

**BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**August 24, 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  
Kyra Wallace  
Art McClenney  
Charlie Fulbright  
Jackie Slaby  
Art McClenney (joined at 5:36pm)

**Absent**

Patty Poole-Gray

**Present – Administration**

Kim Carter – Superintendent  
Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education  
Deborah Nuzzi, Director, Secondary Education  
Anita Harvey – Director, District Transformation  
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  
Pat McCann – Human Resource Manager  
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 5:30p.m. Karen Evans, Catherine LaValley, Kyra Wallace, Patty Poole-Gray, Charlie Fulbright and Jackie Slaby were present.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to add an item under New Business - Item G will be the approval of the BCCHS Career Academies Endorsement.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 5-0.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jasmine coop34

277 Broadway Blvd, Battle Creek MI 49037

My question is my child is part of the REACH program I am looking to keep her home this year and I want to make sure that she's still going to be able to be a part of that program because she worked hard with her test scores to be able to take part in REACH.

Secret Squirrel

3 Van Buren St

Why are Board Meetings held virtual when kids have to go back to school in person? Can't you all go back in person?

### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the Consent Agenda items.

- A. Trust Fund/Comerica (Written only)
- B. Minutes of the Work Session on July 13, 2020  
and Regular Meeting on July 27, 2020
- C. Bills for the Month of July 2020
- D. Personnel Changes and Recognition of Retirees
- E. Finance Report

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 5 – 0**

### **REPORTS**

2020-2021 BCPS Student Handbooks

(Middle School and WK Preparatory High School)

Monique Cheeks discussed the final Student Handbooks for the Middle School and WK Preparatory High School for the Board's approval this evening. She said the changes for these two Student Handbooks are the same as the other Student Handbooks approved by the Board at the August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The changes are COVID-19 related regarding visitors and wearing facial coverings.

**NEW BUSINESS**

2020-2021 BCPS Student Handbooks

(Middle School and WK Preparatory High School)

Motion by Trustee Charlie Fulbright to approve the 2020-2021 BCPS Student Handbooks for the Middle School and WK Preparatory High School.

Vice President Catherine LaValley supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken – Art McClenney arrived at 5:36pm.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

Zenworks Software Renewal

Motion by Trustee Charlie Fulbright to approve the Zenworks Software Renewal in the amount of \$15,510.00 with the funding source being the General Fund.

Vice President Catherine LaValley supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

Exacq Software Renewal

Motion by Trustee Charlie Fulbright to approve the Exacq Software Renewal in the amount of \$25,329.28 with the funding source being the General Fund.

Vice President Catherine LaValley supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

Burrell Follow-Up Brand Tracker Research

Motion by Trustee Charlie Fulbright to approve the Burrell Follow-Up Brand Tracker Research in the amount of \$10,550.00 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**

Community Action Agency – Coburn Lease Extension

Motion by Trustee Charlie Fulbright to approve the Community Action Agency – Coburn Lease Extension.

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

President Karen Evans asked if there was any discussion.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked if the extension was for 3 or 5 years. Laura Ash indicated it is for an additional 5 years.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

Urban Garden Lease Agreement – New Level Sports

Motion by Trustee Charlie Fulbright to approve the Urban Garden Lease Agreement – New Level Sports.

Vice President Catherine LaValley supported the Motion.

President Karen Evans asked if there was any discussion.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked to confirm that New Level understands they are responsible for any water brought onto property. Laura Ash indicated they do.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked if this is a yearly Lease. Laura Ash indicated it is a multi-year Lease Agreement. Laura would like to have the Board approve it once as a multi-year Lease Agreement and then if there are any changes needed, she will re-present it to the Board at that time. Vice President LaValley indicated so it will depend on whether there are any issues with the property going forward then. Laura Ash said yes.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked with it being a multi-year Lease Agreement, what if something comes to the Board, or District, that makes them reconsider how they utilize this land. What would the process be to reach out and say we no longer wish to continue the Lease Agreement? Laura Ash advised there is a 30 day out clause for either party by written notice.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

## BCCHS Career Academies Endorsement

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the BCCHS Career Academies Endorsement.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supposed the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Superintendent Carter made the following comments:

- She welcomed back all of our families to a new school year and noted school begins on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, with a half day. She noted despite all of the unprecedented change, Great Things are Happening at BCPS.
- She thanked all of the staff who have worked tirelessly to prepare for the return to school.
- She discussed that school will be different this year, but she is confident that all students can continue to learn and engage. As part of our Plan, K-5 students can return in-person if their families chose to do so and she noted it is important, critical and imperative that families cooperate with the implementation of critical processes and procedures. We are trying to provide the choice for in-person learning, but if, at any time, we feel our students or staff are at risk, we will close down. She stressed the need to work together and noted one of the big changes is that we are not allowing visitors into our buildings during Phase 4, in order to keep our students safe.
- She stressed the importance of keeping students at home if they are displaying any of the following:
  - Temperature over 100.4
  - Sore throat
  - New, uncontrolled cough with trouble breathing
  - Diarrhea, vomiting or abdominal pain
  - Onset of a Headache with a temperature
  - Close contact with someone who has COVID, please contact the Health Department and keep students home until it is safe for them to return
- She reported that students must wear a facemask at all times, from the time they leave their house until the time they return home, removing it only for meals. Students and staff will wash their hands and use sanitizer throughout the day. We will practice social distancing and in these times, she urged everyone to remember that Not Sharing Is Caring.
- She commented that in-person instruction for K-5 is critical to their long-term success, but we must work together and each do our part.
- She reported that each building has posted signs and helpful reminders on how to stay safe.

- She encouraged families to check each buildings Facebook page for information about their Virtual Open Houses and drop off/pick up routines.
- She thanked families for their Bearcat Pride, adding that we know it is harder than ever to be parents right now and we appreciate them - Together we can make a world of difference for all students and we can achieve anything we set our mind to.
- She shared that students who are unable to pick up Chromebooks last week can fill out a form on the school's Facebook page, or reach out to the school office; we want to make sure you receive a device.

Superintendent Carter closed with a reminder that we need to make sure families hear that we really need their cooperation in order for students to stay in-person and we must follow all health and safety protocols. For any student who cannot wear a facemask all day, we are recommending they go into the BCPS Virtual Academy. She sent her wish for everyone to keep safe and healthy.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Trustee Jackie Slaby commented that she is looking forward to the Virtual Open House by BCAMSC at 6:00pm tonight. The link is on our Facebook page and the recorded event will be posted on our Facebook page and the BCPS website afterwards.

Vice President Catherine LaValley made the following comments:

- She thanked Superintendent Carter for her cooperation and collaboration, noting it is so important to have a healthy safe start of school.
- She received a letter from a faculty member today and indicated she has concerns herself that it is going to be hot on Wednesday and Thursday, but she is thankful the Labor Day weekend is in front of us. She emphasized that the Board and District care about our staff, just like we care about our students and families. She thanked the faculty member for sharing their thoughts and concerns.
- She shared that her brother-in-law is a Student Resource Office for a K-12 District in Indiana and they have been back in session for 3 weeks now with face-to-face instruction for K-12 students and all is going well so far. She noted it was relatively cooler last week for them and they too will have hotter weather this week. She advised she was sharing this information to show that face-to-face instruction, once we get over our fears, will fall into place and she has great faith in the outstanding BCPS teachers, staff and bus drivers.
- She wished good luck to everybody and noted that, as Superintendent Carter reminded us, it will take everyone doing their part; wear a mask.

President Karen Evans commented she wanted to echo Superintendent Carter's comments and thank everyone who helped put the Return to School plan together so we could get our students back to learning and being educated and doing what people at BCPS do so well. She is very excited about this school year and noted we will have some hurdles to get over, but as we have already proven, we will jump over them with grace.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54pm.

Submitted by  
Patti Worden

Kyra Wallace  
Board Secretary