

**BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Regular Meeting**

**August 23, 2021**

**Board Room at the Administration Building, 3 West Van Buren Street, Battle Creek, MI  
5:30p.m.**

**PRESENT – BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Catherine LaValley

Kyra Wallace

Patty Poole-Gray

Charlie Fulbright

Jacqueline Slaby

Art McClenney

Absent

Nathan Grajek

**Present – Administration**

Kim Carter – Superintendent

Dr. Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi, Director, Special Programming & Literacy Services

Mitch Fowler, Director, School Data Systems & Innovations

Nathan Hunt – Communications Manager

Rhonda Potts - Executive Director

Pat McCann – Chief Executive Officer, Human Resources

Wes Seeley – Director of Grant, Federal Programs and Adult Education

**Absent – Administration**

Dr. Anita Harvey – Director, District Transformation

Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services

Jeff English – Executive Director

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by President LaValley at 6:33pm. Catherine LaValley, Kyra Wallace, Patty Poole-Gray, Charlie Fulbright, Jacqueline Slaby and Art McClenney were present.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to add letter I to the Agenda for the purchase of an additional 125 Pearson Licenses for Virtual Academy participation.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the Consent Agenda items.

- A. Trust Fund/Comerica (Written only) for June and July 2021
- B. Minutes of the Work Session on June 14, 2021  
Closed Session on June 14, 2021, Budget Hearing  
on June 28, 2021, Regular Meeting on June 28, 2021, Closed  
Session on June 28, 2021 and Work Session on July 12, 2021
- C. Bills for the Month of June and July 2021
- D. Personnel Changes and Recognition of Retirees for July and August 2021
- E. Finance Reports for June and July 2021
- F. Student Device Monitoring Software
- G. Zoom License Renewal
- H. K-5 iReady Subscription Costs and Professional Development
- I. HMH 6-12 Intervention Subscription Renewal

Vice President Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 5 – 1.**

### **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **MEA Mentoring**

President Catherine LaValley welcomed April Jones.

April Jones, Technology Teacher at Springfield Middle School, discussed the MEA Mentoring program. BCPS was selected to pilot this program, along with two other Michigan Districts, for two years. This program provides the opportunity for 20 BCEA Mentors to provide services for Middle School students in Grades 6-8. This program provides virtual mentor support for the students when they move on to High School.

April reported they hope to offer the program every year, following the two-year pilot program.

### MASB Delegate Assembly

President Catherine LaValley discussed the MASB Delegate Assembly, noting we nominate one voting representative and one alternate representative for the MASB Annual Conference. The MASB Delegate Assembly will be held on Thursday the weekend of the Annual Conference in November.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray volunteered to be the voting representative and nominated Charlie Fulbright as the alternate.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Administrative Appointment of Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Superintendent Kim Carter discussed the Administrative Appointment of Mitch Fowler as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

Motion by Trustee Art McClenney to approve the Administrative Appointment of Mitch Fowler as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

Vice President Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 5 – 1.**

#### Administrative Appointment for Interim Principal at Ann J. Kellogg Elementary

Superintendent Kim Carter discussed the Administrative Appointment of Jennifer Flowers-Bentley as Interim Principal at Ann J. Kellogg Elementary.

Motion by Secretary Patty Poole-Gray to approve the Administrative Appointment of Jennifer Flowers-Bentley as the Interim Principal at Ann J. Kellogg Elementary.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0.**

Minutes of Regular Meeting on July 26, 2021

President Catherine LaValley discussed the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on July 26, 2021.

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on July 26, 2021.

Vice President Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

President LaValley noted the July 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting was attended by 4 Board Members. One of the Board Members had improper attendance so their vote didn't count and the Minutes were revised to reflect that.

**Motion passed 6 – 0.**

EduClimber Student Support Software

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the EduClimber Student Support Software in the amount of \$38,706.00 with the funding source being ESSER Funds.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 5 – 1.**

ECF Student Chromebooks

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the ECF Student Chromebooks in the amount of \$416,875.65 with the funding source being Emergency Connectivity Funds.

Vice President Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0.**

NEP Contract Renewal

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the NEP Contract Renewal in an amount not to exceed \$175,000.00 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 5 – 1.**

Partners for School Innovation Contract

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Partners for School Innovation Contract in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 5 – 1.**

MASB Delegate Assembly

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve Secretary Patty Poole-Gray as the MASB Voting Representative and Treasurer Charlie Fulbright as the Alternate Representative at the MASB Delegate Assembly.

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0.**

Virtual Academy

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the increase from 125 students to 250 students for the Virtual Academy.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0.**

**SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Superintendent Kim Carter shared the following comments:

- She thanked all Board Trustees who attended Building Open houses this evening and the staff for providing this opportunity for our families.
- A reminder that the First Day of School is Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. It will be a half day. We are returning to face-to-face instruction for all students, with masks required at all times for teachers and students.
- She thanked the City of Battle Creek who partnered with BCPS to help us mitigate transportation. Battle Creek City Transit will provide free transportation for all school age students to ride between 6:00am to 5:00pm, masks are required. She knows this option will help some of our High School students, while recognizing it is not a good option for all students so we will continue to thought partner with Community Leaders.

- She explained the answer to our transportation dilemma is to have more bus drivers at BCPS. She encouraged interested individuals to apply to become a bus driver today. Pay starts at \$18 to \$21 per hour. There is a Sign-On Bonus up to \$750. Paid CDL Training is provided. BCPS partners with Dean Transportation.

We will continue to work on our transportation needs and we thank our families for their patience.

- She gave a special thank you to all teachers who have returned to welcome our students back, as well as other support staff.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby commented she was happy to see students and families walking through BCCHS at the Open House and touring the building.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray commented she had the opportunity to go to the NWMS Open House and the layout was wonderful. The building was in great shape and the floor was shining. She had a chance to talk with two parents who had left Dudley and were now at NWMS.

Trustee Art McClenney shared the following:

- He congratulated President Catherine LaValley for a job well done on Opening Day, commenting that he liked her presentation and the little country song.
- He also congratulated Superintendent Carter. He added that he didn't get to hear the speaker because he had to go to work, but he met him.
- Trustee McClenney welcomed back the BCPS seasoned staff and welcome the BCPS new hires to the District.
- He attended the BCCHS Open House and met a family with a translator. They were new to the District and he was glad to see they had a lot of questions.
- He was extremely happy to hear about the free bus service just announced. Transportation is not just an issue for BCPS, but all across Michigan and everywhere.
- BC Stem had a walk thru Open House and there were a lot of people in attendance.

Vice President Kyra Wallace attended the Open House at Ann J. Kellogg Elementary and also at Dudley Elementary, where she was introduced as the new Ms. Patty. She noted Secretary Patty Poole-Gray was the Dudley Board Representative so that's how she was introduced. She was also asked if she would be bringing lunches.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright shared that he attended a CIS event at old Southeastern building. It was a huge event and many families attended. Families received books, face painting and haircuts. He was happy to see returning families and new families. It was a great event and he really appreciated it.

Treasurer Fulbright attended the Open Houses at Verona and Post-Franklin. He got to dance at Post-Franklin. He is excited for the School Year to start.

President Catherine LaValley shared the following:

- She thanked Honor Credit Union for supporting BCPS staff and employees on Opening Day last Tuesday by offering the many vendor options for lunch meal tickets.
- She discussed the MASB Board Self-Evaluation process and reported that she had not yet opened up the email with the evaluation link. She hopes all Board Members can complete the evaluation by the first meeting in September (September 13<sup>th</sup>).

MASB will facilitate this process, which is important for their growth as the Board of Education.

- She hopes the community has completed the Calhoun County broadband survey. The survey can be found at: [Michiganmoonshot.org/Calhoun](http://Michiganmoonshot.org/Calhoun)

This is a very important survey Calhoun County residents to report how their internet and broadband services are handled.

- She and Trustee Jacqueline Slaby participate in a weekly Facilities Committee call every Monday for a quick check in with the Bond Sub-Committee and Friends of BCPS.

She is pleased we will have large Display Boards at each building, which is the first step in communicating to residents what the Bond means and what will be offered when the Election comes up on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- She attended the tail end of the CIS Get Together at Kingdom Builders Worldwide. It was the same afternoon The Rise took place at Washington Heights Methodist Church.
- She, several Board Members and Superintendent Carter attended the Burma Center “Through Our Eyes” event on August 19<sup>th</sup>. This was a music program to see downtown Battle Creek through colors.
- Yesterday she attended the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Prayer Event at 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Baptist Church to share prayers for our schools. The event can be viewed on the Church’s website.
- She attended LaMora Park and Valley View Open Houses this evening and it was wonderful to see the excitement of students and their families. It was also exciting to see the first step in promoting our Bond with the beautiful display boards that detail the specifics of what we are asking for.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38p.m.

Submitted by  
Patti Worden

Patty Poole-Gray  
Board Secretary