

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

February 24, 2020

Fire Place Room of the Administration Building, 3 West Van Buren, Battle Creek, MI

5:30 p.m.

PRESENT – BOARD OF EDUCATION

Karen Evans

Charlie Fulbright

Catherine LaValley

Art McClenney

Patty Poole-Gray

Jackie Slaby

Absent

Kyra Wallace

Present – Administration

Kim Carter – Superintendent

Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education

Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services

Cheryl Johnson – Chief Executive Officer, Human Resources

Mitch Fowler – Director, School Data Systems & Innovations

Laura Ash – Executive Director

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Evans at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Catherine LaValley made a motion to approve the agenda as written.

Charlie Fulbright supported the motion.

Motion passed 6 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tom Morris, Playback Coordinator at Access Vision, shared with the Board that the Battle Creek Short Film Festival will be held tomorrow and Wednesday at the Kool Center in Battle Creek. Students from Pennfield, Harper Creek, Lakeview and Battle Creek Public Schools will attend this event. This event will provide a half day with the Technology Team to learn how to make movies about education and tell stories.

Tom extended an Open Invitation to all present at the meeting to come between 8:00am and 3:00pm. Battle Creek Public Schools will be participating tomorrow from 11:40am-2:40pm. On Wednesday, between 3:00-5:00pm, there will be Techs on-hand to answer questions.

REPORTS

A. GVSU Battle Creek Outreach Center Presentation

Al Shifflett, III, Director of Community Engagement, provided a presentation on the Grand Valley State University (GVSU) Battle Creek Outreach Center.

Al reported that the Outreach Center opened in November 2019, based on a Grant initiative that was started in May 2018.

The Outreach Center supports career exploration and provides individualized educational planning assistance to facilitate educational goal attainment.

Provided services include: college and career exploration; college admission application and essay support; college advising; assistance with FAFSA completion and submission; scholarship application/essay support; educational events. Service is available to K-12 students, transfer students and adults in the community.

Hours of operation are 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday-Friday.

Jackie Slaby asked about Art's position and he advised that he oversees grants and staff; he makes friends in the community; and makes sure the community understands the work the Outreach Center does and their mission.

Jackie Slaby asked about strategies for letting students know about the Outreach Center and its programs. Al reported that Mark Bozzo is in-house at BCPS and is a great resource for spreading the news to students. Wednesday afternoons are specific to BCPS receiving services during the school day.

Art McClenney welcome GVSU to the community.

President Karen Evans thanked Al for presenting to the Board this evening.

B. Middle School STEM Update

Susan Basso, Principal, provided an update on Middle School STEM which included their Mission and Values, student demographics, the innovator experience, early successes and opportunities for growth, the Student Showcase for 2020, and looking forward.

Catherine LaValley thanked Susan for the excellent Facebook announcements and congratulated her on the website. Catherine inquired where the 7th Graders will go and it was noted there are four classrooms that are currently not being used, which will be for 7th Grade.

C. Springfield Middle School Update

Meri Shabani, Principal, provided an update on Springfield Middle School which included student demographics, accomplishments and looking forward.

Meri discussed that Springfield Middle School has Family Day, Literacy Initiatives and a goal to be a Destination Middle School in Battle Creek.

Catherine LaValley thanked Meri for the great work on the Battle Creek Shopper article, although the article kept referring to the building as Springfield Elementary.

D. Adult Education Laptops

At Wes Seeley's request, due to his absence, Dr. Deborah Nuzzi discussed the request to purchase Laptops for the Adult Education program. Due to funding from the State that flows through CISD, there were extra dollars of \$11,025 available in Section 107 Funds.

The Laptops in Adult Education are getting old and are not able to run Windows 10, so these funds came when needed. The REMC Bid is to purchase twenty (20) laptops and the deadline identified for the use of these funds is March 1st.

E. Mid-Year Goals Review

Superintendent Carter provided the Mid-Year Progress Report and reported that Battle Creek Public Schools is Excellence on the Rise.

Superintendent Carter discussed the Six Goals for Greatness:

1. High Academic Achievement
2. Healthy Organizational Culture
3. Human Capital Strategy
4. Effective and Efficient Use of Resources
5. Active Partnerships with Our Community
6. World-Class Infrastructure

Accomplishments include:

Goal 1 – High Academic Achievement

- ✓ Kindergarten Success Program (KSP)
- ✓ Transforming the Middle School Experience
- ✓ Seeing Every Student by Name, Need and Strength
- ✓ Excellence Is On The Rise – NWEA scores improving

Goal 2 – Healthy Organizational Culture

- ✓ Provide Adults with Tools for Success – Trauma-Informed Schools Guidebook and partnership with Summit Pointe for training to Crisis Response Team
- ✓ Exclusionary Practices Require Additional Focus

Goal 3 – Human Capital Strategy

- ✓ Promoting a Thriving Workforce
- ✓ Improving Professional Practice – providing more personalized professional development vs one size fits all
- ✓ Supporting a Diverse and Inclusive Teaching Staff - Partnership with GVSU provides personalized support for teachers
- ✓ Retaining Highly Effective, Diverse Teaching Talent - BCPS realized a significant improvement with retention in 2018-2019
- ✓ Adaptation of Haberman Interview Protocol – the idea is to Hire Right for Longevity

Goal 4 – Effective and Efficient Use of Resources

- ✓ Improved Financial Health
- ✓ Increasing Revenue to Support Sustainability – the goal is to stabilize enrollment and target High School

Goal 5 – Active Partnerships with Our Community

- ✓ Systems of Support – over 50 students have received wraparound support through the Bearcat Health Team
- ✓ Combating Chronic Absenteeism – there has been a slight decrease in absenteeism and the Bearcat Health Team will continue to develop plans to decrease it even more. Trying to determine if this is transportation related, Superintendent Carter has asked for more information because she is not satisfied with the information received
- ✓ Partnerships Matter – the adult education program has expanded to area businesses and organizations, DENSO recently joined in the effort
- ✓ Building Bridges and Fostering Relationships with Reading Buddies – 96% of students maintained/increased their reading
- ✓ Building Bridges and Fostering Relationships with Expanded Partnership with GVSU – providing the opportunity for paraprofessionals to become teachers and the effort to bring back educators who were born and raised in this area
- ✓ Communities in School – providing services and basic need items to families

Goal 6 – World-Class Infrastructure

- ✓ Middle School Technology Refresh
- ✓ Classroom Phones Project
- ✓ Phase 1 of High School SIM Lab – Ribbon cutting in August, 2020
- ✓ Increased access to classroom technology across the District

There was discussion about holding on to buildings not being used for a couple of reasons, one being due to the treat of charter schools and losing students; and the other being because if we have an increase in enrollment, we may need to use those buildings.

There was discussion about getting the marquee signs working at the WK Kellogg Auditorium and BCCHS. Laura Ash reported they are working on getting quotes. They did receive one quote for \$175,000 for the WK Kellogg Auditorium sign and are working on getting a second opinion. A proposal with quotes will be provided to the Board in March.

It was noted there is a glitch on the Valley View Elementary website and it is still showing Count Day as October. Superintendent Carter will check on this.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Charlie Fulbright made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda Items:

- A. Trust Fund/Comerica (Written only)
- B. Minutes of the work session on January 13, 2020 and regular meeting on January 27, 2020
- C. Bills for the Month of January 2020
- D. Personnel Changes and Recognition of Retirees
- E. Membership Report
- F. Financial Update

Catherine LaValley supported the motion.

Motion passed 6 – 0

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Superintendent Carter expressed her support of and recommended the Board approve the purchase of Adult Education Laptops in the amount of \$10,540.00 with Section 107 Grant as the Funding Source.

Motion by Charlie Fulbright to approve the purchase of Adult Education Laptops in the amount of \$10,540.00 with Section 107 Grant as the Funding Source.

Patty Poole-Gray supported the motion.

Motion passed 6 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Carter commented as follows:

- Thanks to Susan Basso and Meri Shabani for their presentations to the Board this evening.
- She was amazed by the Middle School STEM Showcase and the conversations with 10-11 year olds simply blew her away.
- She attended the Fremont International Academy Showcase and was greeted in Spanish by 2nd graders.
- Thanks to all BCPS Staff for all they do, each day.
- Congratulations to the Career Connections teachers on bringing back awards.
- Thanks to the BCCHS Red Cross Club, their volunteers add value to our programs.

Superintendent Carter commented that many people, not just the programs, bring success to the District.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Jackie Slaby reported she had a great time at Quiz Bowl and loved seeing the teams compete.

Jackie Slaby inquired for an update on the Equity Board Group. It was noted Lisa Hubbard is the Lead Coordinator and the group has not met since October, 2019. This group was moved to be a Board effort, rather than the Superintendent. There was discussion about needing to have a neutral meeting setting. Jackie asked how she could be added to this group and President Evans said Jackie can consider her request means she is added. Superintendent Carter will connect Catherine LaValley and Jackie Slaby with Lisa Hubbard. It was noted this group is not recognized as a Board Committee.

Charlie Fulbright shared the Post-Franklin Black History Celebration is this coming Thursday, February 27th, at 2:00pm and encouraged Board members to attend.

Charlie Fulbright mentioned the Fremont & STEM Applications go-live today. Transportation for both programs will be provided by the District next year.

Charlie Fulbright shared he attended the MASB Winter Institute trainings this past weekend and found them to be very informative. He recommended others attend the trainings and reserve spots for the Spring Institute. Charlie saved all of the conference booklets he received at the Winter Institute and gave them to Patti Worden, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education, for keeping as reference materials for the Board.

Charlie attended the Freshmen Health/Fitness Class and Algebra I Cross-Curricular Project and reported it was very nice, super exciting and another BCPS Success.

Catherine LaValley discussed the Grace Health event on February 5th and the MiPhy survey to be given to students in the 7th, 9th and 11th Grades. The survey will provide health trend information.

Catherine LaValley shared CASBMA has a new President from Union City and a Vice-President from Marshall and will be shortening their name from CASBMA. They will now be known as the Calhoun Association of School Board (CASB).

Catherine LaValley commented that Lobbyist Jerry Johnson gave a detailed report regarding Governor Whitmer's Proposed Budget. Catherine indicated with this being an Election Year, the House & State should move in a timely manner. The 2021 Budget has to be set by June 30, 2020.

Catherine LaValley shared with the Board that the BCCHS Career Academies Council is meeting on March 5th and will be creating By-Laws. The Council is made up of BCPS Staff, 1 Board Member, and Community Members.

Catherine LaValley indicated she attended and greatly enjoyed the following events:

- Youth Advisory Council
- Parent Value Meeting
- BC STEM Showcase – she planned on staying 15 minutes and was there 2.5 hours
- Adult Education Graduation – very exciting and Catherine brought back a Graduation Program for each Board member, which she will provide at the next meeting on March 9th.
- Quiz Bowl – great community turnout and it was phenomenal

Catherine LaValley mentioned Sports Physicals are due after April 15th.

Art McClenney asked that the Board watch their emails for news about an Open House for Communities-At-Risk and try to attend.

President Karen Evans thanked Patti Worden, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board, for the updated Board Norms.

Meeting adjourned – 7:20 p.m.

Submitted by

Patti Worden

Kyra Wallace
Board Secretary