

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
February 22, 2021

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

Catherine LaValley
Kyra Wallace
Charlie Fulbright
Jacqueline Slaby
Art McClenney
Nathan Grajek

Absent

Patty Poole-Gray

Present – Administration

Kim Carter – Superintendent
Dr. Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education
Dr. Anita Harvey – Director, District Transformation
Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services
Mitch Fowler – Director, School Data Systems & Innovations
Rhonda Potts – Executive Director, Business and Finance
Wes Seeley – Director of Grant, Federal Programs and Adult Education
Charles Lipsey – Director, Facilities and Operations

Absent – Administration

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi, Director, Secondary Education
Cheryl Johnson – Chief Executive Officer, Human Resources
Nathan Hunt – Communications Manager
Jeff English – Executive Director

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President LaValley at 5:35p.m. Catherine LaValley, Kyra Wallace, Charlie Fulbright, Jacqueline Slaby, Art McClenney and Nathan Grajek were present.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE SCRIPT

As required for compliance with the Open Meetings Act for conducting Electronic Board Meetings, each Board Member read aloud the Remote Attendance Script, as follows:

- *I, Catherine LaValley, am attending this February 22, 2021 Regular Board Meeting remotely.
I am physically located in City of Franklinton, in the State of North Carolina.
I am able to have two-way communication for this Board Meeting.
Please record this public announcement in the Meeting Minutes.*

- *I, Kyra Wallace, am attending this February 22, 2021 Regular Board Meeting remotely.
I am physically located in the City of Battle Creek, in the State of Michigan.
I am able to have two-way communication for this Board Meeting.
Please record this public announcement in the Meeting Minutes.*

- *I, Charlie Fulbright, am attending this February 22, 2021 Regular Board Meeting remotely.
I am physically located in the City of Battle Creek, in the State of Michigan.
I am able to have two-way communication for this Board Meeting.
Please record this public announcement in the Meeting Minutes.*

- *I, Art McClenney, am attending this February 22, 2021 Regular Board Meeting remotely.
I am physically located in the City of Battle Creek, in the State of Michigan.
I am able to have two-way communication for this Board Meeting.
Please record this public announcement in the Meeting Minutes.*

- *I, Jacqueline Slaby, am attending this February 22, 2021 Regular Board Meeting remotely.
I am physically located in the County of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania.
I am able to have two-way communication for this Board Meeting.
Please record this public announcement in the Meeting Minutes.*

- *I, Nathan Grajek, am attending this February 22, 2021 Regular Board Meeting remotely.
I am physically located in the City of Battle Creek, in the State of Michigan.
I am able to have two-way communication for this Board Meeting.
Please record this announcement in the Meeting Minutes.*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Agenda as written.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

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)
- B. Minutes of the Work Session on January 11, 2021, Regular Meeting on January 11, 2021 and Regular Meeting on January 25, 2021
- C. Bills for the Month of January 2021
- D. Personnel Changes and Recognition of Retirees
- E. Membership Report
- F. Finance Report

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6 – 0

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Resolution for Proposed IRS Closing Agreement

Rhonda Potts advised this Resolution was received from the Thrun Law Firm. The Resolution relates to taxes for the 3% Retiree Healthcare and indicates for the years 2012-2026 this piece of the retirement contribution will not be taxed federally and FICA will not be taken. The Resolution continues the agreement that has been in place since 2012 but extends the time frame to 2026.

Rhonda reported the Statute of Limitations currently allows us to go five (5) years beyond the year we are in, which is how the year 2026 was determined.

Strategic Plan Update

Superintendent Kim Carter reviewed the Overview page of the different initiatives included in the Board Packet. There are 31 strategies, 50 strategic initiatives and 138 implementation activities. We have initiated 100% of the 138 activities and 67% have been completed. The others are in the process of being completed and we intend to reach full implementation.

Legislative Advocacy Report

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby discussed the report she prepared which includes information on the following: Active & Upcoming Legislation Highlights, Bill Status Updates, Upcoming Legislative Events, Key Contacts & Resources.

Board Members expressed their appreciation for Trustee Slaby's report and having this information available to them.

Mid-Year Discussion on Superintendent Goals

President Catherine LaValley advised we are mid-way through the school year and as we wind down, it is important to discuss the Superintendent Goals in preparation for Superintendent Carter's evaluation in June.

Superintendent Kim Carter discussed the presentation included in the Board Packet which included the Six Goals for Greatness and the progress we have made.

Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan (Reconfirmation)

Superintendent Kim Carter reported, as required by law, we are reconfirming our Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan for the month of March and she reviewed the presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At President Catherine LaValley's request, Mitch Fowler read the Public Comments aloud.

Whitney Gray

300 Hubbard Street

What is BCPS doing to make virtual schooling easier on single working parents with younger students such as myself? I have a 4th grader and a kindergartner... it's already hard enough for my 4th grader but my kindergartner does not know how to use a laptop nor does she know how to maneuver through the Pearson website... it's a struggle for me alone. So at this moment my kindergartner is failing from the lack of being able to do the work on the computer and from not receiving assistance from the teacher! My kindergartner's teacher barely responds or reaches back out to me. BCPS should really offer packets or books to where the younger child can complete the work that needs to be completed and maybe the parent can mail, fax or drop it off at the end of the week especially for those in situations like myself... a single working parent!

President LaValley thanked Whitney Gray for her comment and indicated someone will get back with her about her questions.

NEW BUSINESS

Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan (Reconfirmation)

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan (Reconfirmation) as presented.

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6 – 0

Resolution for Proposed IRS Closing Agreement

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Resolution for Proposed IRS Closing Agreement as presented.

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6 – 0

2020-2021 Amended General Fund Budget Approval

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the 2020-2021 Amended General Fund Budget as presented on February 8, 2021.

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6 – 0

Book Vending Machines

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the Book Vending Machines in the amount of \$30,034.00 with the funding source being Building Title I Budgets.

Vice President Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6 – 0

Resolution to Permit School Boards to Meet In Person

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Resolution to Permit School Boards to Meet In Person.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion not passed 0 – 6

2021 MASB Board of Directors Election

Motion by Trustee Art McClenney to support Don Myers for the 2021 MASB Board of Directors Election.

Vice President Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion not passed 2 – 4

Motion by Trustee Nathan Grajek to support Ella Harrington for the 2021 MASB Board of Directors Election.

Vice President Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6 – 0

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Kim Carter reminded families that Tuesday, March 2nd, and Wednesday, March 3rd, would be remote learning days to allow for support staff to receive the second dose of the COVID Vaccine. All buildings will be closed for in-person instruction and learning will continue at home on those days. Building leaders will reach out to families with details pertaining to their building.

Superintendent Carter congratulated the Business Office at Battle Creek Central High School on their recent participation at the Sales Event. Alisha Cannon earned 2nd Place in the State in the Sales Call event, outselling 22 other students. This is an example of the “Bearcat Advantage”.

Superintendent Carter shared that Grace Health is now offering COVID Vaccines to current Grace Health patients age 65 and older. Qualified individuals are encouraged to call Pharmacist Emily at 484-212-5936. This information is also available on the BCPS Website.

Superintendent Carter advised the Application period for our innovation centers, Fremont International Academy and BC STEM, are open and we look forward to welcoming students. Applications are available by visiting the BCPS Website and our social media pages.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby shared a free app for Smartphones, tablets and desktops called “We Read Too”. This app has a directory of hundreds of books written by authors of color and feature stories about main characters of color for ages young children to adults.

Trustee Art McClenney thanked Trustee Jacqueline Slaby for the Legislative Update, indicating he had kept up with some of this legislation and it was good to have the information about what the MASB supports and doesn’t support. He really appreciated this presentation and the presentation from Superintendent Kim Carter about current student progress.

Trustee Nathan Grajek thanked Superintendent Kim Carter for arranging for the live Spanish interpretation this evening. He also thanked the staff for the Board Appreciation Gift Box. Trustee Grajek thanked Trustee Jacqueline Slaby for the very thorough Legislative Update.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright shared that March 1st is the deadline for BCPS Scholarships and Grants. Interested applicants can go to the BCPS Website and type in “Education Foundation” and review all available scholarships and grants.

Treasurer Fulbright discussed his attendance at the MASB Winter Institute over the weekend and shared a new Zoom feature (from the recent update) that allows for live translation in closed captioning by pressing a button. He thought this would be beneficial for us to try in the future. Mitch Fowler will look into this.

President Catherine LaValley discussed her recent participation in a United Way 12-Day Racial Equity Challenge.

President LaValley advised the Bond Committee met virtually on February 17th and began the work of gathering “Yes” voters from community partners and businesses, social media teams and faith-based teams. The next meeting is March 3rd.

President LaValley discussed her attendance at the MASB Winter Institute last weekend and gave a shout out to Treasurer Charlie Fulbright for serving as a panelist in the discussion of Superintendents and Board Trustees.

ADJOURNMENT

President Catherine LaValley thanked everyone for joining us tonight.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm.

Submitted by
Patti Worden

Patty Poole-Gray
Board Secretary