

**BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Work Session**

**August 9, 2021**

**Board Room at the Administration Building, 3 West Van Buren Street, Battle Creek, MI**

**5:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT – BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Catherine LaValley

Patty Poole-Gray

Charlie Fulbright

Jacqueline Slaby

Art McClenney

**Absent**

Kyra Wallace

Nathan Grajek

**Present – Administration**

Kim Carter – Superintendent

Dr. Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education

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

Dr. Anita Harvey, Director, District Transformation

Monique Cheeks – Director, Student 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**

Jeff English – Executive Director

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by President LaValley at 5:34p.m. Catherine LaValley, Patty Poole-Gray, Charlie Fulbright, Jacqueline Slaby and Art McClenney were present.

President Catherine LaValley apologized for the delay in the start of the Board Meeting and explained the Board returned home (to the Board Room) this evening and we were working through some technical difficulties.

President LaValley read aloud the information from our attorney, received in the last half an hour, which advised a School Board may only conduct a virtual meeting in whole or in part to accommodate absent Board Members due to military duty, a medical condition, or a Statewide or local state of emergency or state of disaster. If one of the above reasons does not apply, a School Board may not conduct a virtual meeting in part by allowing a Member to virtually participate or vote in a public meeting while traveling during a vacation or for business purposes.

President LaValley reported it will be acceptable for Board Members to arrive late, if need be, noting the New Business items are always near the end of our Agenda.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the Agenda as presented.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 5 – 0.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

President LaValley advised a community member is given 3 minutes to speak to the Board. No answer is given during the meeting, but a District Administrator will be in touch with the community member.

Andrew Kincaid  
286 22<sup>nd</sup> Street N  
Springfield MI

Andrew Kincaid commented he is the father of three BCPS students, two who will be at Fremont this semester. He mentioned he should have come to a meeting sooner than this evening because what he says tonight will not likely change anything.

Andrew said he has talked to several people, including Superintendent Carter and President LaValley, and he has had respectful/good conversations, despite having harsh/hard things to say.

Andrew said he understands the District is doing its best and that's all they can do, however, he believes we are leading by feelings and not by facts. Andrew said he wanted to present some facts, which were as follows. 3.5 million children out of 75 million in the US have gotten COVID. He said that is not a large percentage. Less than 400 have died, that is 1 child in 10,000. Zero have died in Michigan. Zero have died in Calhoun County in last month and numbers are not increasing in our County. Which leads him to the question - why is BCPS implementing masks? Is it for the safety of kids being our primary goal, for him the answer would be no. He said COVID affects kids so little, it's like experiencing a mild cold. He said we could be masking kids up for the rest of their lives. He wonders if it's for the safety of adults. He noted every adult who wanted the vaccine has gotten it. He feels we should stop putting masks on kids to protect those who chose not to get vaccinated and stop leading by feelings to make people feel good and safe... the 3-minute time was up.

President LaValley thanked Andrew Kincaid for his comment. She mentioned Andrew filled out two Comment Cards so he would be able to speak again at the next Public Comments during this meeting.

## REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Certification of Ballot Proposition

Superintendent Kim Carter discussed the Certification of Ballot Proposition.

### Resolution Regarding Special Election on November 2, 2021

Superintendent Kim Carter discussed the Resolution Regarding Special Election on November 2, 2021.

### Professional Appointment for Director of Facilities

Pat McCann discussed the recommendation of Joshua Bowman for the Professional Appointment for the Director of Facilities. She introduced Joshua Bowman and shared his experience.

Joshua commented he appreciates this opportunity and looks forward to serving the District.

### EduClimber Student Support Software

Monique Cheeks and Mitch Fowler discussed the EduClimber Student Support Software. The cost is \$38,706.00 with the funding source being ESSER Funds.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on August 23, 2021.

### ECF Student Chromebooks

Mitch Fowler discussed the ECF Student Chromebooks. The cost is \$416,875.65 with the funding source being the Emergency Connectivity Funds.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on August 23, 2021.

### K-12 Virtual Academy

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi discussed the K-12 Virtual Academy. The cost is \$40,980.00 with the funding source being ESSER Funds.

### NEP Contract Renewal

Superintendent Kim Carter discussed the NEP Contract Renewal. The cost is not to exceed \$175,000.00 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on August 23, 2021.

### Partners for School Innovation Contract

Superintendent Kim Carter discussed the Partners for School Innovation Contract. The cost is not to exceed \$150,000.00 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on August 23, 2021.

### Fremont Before/After Care Provider

Dr. Chandra Youngblood discussed the Fremont Before/After Care Provider using YMCA. The total cost is \$63,000.00 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

## **DISCUSSION**

### Board Self-Evaluations

President Catherine LaValley discussed the Board Self-Evaluations.

She shared the individual we reached out to did not return Superintendent Carter's calls.

We have received information from the MASB about their assistance with Board Self-Evaluations and we received quotes for pricing.

President LaValley shared the MASB process is an online anonymous survey. Board Members are given two weeks to complete the survey. Once all the answers are in, MASB will analyze the survey within a week and then a representative comes to facilitate a 3-5 hour Retreat.

President LaValley inquired if there were any dates/times that were not good for Board Members.

Most Board Members preferred the Retreat be scheduled on a weekend versus a week night.

### MASB Bylaws and Resolutions

President Catherine LaValley discussed the MASB Bylaws and Resolutions.

It was noted the deadline for the Board to submit a recommendation to the MASB regarding Resolutions is Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Board selected Trustee Jacqueline Slaby to prepare the recommendation.

The two opportunities the Board selected to submit recommendations regarding are:

- G5.56 regarding Cultural Competency – the Board would like to recommend the MASB consult with local tribal councils on decisions around programming.
- G5.42 regarding Assessment and Competency Testing – the Board would like to recommend the MASB add language about measuring student growth performance, in addition to the required State testing.

It was noted the Board does not have to vote on submitting a recommendation. Trustee Jacqueline Slaby and President Catherine LaValley will work on these 2 recommendations.

#### Community Outreach

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

#### COVID Protocol Update

Superintendent Kim Carter presented the COVID Protocol Update.

The Board took a 10-minute recess at 7:23pm.

The Meeting resumed at 7:31pm.

Superintendent Carter reported that meals for the Virtual Academy are on hold due to Federal waivers. We are waiting to hear word about those. She advised BCPS has to have permission to allow food to leave our campus and we don't have that right now.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Andrew Kincaid spoke again, noting he said his part about masks. Regarding the value of safety, he feels the District is more concerned with bureaucracy than safety. He said this did not seem to be an easy question for Administration to answer and it is his opinion that anyone not committed to child safety should not be part of Administration.

Andrew said he is going to go back to his family, he appreciates having this time to comment and noted he is not sure how the Board does what they do.

President Catherine LaValley thanked Andrew.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Certification of Ballot Proposition**

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the Certification of Ballot Proposition.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 5 – 0.**

### **Resolution Regarding Special Election on November 2, 2021**

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the Resolution Regarding Special Election on November 2, 2021.

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 5 – 0.**

### **Professional Appointment for Director of Facilities**

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the Professional Appointment of Joshua Bowman for the Director of Facilities.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 4 – 1.**

### **K-12 Virtual Academy**

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the K-12 Virtual Academy in the amount of \$40,980.00 with the funding source being ESSER Funds.

Secretary Patty-Poole Gray supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 4 – 1.**

### **Fremont Before/After Care Provider**

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the Fremont Before/After School Care Provider in the amount of \$63,000.00 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 5 – 0.**

BCPS Elementary, Middle School and High School (BCCHS and WK Prep) Student Handbooks  
Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the BCPS Elementary, Middle School, STEM Middle School, BCCHS and WK Prep Student Handbooks.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 5 – 0.**

High School Athletic Code of Conduct

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the High School Athletic Code of Conduct.

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 5 – 0.**

BCPS Code of Conduct

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the BCPS Code of Conduct.

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 5 – 0.**

BCPS Adult Education Student Handbook

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the BCPS Adult Education Student Handbook.

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 5 – 0.**

### **SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Superintendent Kim Carter shared the following information:

- The BCPS 2021-2022 Calendar will be sent out to our families in the mail by the end of this week.
- The first day of school for K-12 students is Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, and will be a half day.
- There is a drive-thru Vaccine Clinic at NWMS on Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00-6:00pm.
- Open Houses will be published on each building's Facebook page. All Open Houses will be on Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will also communicate details by phone tree.
- She thanked all Summer School staff for doing an amazing job to disrupt student learning loss in the middle of a pandemic. She was very impressed with all the showcases.

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray shared a reminder for NWMS parents that transportation times for student pick-ups are noted on Facebook.

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby shared with the Board and community that she has been appointed to the Government Relations Committee for the MASB. The first meeting is this Friday and she will be in Lansing to talk about upcoming legislative updates. President Catherine LaValley congratulated Trustee Slaby and commented the MASB is lucky to have her.

Trustee Art McClenney commented as follows:

- Congratulations to the Graduates and Staff at WK Preparatory High School for a wonderful Graduation Ceremony.
- Facebook land has been a struggle this evening.
- Congratulations to all Staff on a job well done. Sometimes the things that come from the Board can be harsh and he wants to thank the Staff for a job well done.
- Trustee McClenney said he is always encouraging people to run for the Board and it was interesting to hear Andrew Kincaid comment tonight that he was not sure how the Board does what they do.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright commented as follows:

- He also congratulated the WK Kellogg Preparatory High School Graduates.
- He is confused about why we had so many action items on the Work Session Agenda tonight, noting he thought the Work Session was for talking and debating and Regular Meeting were for New Business voting. He said he didn't need an explanation this evening, but would appreciate one in the future.

President Catherine LaValley commented as follows:

- She promised Treasurer Fulbright he will get his question answered.
- She thanked the Board Trustees for having in there and added it feels good to be having correct chairs around the table and it was exciting to be able to livestream on Facebook. She apologized to the Board and the community for the glitches this evening and said we will strive to do better at the next meeting.
- She also congratulated the WK Kellogg Preparatory High School Graduates, noting she attended last Friday with Board Trustees Charlie Fulbright and Art McClenney.



- The latest edition of Scene magazine was provided to Board Members this evening and it has great information about BCPS and there are some nice surprises in the Yearbook in the center, with childhood pictures of BCPS Staff. President LaValley added she was proud of all who volunteered by submitting their photos.
- Secretary Patty Poole-Gray, Trustee Jacqueline Slaby and herself have met twice for the Facilities Committee Meetings and the Committee is doing good work to move forward. Minutes of the Facilities Committee Meetings will be sent to Trustees sometime this week
- She attended the MASB Summer Institute held last Friday, attended 2 general sessions, and she learned a lot. She thanked Secretary Patty Poole-Gray and Trustee Jacqueline Slaby for their attendance as well.
- She hopes to see all the Board Trustees at the Opening Day Ceremony on Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> and she is pleased to do her part in speaking to everyone.
- Trustee Jacqueline Slaby has agreed to lead the BCPS Bond Committee.
- The Summer School Showcases were a joy to see on our Facebook pages.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

President LaValley adjourned the meeting at 8:14pm.

Submitted by  
Patti Worden

Patty Poole-Gray  
Board Secretary