussed the initial thoughts for Springfield Middle School, which include:

- New window and doors
- Painting throughout the building

Laura reported on the Status of Current Bond Obligations in the District, which are:

- Battle Creek Central High School Bond Debt Obligation will conclude on May 1, 2037
- District currently levies 4.00 mills each fiscal year to meet the debt obligations of Central High School Construction
- High School Debt Obligation will begin to decrease slightly in the next few school years

Superintendent Carter commented:

- It is important to also note these improvements are all related to the Six Goals For Greatness and this is the next phase of that work
- It has always been sitting in the background waiting for us to reach a point where we could work on the Middle School as the next level
- These are initial thoughts about the next steps to get a Committee together to see what else needs to be considered. This initiative results from the survey we did and the results showing this is an area the community wanted to see improved and what they want to see
- This is part of an answer and response to what we were asked to create as options

Superintendent Carter asked for questions.

Trustee Art McClenney commented he was around when the District was visited by the State and was in financial trouble; he sat in on some of those meetings and he is glad we are in the situation we are in now. Trustee McClenney said back then he made it no secret, some thought it was impossible, but as part of the Committee who looked at rebuilding a new school or remodeling NWMS because it had been there awhile. He brought this up several years ago, behind closed doors, as to whether any thought to remodeling vs building a whole new school.

Superintendent Carter noted this discussion is about forming a Committee to determine these things and what we believe the community can support. She said rebuilding a new school would double the ask, in terms of a Bond, and it would need a Committee to explore what is in the best interests of all involved. If a Committee recommended demolishing NWMS, we would be willing to consider their recommendation, but we need all of the appropriate information for such consideration.

Vice President Catherine LaValley commented if we were going to consider a demolish of NWMS, why did the Board recently approve replacing the roof at “x” number of dollars, she would hope we do not intend to demolish the building. It is an advantage that the building is all on one level. Refreshing the building is important, but it seems like the Board needs to be informed why these talks started up. She is very disappointed that the Board Packet included only a short Memo of this discussion and requested that Superintendent Carter send the presentation shared tonight to the Board Members. Superintendent Carter replied this topic is just for discussion, just a report and we are not asking for a decision. Superintendent Carter will send the presentation to the Board.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray asked if we would end up closing Dudley and LaMora Park to do K-8 at NWMS. Superintendent Carter indicated we would not. We are exploring making Dudley an Early Childhood Center for ages 0-4 and would need to have K-8 at NWMS to accomplish that. Superintendent Carter noted that would allow us to really expand offerings across the District. Superintendent Carter noted we still need LaMora Park because we did such a great job with added enrollment. President Karen Evans commented that’s a great problem to have.

Trustee Jackie Slaby commented she struggles with the fact that, a few meetings back when we had presentation on Facilities Plan discussion, it didn't reference any of this and she feels it is certainly heavily facilities related. She stated the Board must be as informed as possible in order to make decisions and it is really frustrating this has been thought about and it is the first time it is being brought to the Board's attention; the Board put dollars into NWMS and now it may be demolished by a Committee, who is not known, and may not understand the whole big picture of what the District owns, maintains and the conditions of those properties. As a Board Trustee, she must be informed as much as possible. She understands this is a discussion, but really feels like the Board needs a lot more information and better two-way communication.

Superintendent Carter replied she was a little disappointed in that comment, this entire thing is a discussion and noted we are asking these questions to find out what the Board needs to come back with information. She noted there is a need to understand the vision. This is not new, the Middle School Transformation Plan, and we are making sure the Board knows where we are, the next steps and bringing them into it. The most critical part is a Committee being brought in for discussion on a Bond.

Superintendent Carter stated we are not recommending NWMS be demolished, especially with the new roof, but indicated that would be part of the work to be done by a Committee.

Superintendent Carter advised the Bond was not included in the Facilities Plan because first we have to have the discussion and then it would be included in Facilities Report.

Trustee Jackie Slaby said this was a great example of processes and next steps and for her as a Trustee, it's a great example of how we are not working with the community, noting on the slide that discusses What's Next, "Community Engagement" is the 4th bullet down. Superintendent Carter replied it was meant to show what is happening between August-October 2020, the bulleted items are not listed in sequential order. There are decisions that will need to come from the Board, such as who from the Board should be involved and who should be invited. This is the reason we are bringing this matter to the Board tonight.

President Karen Evans stated this is a discussion and is informational and we need to keep it respectful. People are working hard and diligently to get us to this point. It is not work that is easy, but this is a Board opportunity to become educated and we need to keep remarks respectful to those doing the hard work.

Trustee Art McClenney said he was basically getting ready to say the same thing President Evans did. He said we got off track here and this is just a discussion. He brought up the demolition of NWMS because at one time it was talked about, he did not say that is what we are going to do right now. Trustee McClenney asked that people keep it respectful. He appreciates the hard work being done and this is not new, it is all exploratory, and he appreciates the Superintendent bringing this matter to the Board. Trustee McClenney reiterated he is not saying we should demolish NWMS, although he is sure someone in the Facebook world will jump all over his comment. He closed with a need to keep it respectful and commented this District has come a long way to even be in a situation to have this conversation.

Vice President Catherine LaValley commented that she appreciates the fact the Board gets to discuss this, but she feels the Board was left in the shadows, it may not feel like that to those who had the conversations, but as Board Trustees, they would like to be included and it helps get them excited. We have properties that are not being repurposed and she wonders why we haven't we repurposed Urbandale. Superintendent Carter replied that would be a question for Committee exploration and that is why we are bringing the matter to the Board.

Superintendent Carter closed by commenting that NWMS needs structural and programming improvements. No decisions are being made, we are having these conversations and recognizing if this is the best plan for the community. She advised that we debated where we wanted to go at this time, based on what we see with outcomes and out migrations, and the decisions to be made in those areas and tonight we are having a discussion.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright said he was not on the Board when the Bonds happened before, so this was all new to him and he looked forward to hearing more. He appreciated the wealth of information presented this evening and looks forward to receiving more information from the Committee meetings and being a part of this conversation and the discussions about where we are going.

President Karen Evans asked if there was any other discussion for Superintendent Carter to take back to the Committee.

Trustee Art McClenney commented again it was good just to be in this situation and to be able to even talk about expanding a school. We weren't here several years ago, it was different in the community and some may not remember, but there were serious consideration about closing this District. He is happy to be in this situation and to have this conversation; it is going to be tough conversations, but he has been through some and other Board Members need to know that. Although it's tough to have the conversations, it is good to be in this situation that we can have the conversations, so Kudos to the District for getting us to this point.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Karen Evans read the Public Comments aloud.

Robin Nichols

22 Brown Drive

(Robinmichols1979@gmail.com)

I have a student who is going to be in the 11th Grade and she wants to do the Virtual Academy but also wants to do the CACC. Is there a Virtual Academy for them? What about the students with an IEP, will they get help from that too? And the testing the Seniors missed last year and the testing for Juniors this year.

President Evans thanked Robin for the comment and noted we will get back to her if she needs answers.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Carter reminded everyone there will be lots of questions about the Virtual Academy and how to enroll. Information about the Virtual Academy is posted on our website

<https://www.battlecreekpublicschools.org/reopening-plan-2020-21/virtual-academy>

We will be hosting Informational Sessions as follows:

Tuesday, August 11th (Facebook Live Sessions)

5:30pm for K-5 English/Spanish Families

6:30pm for Grades 6-12 English/Spanish Families

Wednesday, August 12th (Zoom Session)

5:30pm for K-12 programs for Burmese Families

There is additional information on our Facebook Page.

Superintendent Carter reported for our families in Grades 6-12, she would highly and strongly recommend remote learning vs virtual learning because Grades- 6-12 will be remote right now which offers more assistance from our BCPS Teachers. The reason for families to choose the Virtual Academy for Grades 6-12 would be if they don't want their child to attend school face-to-face all year.

Superintendent Carter thanked all the staff who continue to work on the Continuity of Learning Plan, we have lots of questions and will continue to get answers, making sure the first priority is the safety of our staff and students.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Art McClenney said he wanted to take the opportunity to thank Trustee Jackie Slaby for sending the link about the webinar that discussed mental illness in students. It was more of a review for him and really a good program that discussed trauma and mental health. The program was recorded and he would recommend to other Trustees to watch it, especially in COVID time, it was a good reminder of how much stress kids are dealing with and how to help deal with the “new normal”.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright said he wanted to concur what Trustee McClenney said, he also attended the webinar and the biggest thing he took away was the lady said showing students representation. He thinks that’s huge, especially in this virtual atmosphere that we can show students that people of all walks of life and all means are doing great things; that’s a necessity during these times.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright advised this weekend he is attending the MASB Summer Institute virtually. Trustee Fulbright commended the Board and shared with the community that not only is the BCPS Board an Honor Board, which means each Board Member has completed 30 hours of training in 9 different classes, but the BCPS Board surpassed that achievement and received the Excellence Award, with every Board Member received an Award of Merit for an additional 45 hours dedicated to education.

Trustee Fulbright noted he thinks that is commendable, especially with the decision last week. Trustee Fulbright shared that out of the 587 School Districts in Michigan, BCPS is ranked #7, meaning they are in the Top Seven of School Boards receiving these awards, which is amazing and not something many Districts can say. He concluded by saying we are doing great things and will continue doing great things... “Great Things are Happening at Battle Creek Public Schools!”

President Karen Evans shared she is also attending the MASB Summer Institute and is taking the general session courses, which she is looking forward to. President Evans shared she received an email from Carrie Briggs inviting the Board to join the Superintendent’s Welcome Back to staff on Monday, August 17th at 8:30am.

Meeting adjourned – 7:28p.m. President Evans thanked everyone for their time and input.

Submitted by
Patti Worden

Kyra Wallace
Board Secretary