

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Work Session
December 7, 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
Patty Poole-Gray
Charlie Fulbright
Art McClenney
Jackie Slaby

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 5:30p.m. Karen Evans, Catherine LaValley, Kyra Wallace, Patty Poole-Gray, Charlie Fulbright, Art McClenney and Jackie Slaby were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the Agenda as written.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Karen Evans read the Public Comments out loud.

Rebeca Aparicio-Gómez

49014

269-830-2670

Cuándo hagan sus reuniones, deberían poner traductor para las personas que no entendemos mucho inglés, también nosotros queremos saber las actualizaciones que tienen las escuelas donde estudian nuestros hijos, muchas gracias

When they do their meetings, they should put a translator for people who do not understand much English, we also want to know the updates that the schools where our children study have, thank you very much.

President Evans thanked Rebeca for her comment.

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Athletics and Extracurriculars Update

Superintendent Kim Carter provided a quick update that the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services extended the pause thru December 20th, which includes athletics and extracurriculars. We will make decisions with the Calhoun County Health Department to avoid in-person activities during the time frame of January 4th through 11th for the recommended 10-day quarantine following the holidays.

Superintendent Carter shared the recommended quarantine was already taken into consideration with the proposed return to in-person learning starting January 18th for Elementary students and January 25th for Secondary students in a hybrid model. Next Monday, December 14th, she will present the Extended Continuity of Learning Plan for the Board's approval and the ECOL will include a pause for athletics and extracurriculars until at least January 11th.

Vice President Catherine LaValley confirmed the Great Start Program is not meeting face-to-face. Superintendent Carter indicated that was correct, there are no GSRP classes in-person at this time. Vice President LaValley asked if they had been off during the 3-week pause. Dr. Chandra Youngblood shared their last day in-person was November 23rd and counting today, they have had 6 days total remote learning.

Comcast Internet Essentials Partnership Program Update

\$30,000.00

Funding Source – Willard Trust & Private Donation

Mitch Fowler discussed the recommendation about the Comcast Essentials opportunity. Mitch reported he was excited to announce a partnership between BCPS and the Battle Creek Community Foundation to offer internet through the Comcast Essentials program to our BCPS families who qualify. The Battle Creek Community Foundation will cover the cost of the Essentials package for up to 12 months. The cost is \$120.00 per year, per family. Families will receive a promotion code that when they enter that code into their set-up procedure, the bill will be routed to the Battle Creek Community Foundation for the next 12 months.

Mitch discussed it being great to have this opportunity to add to the previous Sprint hotspots the Board previously approved. We will use Willard Trust and private donations to assist with the costs and to reach as many families as possible. Mitch discussed the need for using the Willard Trust and private donations is due to the fact that we use State or Federal dollars because we must filter the internet service in order to tie it to State and Federal dollars and that will not be how this is handled.

Mitch indicated we are asking the Board to approve \$30,000.00 for the seed money to be used to pay for Comcast Essentials from the Willard Trust and private donation.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked about the mission of the Willard Trust. Superintendent Kim Carter explained the Willard Trust was established a long time ago and is to be used for the basic needs of students who are at-risk.

Vice President LaValley asked who the contact person at Battle Creek Community Foundation will be that families will interact with. Mitch responded we have developed a network of building level specialists and our CIS Coordinators will be helping families with the application process and removing the barriers to enroll and get things set up. The Battle Creek Community Foundation is taking on the financial aspect and we are helping families apply and get the codes.

Vice President LaValley asked if the Battle Creek Foundation is adding more money to the \$30,000.00 the Board is being asked to approve. Mitch said they are, he can come back to the Board with the amount they have earmarked for this project, but it is basically \$120 per family for a year.

Treasurer Patty Poole Gray asked if families who have hotspots can switch over to the Comcast Essentials internet. Mitch said absolutely and we would certainly welcome families doing that because the Comcast Essentials is a better option.

Secretary Kyra Wallace asked if we are contributing \$30,000.00 for the Foundation to help BCPS students/families because the Foundation helps the entire community. Mitch said that was correct, the Foundation will invoice us for BCOS students using this service. Superintendent Kim Carter reported right now, the Comcast Essentials plan is only for BCPS students.

Treasurer Patty Poole Gray asked about the plan for hotspots that are returned to the school. Mitch advised the District paid for the hotspots, past the 6-month point, so they belong to the District now and we have the flexibility to provide them for students who might be housing insecure. The Comcast Essentials program requires users to have a physical address. Mitch promised we would repurpose the hotspots and noted he receives many requests from staff and students so this will allow a flexibility in connectivity we have not had before.

Annual Fire Inspection RFP

\$12,767.00

Funding Source – General Fund

Charles Lipsey discussed the Fire Inspection recommendation to keep the District in compliance with the fire marshal codes. An RFP was sent out on November 9th and the District received three (3) bids. The best bid was from Summit Fire Protection and came in at \$12,767.00 for a three (3) year contact. Charles is recommending the Board approve Summit Fire Protection providing this service for a cost of \$12,767.00 with the funds coming from the General Fund,

Vice President Catherine LaValley inquired about one of the bids being \$6,700.00. Charles advised that bid was only for a portion of the package, not the entire package. Vice President LaValley asked about the bid being a 3-year agreement and if that was how it was handled in the past and Charles indicated it was.

Vice President LaValley noted the Request Number was missing on the Recommendation to the Board. Superintendent Carter advised that Ms. Worden would add that to the document.

WK Kellogg Auditorium Lighting Controls

Laura Ash discussed the recommendation for the final phase of the WK Kellogg Auditorium renovations and the project is currently out for bid. Laura estimates the lighting controls project to be around \$250,000.00 with the funds coming from the WK Kellogg Foundation Grants. Laura hopes the cost will be around \$200,000.00 but she won't know until the bids are received.

Laura advised the bids are due tomorrow by 2:00pm so she will have better information for the Board to take official action at the Regular Meeting on December 14th and approve the vendor and amount.

Vice President Catherine LaValley indicated it was nice to see a breakdown of the previous Auditorium improvements. She asked how many bids have been received and Laura reported 2 bids came in today. They sent out 30 RFPs as we have in the past.

Vice President LaValley asked about the lighting components for this upcoming project. Laura Ash shared it is digital lighting and image board components that allow us to control and dim the lights from the booth or the main floor, it's a very intensive program. Vice President LaValley asked about previous lighting work the Board had approved and if this had to be separate. Laura said we wanted to wait until new products were identified that could save us some dollars and if they would work in the Auditorium. Laura is eager to open the bids tomorrow.

Sinking Fund Presentation Overview

Superintendent Kim Carter provided a review of the Sinking Fund Expenditure Plan noting this presentation was for rationale of the Bond project.

Superintendent Carter reviewed the presentation, which included the following information:

- Six Goals for Greatness, with a focus on Goal 6: World-Class Infrastructure. Develop and sustain state of the art, efficient, safe and welcoming infrastructures that have a positive impact on the broader Battle Creek community.

To achieve this, we want to:

- Maintain and improve facilities
- Improve technology access and resources

Making Progress on Goal 6 – In an effort to ensure that our buildings are well-maintained and appropriately meet needs of our school community, the following presentation provides an overview of the BCPS sinking fund expenditures over the next three years. This draft overview of expenditures will inform the development of a Long Range Facility Plan (LRFP) for the district.

- Purpose of Report
 - Provide an overview the expenditure plan for use of district sinking funds
 - Share plans for all elementary schools
 - Share details related to project costs and financial projections
 - Provide context for bond proposal
- What is a Sinking Fund?

A Sinking Fund is a millage levied to support school safety improvements, technology improvements and the repair and construction of school buildings. Sinking Funds cannot be used for things like regular maintenance, purchasing teaching supplies or textbooks, or paying teacher and administrator salaries. In fact, the law requires districts with Sinking Funds to keep these funds separate from other district accounts. Sinking Funds must also receive a separate audit each year to ensure they are being spent appropriately. However, having a Sinking Fund to pay for safety improvements, technology improvements, and repairs allows the district to preserve the money it receives from the state to support instruction, programs, and salaries.
- District Overview
 - 4,056 Students
 - Average age of buildings: Approximately 85 years old with the youngest being roughly 61 and the oldest being roughly 115 years old.
 - Annual Sinking Fund Revenue: \$2 million
 - The Sinking Fund balance as of 6/30/2020: \$5,352,419
 - A \$2M reserve is set aside to use for emergencies purposes such as boiler and emergency roof replacements, etc.
 - Historical expenditures range from \$500,000 to \$800,000 on roof replacements and repairs
 - 7 occupied Elementary Buildings
 - 2 occupied Middle School Buildings
 - 1 Math and Science Center
 - 1 Alternative High School
 - 1 Comprehensive high school with shared space for middle level STEM education
 - Outdoor Education Center
 - Miller Stone Adult Education
 - Cereal City Science Business
 - Administration/Willard Library
 - Field House/CW Post

Additional slides included were:

- BCPS Unoccupied/Leased/Vacant Properties
- More Need than Funding
- Needs to Address
- Proposed Annual Spending Summary
 - 2020-2021: Sinking Fund -\$ 341,560 (remaining of \$2M total)
 - 2021-2022: Sinking Fund -\$2,931,000
 - 2022-2023: Sinking Fund -\$2,025,000
 - 2023-2024: Sinking Fund -\$1,740,000
 - 2024-2025: Sinking Fund -\$1,550,000

Proposed projects will be supplemented by General Funds to cover costs not eligible for Sinking Fund usage

- School Level Plans
 - Ann J Kellogg - \$236,000
Auditorium HVAC and Roof Repairs
 - Administration Building - \$750,000
Roof Replacement
 - Battle Creek Central - \$1,715,000
Courtyard asphalt remove and water intrusion repair, Electrical Power Reduction, Replace stage curtain and carpet, Ventilation science labs, Pool deck improvements, Track Replacement, LED Lighting Upgrade
 - Dudley - \$66,560
Roof Replacement and Classroom Windows
 - Fremont - \$120,000
Gym Floor Replacement and Staff Parking Lot
 - Lamora Park – \$230,000
Drop Ceiling, Internal LED Upgrade, Parking Lot Lines Repaving
 - Math & Science Center - \$435,000
Sidewalk Repair, Air Handler Repair, Roof Replacement

It was noted, as part of the Agreement for the Math & Science Center, we agreed to make sure and set aside monies to keep the building well-maintained.
 - Miller Stone - \$380,000
Roof Replacement and Carpet Replacement
 - Northwestern - \$1,755,000
Auditorium Sound System, Gymnasium Sound System, Bleacher Upgrades, Supplemental funds for work connected to bond initiative

- Outdoor Education Center - \$350,000
Black Top Repairs, Fire/Water Suppression System, Generator Installation
- Post-Franklin - \$275,000
Playground, Upgrade Restrooms ADA Compliance, Internal LED
- Springfield Middle - \$1,170,000
Internal LED Upgrade, Replace Auditorium Sound, Lighting, Curtain & Seating, Install Gymnasium Sound System, Bleacher Upgrades, Restroom Upgrades, Supplemental funds for work connected to bond initiative
- Valley View - \$135,000
Security Alarm System, Replace Boiler, Internal LED Upgrade
- Verona - \$420,000
Roof Replacement, Stairwell Lighting, Exterior Door Replacements, Walking Track Around Playground, Playground Concrete
- W.K. Prep - \$275,000
Elevator Replacement and Parking Lot Replacement
- Facilities Building - \$275,000
Roof Replacement

Laura Ash discussed the limited priority we are slated to spend is \$8.2 million dollars and our revenue is \$8 million. There is much more need than available funding. We have lots of requests and wishes and have to prioritize what is most important first.

- Looking Ahead
 - Work with bond committee to launch successful campaign that fully engages multiple stakeholder groups.
 - Launch project team to oversee the strategic development of a Long Range Facility Plan (LRFP) for the district.
 - Work with Directors/Building Leaders to coordinate implementation of specific initiatives
 - Prepare and submit RFPs for projects for 2021-22 school year (completed in January 2021 for board approval in February 2021)
 - Provide Annual Sinking Fund updates for Board of Education
- A Sinking Fund Spending Schedule was also provided in the presentation.

Trustee Jackie Slaby thanked Superintendent Carter for this presentation and commented she wants to make sure we are tracking things. She mentioned in the last meeting, Laura Ash indicated the Board would be provided with an actual Facilities Plan this month and it sounds like the Board is not going to get that, but instead that we are launching a Project Team to develop it.

Superintendent Kim Carter apologized and reported once she had a chance to meet with the Team about what is being presented tonight it was realized it is not a Facilities Plan. We are learning together and she asked that a Committee be created to do a Facilities Plan the right way and we are asking for more time to do that.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked if there would be Board involvement and Superintendent Carter said absolutely. We will ask for Board involvement and will need guidance and contract with a third party to be brought in and try to do a full assessment. Trustee Slaby would love to serve on this Committee and feels with her Masters in City Planning and experience in construction projects, she can contribute a lot to what we envision. Superintendent Carter thanked Trustee Slaby and advised that what we want people to understand, as we present the Sinking Fund is that it is and subject to change and there may be adjustments with the Facilities plan to meet the needs the Committee believes are the real priorities.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright also thanked Superintendent Carter for the great presentation and the Spending Schedule. He was happy to see the Track Replacement at BC Central High School and remembers last year a community member came and discussed that during Public Comments, so he is glad we are listening to them.

Trustee Fulbright mentioned upgrading the restrooms at Post-Franklin to be ADA and wondered about the ADA compliance with Fremont, for the office. He indicated parents came and asked about that last year before COVID. He asked if that been thought about or could be as we review things. Superintendent Carter said yes and noted those things will all come from Committee planning. The goal is for the Committee to try and make some priorities and determine what goes on the list, what might come off, what moves down, etc. and create a 4-year Plan. She noted some things may not be done until 6 years out if something else takes priority.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked about the Fremont gym floor replacement and if damage had occurred. Charles Lipsey said the issue was the floor has been sanded and prepped to the point where the planks are thin and warped.

Secretary Kyra Wallace asked if the Bond Committee is already in place. Superintendent Carter indicated it is. Secretary Wallace wanted to confirm a Facilities Committee will be established.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright noted the Sinking Funds are not to be used for regular maintenance items. He mentioned he and Trustee Slaby did a walk through at BC Central High School and saw a lot of things that need to be fixed. He wondered if those would be addressed in a separate Facilities Plan and Superintendent Carter indicated they would. She said we know we will have to supplement the Sinking Fund with General Fund monies for some repairs.

Vice President Catherine LaValley commented she had various questions about each building site and she wondered if it would be better for her to save her questions for when the Facilities Committee gets together. Superintendent Carter indicated absolutely; that part of the process for the Facilities Committee will be to understand the building needs for those working in the buildings. It was determined that a missing step in the current process is gathering input from teachers and principals. We have to provide the space for that and for it to be done at the level needed. Therefore, we have to take a step back and do it the right way. Vice President LaValley indicated she will save her questions for that space.

Trustee Jackie Slaby mentioned the ADA compliance at Fremont being provided in a summary back in June and the response was if we addressed this issue at Fremont, we would have to address it throughout the entire building. She asked if there is a different understanding now, such as at Post-Franklin, etc. Superintendent Carter noted the need to remember Post-Franklin already had a lot of upgrades and there are only a few things left there. Fremont has a lot more work and needs if you compare the building.

Vice President Catherine LaValley commented she liked the presentation and had one question. Regarding the Outdoor Education Center, she thought we did something with fire and water suppression and asked if that was incorrect. Charles Lipsey advised nothing has been done for the entire location and we are at a point where it may not function due to the age.

Vice President LaValley asked if we are replacing a previous system and Charles Lipsey said yes. Charles reported there was work done to meet Fire Codes for the exit doors and in the cabins to meet the Fire Marshall Codes.

Middle School Bond Renovation Project

Laura Ash shared the presentation from the Board Packet and noted it was slightly adjusted from the December 1st Town Hall. Laura advised the architects Eduardo Blanc (TMP Architecture), Bob McGraw (c2ae) and Ryan Long (Elite Companies) were participating in tonight's meeting and that there would be several participants presenting.

Dr. Anita Harvey shared, as always, "Great Things are Happening in Battle Creek Public Schools".

Dr. Harvey thanked the Middle School Bond Committee Members for their time, attention and talents. The Middle School Bond Committee Members are:

- Catherine LaValley, BCPS Board Vice President
- Karen Evans, BCPS Board President
- Anthony Pennock, BCPS Teacher & BCEA President
- Jerry Rose, Community Member
- Kate Flores, BCPS Parent, Community Member
- Israel Flores, BCPS Parent, Community Member
- Jamie Fales Brown, BCPS Parent, Community Member
- Melvin McKnight, BCPS Staff Member, Community Member
- Stephanie Boyd, Community Member
- John Boyd, Community Member
- Toni Ardis, BCPS Parent, Community Member
- Kimberly Spivey, Community Member
- Janet Wilson, Community Member
- L.E. Johnson, Community Member
- Joe Ratti, BCPS Teacher
- Jenasia Morris, Community Member

Dr. Harvey thanked the NWMS Transformation Team and noted this Committee is in the exploration phase as we take on transformation efforts and the multiple steps involved for this project. The NWMS Transformation Team Members are:

- Kimberly Carter, Superintendent
- Dr. Anita Harvey, Director of District Transformation
- Dr. Deborah Nuzzi, Director of Secondary Education
- Dr. Chandra Youngblood, Director of Elementary Education
- Lisa Francisco, Michigan Department of Education
- Cheryl Johnson, BCPS Chief Human Resources Officer
- Carrie Briggs, District Transformation Project Manager
- Palak Patel, District Transformation Coach
- Monique Cheeks, Director of Student Services and Pupil Accounting
- Tammy Robinson, Special Education Coordinator
- David Fooy, NWMS Principal

- Jennifer Flowers-Bentley, NWMS Assistant Principal
- Nathan Hunt, Communications Manager
- Christian Manley, Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction
- Laura Ash, Executive Director of Business and Finance
- June Parker, NWMS Instructional Coach
- Erin Romel, BCPS Art Department Lead
- Chris Momcilovich, BCPS Music Department Lead
- Lawrence Hoffman, NWMS Band Director
- Kristin Moore, NWMS Art Teacher
- Melinda Hubbard, K-5 Arts and Music Teacher
- Angela Miller, NWMS Special Education Teacher

Dr. Harvey shared the following portions of the Middle School Transformation presentation:

- Building on our Successes
 - BCPS is proposing a bond measure that would transform our middle school experiences and move us into the next phase of District Transformation. Under the proposed plan:
 - Northwestern would become an arts-focused educational experience and expand to include grades K–8.
 - Springfield would continue its transformation into a service learning school.
 - If approved as proposed, Administration would begin planning for Dudley Elementary to shift its focus to early childhood learning, offering families a birth to 8th-grade learning community experience within a single neighborhood.

- Middle School Excellence
 - Through listening to the community over the past several years, we heard a strong demand within the Battle Creek community for more hands-on, experiential opportunities and a wide variety of electives.
 - These new programs will ensure BCPS provides a well-rounded portfolio of choices for families within BCPS, including:
 - Visual and performing arts
 - Service learning
 - STEM
 - Career preparation
 - Global education

- Transformation Bond Proposal
 - The proposed transformation would include renovations to both schools, funded by a \$40 million bond proposal. Proposed work would include:
 - ~\$29 million toward Northwestern renovations and additions, including new spaces for elementary grades, art and dance studios, digital graphics and video production lab, auditorium renovations and more.
 - ~\$11 million toward Springfield renovations, including new energy efficient windows, heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) upgrades, new lighting, updated bathrooms, accessibility improvements and more.

- A Promising Arts-Oriented Future for Northwestern
 - NWMS – Transformation for Visual & Performing Arts

Transformation Is Needed:

- Over the past few years, Northwestern has not been successful in meeting the BCPS promise of excellence in education for every student. We are committed to transforming Northwestern in service of our broader goal of achieving 100% success for every Bearcat.
- The transformation of Northwestern Middle School is an effort to ensure greater equity in our community. Families in Washington Heights, Northwestern students, and our broader community all deserve this investment and the many opportunities it will bring.

Opportunities Abound:

- We are proposing the transformation of Northwestern into a visual and performing arts academy in response to our community’s desire for a well-rounded suite of options within BCPS.
- Moving to a K-8 model will provide increased stability by enabling students to maintain strong and trusting relationships with educators and one another over the long term, while also creating space in the community for the education of students from birth.
- Why Visual & Performing Arts?
 - Helps students discover healthy expression build their sense of self-worth, engage in learning and discover their power to contribute to the world around them.
 - Positively influences the surrounding neighborhood and the community at large through community events and performances.
 - Incorporates the arts throughout the curriculum to boost student achievement by increasing engagement, interest and relevance.
 - Uses creative expression to help students with different learning styles find their voices.
 - Includes a wide array of creative and engaging courses:
 - Visual Art ● Literary Arts ● Theatre ● Stagecraft ● Ballet ●
 - Contemporary Dance ● Band ● Orchestra ● Vocal Music ●
 - Music Composition ● Mixed Media Art
- Why a K-8 School Structure?
 - Offers consistency in relationships with staff and in experiences with the arts will help our students grow and develop their senses of self in a safe and trusting environment.
 - Promotes positive school culture and higher achievement than students in Traditional middle school settings.

- Exposes students to visual and performing arts at a young age so they are able to gain this experience early on and in a sustained way.
 - Grades K-3 will engage in in exploration.
 - Grades 4-5 will create a foundation of knowledge and skill.
 - Grades 6-8 will have the opportunity to choose a specialty focus in an arts pathway.

Eduardo Blanc presented the Bond Details portion of the presentation regarding NWMS.

- Proposed Renovations – Northwestern
 - Roofing (completed separately through the Sinking Fund)
 - Window Replacement with energy-efficient windows
 - Exterior door replacement
 - Secured entry/access control upgrades
 - Mechanical system upgrades – boilers, unit ventilators, pumps, add AC
 - Lighting upgrades throughout classrooms to energy-efficient LED
 - Restroom upgrades and accessibility
 - Upgraded casework and finishes
 - Fire safety upgrades

- Proposed Additions – Northwestern
 - Expanded Parent Drop-off
 - Identifiable main entry and playground addition
 - Kindergarten addition
 - Elementary Restroom addition
 - Art Studios, Digital/Graphics Lab, Video Production & support spaces
 - Vocal & Instrumental Studios & support spaces
 - Dance Studio
 - Auditorium renovations – seating, sound, lighting, curtains, dressing rooms, scene shop, storage

Drawings and photographs of the Proposed Additions, Welcome Center, Kindergarten Classrooms, Art & Dance Studios, Music Rooms, Music Rooms & Auditorium were provided in the presentation.

Bob McGraw presented the Bond Details portion of the presentation regarding SMS.

Bon discussed the plans for SMS are not the dramatic changes as proposed for the NWMS building. SMS is in good condition and was constructed with high quality materials. The plans for SMS are more of a refresh, Springfield 2.0, to take it from the 1960s and update it to 2020.

- Proposed Renovation – Springfield
 - Window Replacement with energy-efficient windows
 - Exterior door replacement
 - Secured entry/access control upgrades
 - Mechanical system upgrades – boilers, unit ventilators, pumps, add AC (assistance from Sinking Fund dollars to support the need for AC)

- Lighting upgrades
- Restroom upgrades and accessibility
- Upgraded casework and finishes

Drawings and photographs of the Renovations were provided in the presentation.

Laura Ash presented the Bond Details portion of the presentation as it relates to the Bond Project Costs.

Laura discussed the goal to be fiscally responsible to the community as far as what we are asking for in the Bond.

- What would a Middle School Bond Project Cost?
 - Estimated Project Cost: \$40 Million
 - Estimated Interest Rate: 4%
 - Bond Term: 26 Years
 - Estimated Millage Rate Increase: 1.35 Mills

- What would it cost a Homeowner of BCPS?

<u>Market Value Tax</u>	<u>Home Taxable Value</u>	<u>Increased Annual Property</u>
\$ 50,000	\$ 33.75	\$ 25,000
\$100,000	\$ 67.50	\$ 50,000
\$150,000	\$101.25	\$ 75,000
\$200,000	\$135.00	\$100,000
\$250,000	\$168.75	\$125,000

For every \$1,000 of Home Taxable Value, it would cost \$1.35 per year.
This does not affect renters in the area.

- Timeline
 - December 14, 2020 – Board of Education vote
 - January 2021 – Department of Treasury review
 - May 2021 – Bond proposal on ballot
 - Winter 2021 – Construction to begin in small phases until summer break of 2022
 - Fall 2024 – Completion of renovations at NWMS & SMS

Note: We have plans in place so that neither school would be closed at any point during this construction or this transformation process.

Laura advised the District is scheduled to present the Bond Project to the Michigan Department of Treasury for approval on January 6, 2021.

If the Bond Project is approved by the Board of Education and the Michigan Department of Treasury, Laura shared we would not be closing either NWMS or SMS during the renovation work, we have the ability to shuffle the students around, as needed within the buildings.

Laura indicated the community will be invited to let us know their thoughts about the Bond Project by completing surveys.

Trustee Jackie Slaby commended Superintendent Carter's efforts in driving such large such initiatives as she has, noting we have opened 2 schools that were closed and are building key partnerships, all while balancing the budget. She said that is no easy task. She also commended Dr. Anita Harvey's efforts around the Bond Project and Laura Ash's finance work on the Bond Project.

Trustee Slaby indicated as a graduate of the District, she has been very vocal about her support in this neighborhood and she appreciates the parents and staff who have volunteered their services in helping improve this neighborhood, noting all of this is critical to the success of the District and student success.

Trustee Slaby feels there are further items to investigate about the Bond Project and she offered other suggestions:

- Since we have invested three-quarters of a million dollars in upgrades to the WK Kellogg Auditorium, what would it look like to have a magnet school located downtown near the Auditorium that has a history of Follies and supporting the Arts city-wide being positioned right across from the High School.
- Being located downtown near the High School would allow convenient access to additional places.
- Have we looked into what other Middle Schools are doing and how they are investing in their curriculums.
- What High School track is available for students to apply everything they just learned in the Middle School space.
- What does improving Dudley Elementary say to families on the South side where the majority of schools have been closed and Post-Franklin is the only building left. There is nothing in the Bond Proposal for buildings for those families. She would love to see us explore the feasibility of having a Birth to 8th Grade facility at Post-Franklin, for a neighborhood that has been seriously neglected.
- She believes a District that strives to be performative can find ways to build for the future and serve existing families and heal previous harm done.
- She does not think there is enough time to genuinely and effectively get community feedback or review other pathways on the direction of a Bond Project. We are moving quickly to make it easier for us but in doing so, it is a disservice to the families we were chosen to represent. She is looking to her fellow Board Members to critically review and support a decision to do further investigation.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray thanked Dr. Harvey and the Transformation Committee and all the individuals working on this project. She shared the following thoughts:

- The Committee, as she sees it, doesn't seem to include anyone from a particular neighborhood who could have some type of input and buy into what we are trying to do.
- What is the scenario for families who have a student that is not interested in the Arts, is there somewhere else for those students to go, or do they choice out.

- Was there conversation about eliminating the pool at NWMS and what was the conversation. She said she was going to pause there because she wanted an answer on why we would eliminate the pool and take it away from the building and community. She mentioned there are people in the community who learned to swim in that pool and their grandkids and other family members learned to swim in that pool. She thinks the Committee needs to go back and look at putting the pool back into the Bond Project plans. She suggested building another area for the little ones, need to look at pool.

Superintendent Kim Carter said the pool being eliminated has not been decided. If the Board approves moving forward with the Bond Project, there are numerous details to be developed between now and the time we go to the Michigan Department of Treasury. At this time, we wanted to present the possibilities, but it is not a done deal. Superintendent Carter noted there would be an additional cost to keep the pool and add a studio in a new location in the building. She pointed out we were trying to keep the Bond at a fiscal level.

Superintendent Carter discussed that we see the most families opting out of our Middle School programs and we want to create programs to reverse that and bring back families. This is a neighborhood strategy born from a need in this area. She noted WK Preparatory High School is a three-story building and not appropriate for K-8th Grade and would cost much more to make it appropriate. We have also been able to recapture a lot of revenue by opening WK Preparatory High School and we wouldn't want to displace that program which has significantly increased our ability to recapture lost revenue. We started with 30 students in the program and are not at 100.

Superintendent Carter discussed that we are not trying to take away from our other buildings by making NWMS a K-8th Grade facility, but rather to disrupt the pattern of out-migration right now.

Secretary Kyra Wallace asked if the Board will have time to work through the plan details and what they will look like prior to it going on the ballot and when that would take place.

Superintendent Carter advised that is the work of the Bond Committee and it will take place between now and January when we would go before the Michigan Department of Treasury. She indicated we are on a fast track and although COVID put us behind, there is an urgent need to disrupt what is happening at NWMS in an overall service to this community. There is a lot of out-migration in this area and we are not utilizing the facility to the best of our ability. Enrollment is down and we know that we have lived up to the promise of excellence for all students.

Secretary Wallace asked who from the Board sits on the Bond Committee.

Superintendent Carter indicated President Karen Evans and Vice President Catherine LaValley.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright clarified that next week, at the Regular Meeting, the Board will vote on this matter to be on the ballot. There was discussion about the specifics to be included in the Application to the Michigan Department of Treasury which has to be submitted on December 29th in order to be presented on January 6, 2021. Bob McGraw noted the Board will have to determine if they want to keep the NWMS swimming pool because, if so, the architects will need to relocate the proposed instrumental and vocal areas and plan for building an addition to the building to house these areas. This will result in increases costs and conceptual planning. That decision needs to be made in the next couple of weeks.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked if we submit the Application to the Michigan Department of Treasury and present it in January and something comes up or a critical change is needed, prior to May, do we have to re-present a new plan to the Michigan Department of Treasury and then wait until the next Election. Laura Ash indicated that is her understanding of the process.

Bob McGraw advised the ballot language is general enough as to how to carry out the plan, but we want to make key decisions that impact the amount ahead of time. Therefore, a decision on the pool must be made before we go to Treasury. He noted that once an amount is accepted, we have the flexibility to redesign based on all input.

Trustee Jackie Slaby commented this is the reason why she repeats her main concern. She is not opposed to investing the Arts and sees it as a critical thing, but we are not able to make a genuine effort to capture the people's voices because we are racing against the clock.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked if there is a swim program for the Middle School with the Y Center or at the High School with the men's and women's swimming. Superintendent Carter indicated that is part of the plan, again noting that we are trying to be responsible and keep the amount and not go for a huge Bond amount.

Superintendent Carter discussed we have been working on transformation of the District for 4 years, once process at a time, and we are at the point where the Middle Schools need and deserve our time and attention. We transformed Fremont and it has gone well, we added BC STEM, we added WK Kellogg Preparatory High School and transforming the Middle Schools is the next step. She reported in the absence of significant improvement to our Middle Schools, we will continue to face a majority of our outsourcing. This does not negate there are needs elsewhere in the community, but we can't do it all at once.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray commented to remove something from the community would not be a good look, even if it's because we are trying to be being fiscally responsible. She noted we have not taken anything away from any programs and going on the Northwest side of Battle Creek and removing the pool would not be a good look.

President Karen Evans mentioned the fact the construction people have discussed the deficits of the pool at NWMS and if we keep the pool, we will have to do renovations to bring the pool up to where it needs to be. She asked the architects to discuss the deficits. President Evans said as a NWMS alum, she loved swimming in that pool, her kids loved it, but we have to do what is best for kids, what is best for the future.

Bob McGraw discussed that the pool is the original one. It is 5 lanes and although he believes it is deep enough for competitive diving, it would not be desirable with only 5 lanes, it would take too long for competitions with only 5 lanes. The pool is capable of supporting a physical education program or community swimming lessons. Bob asked Ryan Long to speak on the mechanicals of the pool.

Ryan shared the pool is likely in need of replacement. Being that it is the original pool, renovating it and bringing it up to code would be very expensive. Replacement would be the best scenario to make it a pool that everyone can be proud of and one where competitive events could occur. Ryan further noted the current pool set up creates a challenging space to renovate.

Superintendent Carter discussed that making NWMS a Visual & Performing Arts building provides us the opportunity to offer Arts across the District and build a pipeline for growth from the early Elementary years to Middle School years and going into High School.

President Karen Evans commented that when this matter comes back to the Board next week for Board approval, she believes the Board will be voting to give the Superintendent and the Administrative Team the power to move forward with the Bond.

Laura Ash advised that in the Board Packet for this evening, Superintendent Carter did clarify the Board would be voting on the District transforming NWMS to be a K-8 Visual & Arts Performing Center and giving the authority to prepare the Application for the Michigan Department of Treasury to be presented on January 6, 2021.

Superintendent Kim Carter advised it is her recommendation the Board approve the Administrative Team moving forward with the execution of a Bond transition in 2021 and the redesign of NWMS. The details of that Bond transaction will be discussed between now and then in order to have the Application completed on December 29th. She noted we will need to go back to the Committee and get a recommendation on the pool.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked about the deadline date for submitting the information to the Michigan Department of Treasury in order to be part of the May Election cycle. Superintendent Carter advised we have been approved to present on January 6th and that is our deadline for hitting the May Election.

Bob McGraw mentioned we may be able to contact the Michigan Department of Treasury to see if they have any open dates remaining on the schedule. He said it usually has to be done by January 15th but he is aware that some Districts have dropped for COVID reasons so there may be an opportunity to push our date out. Laura Ash advised she would contact the Michigan Department of Treasury tomorrow to see.

Eduardo Blanc clarified further that a little more work will have to be done to estimate the costs for the Bond if we are going to change anything about the design as presented this evening. We cannot change the amount once the paperwork has been submitted. The design can be tweaked along the way, but the dollar amount is unable to be changed.

NEW BUSINESS

Comcast Internet Essentials Partnership Program Update

Motion by Trustee Charlie Fulbright to approve the Comcast Internet Essentials Partnership Program in the amount of \$30,000.00 with the funding source being the Willard Trust and Private Donation.

Secretary Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

DISCUSSION

Legislative Advocacy Efforts

President Karen Evans noted the Board talked about this topic at last month's meeting and Trustee Slaby indicated a desire to see the Board be more involved in legislative advocacy. President Evans opened the topic up for discussion and asked Trustee Slaby to start.

Trustee Slaby indicated she thinks all of the Board Members have appreciated the emails about upcoming bills and the timing around sharing their feedback with Representative Jim Haadsma. She

thinks about how the Board can stretch that even farther. With the current approach, which she does not want the Board to do, it is an individual take and she would like to see if they can come together as a Board and discuss legislative matters in front of the public and model how it impacts our District. This would help the people in the community understand the decisions the Board makes and then the Board could share a collective Board approach to legislators. She thinks it would be really powerful when they address an issue as a united front.

Trustee Slaby would like to see the Board set time aside in their monthly Work Sessions where maybe the Secretary, Vice President or Superintendent share upcoming legislation and then the Board talk through it and decide what to share with State Representatives or the Senator.

Vice President Catherine LaValley inquired if Trustee Slaby would like to do this in both meetings each month. Trustee Jackie Slaby responded she wanted to be respectful of the time needed to debate Agenda items; if the Board took time each month at the Work Session to talk through and learn more about current legislative items, then they could take the next 2 weeks to hear back from the community and then vote on a collective opinion at the Regular Meeting after that. Trustee Slaby thinks that would be helpful and indicated she would love to hear from other Board Members.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked how many of the Board Members were linked into the MASB email from Jennifer Smith about talking to the legislators. President Karen Evans indicated she thought all Board Members get the email alerts. Trustee Jackie Slaby indicated she thought members would have to manually sign up for some of the special notifications and she encouraged Board Members to do that. Vice President LaValley indicated one of the great things about the notifications is you don't have to know legislators contact information when reaching out because the system does it automatically and the system knows who to contact based on your address. President Evans commented possibly Trustee Slaby can share with the other Board Members how to get registered. Trustee Slaby indicated she thinks the Board discussing legislative matters each month in front of the community, as a united Board, will really set the District up as leaders who are advocating for families and the community.

Secretary Kyra Wallace said she likes the idea to discuss legislative issues and come up with a collective response to different legislation and policy. She wondered if we were thinking about having one person from the Board present those, someone dedicated to this task. Secretary Wallace thinks it is very good we look into this but can also see the need to have structures and parameters in place so they are consistent and make good use of the time at Board Meetings because someone will have taken the time to research the bills to articulate to everyone else so there can be productive conversations.

President Karen Evans noted identifying a Board Trustee being identified as the Legislative Advocate for the Board or something along that line and indicated she was not sure if that was something the Board wants to think about.

Trustee Jackie Slaby offered to reach out to MASB Legislative Department and see what other Districts do and if they designate someone to handle matters. She mentioned an upcoming MASB Board of Directors seat and volunteered to put her name in for that position. She would like the Board to discuss this further at the Regular Meeting on December 14th. Trustee Slaby noted if she did get elected and she could serve in that capacity, she would have a closer view to what is coming up. She would also be willing to serve as the Legislative Advocate for the Board.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked if Secretary Kyra Wallace wanted to serve as the Legislative Advocate and Secretary Wallace said she did not.

President Karen Evans commented there is a new Board Member coming in next month who is very much into politics when he was on the Board before.

Trustee Art McClenney commented he likes the idea of finding out what other Boards are doing and President Karen Evans agreed.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright mentioned a Grassroots Meeting a couple of years ago with all the local school boards and there was discussion about all of this. He wondered about starting that group up again, noting it could be beneficial for us all.

Trustee Jackie Slaby reached out to Harper Creek and Lakeview and nothing has been done, she thinks due to COVID, but she thinks it would be awesome, as a District, to be leaders in our own community and show how we can do this and implement joint effort. She thinks we would share the same stance as other Districts on most issues.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Karen Evans read the Public Comments out loud.

Elizabeth Garcia
269-348-5453

How is the district doing student, family, teacher, staff and community satisfaction surveys about BCPS and the schools they attend? What is the student and family feedback about the changes at the schools? Especially about retention and keeping families in the districts. Are you asking youth what they want and aren't getting from their schools? How are you all building a sense of Belonging and Agency?

President Evans thanked Elizabeth for her comment.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Kim Carter thanked everyone who has been continuing to work on the Transformation Plans for BCPS. She said we have lots of volunteers and community members and she appreciates their efforts and that everyone is trying to understand the plans and thought partner.

Superintendent Carter also thanked Voces and the Burma Center for agreeing to meet with her monthly to review how we can improve virtual meetings. We are exploring their suggestions and will look at Facebook comments and providing information for our families to get in touch with personnel. We are looking at additional solutions to help with this. She asked everyone to stay tuned as we are working in background on this.

Superintendent Carter thanked the staff who had to transition really quickly to remote instruction for our K-5 students, noting it was a heavy lift for all staff having to provide remote instruction for our students, while being at home with their own family responsibilities. She wanted the staff to know she sees and appreciates them and thanks them for raising the academic achievements of our students.

Superintendent Carter commented "Great Things Are Happening At Battle Creek Public Schools" and she remains proud of all the individuals who are giving their all in a pandemic.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Vice President Catherine LaValley shared the Holiday Card designed by Alex VanWormer, an 8th Grade Springfield Middle School Art student. She reported every December one of our students creates a beautiful holiday scene to be put on a Holiday Card and send to our community partners. She was proud to receive her set of cards in the mail today.

President Karen Evans commented that Vice President LaValley stole her thunder as she also wanted to shared and thank Alex VanWormer for the beautiful Holiday Card.

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Submitted by
Patti Worden

Kyra Wallace
Board Secretary