

**BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Regular Meeting**

**February 28, 2022**

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

**5:30p.m.**

**PRESENT – BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Catherine LaValley

Kyra Wallace

Patty Poole-Gray

Charlie Fulbright

Jacqueline Slaby

Art McClenney

Nathan Grajek

**Present – Administration**

Kim Carter – Superintendent

Mitch Fowler – Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Jeff English – Senior Executive Director of Business Operations

Rhonda Potts - Executive Director

Dr. Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education

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

Dr. Anita Harvey – Director, District Transformation

Robin Beyer – Acting Director, Human Resources

Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services

Nathan Hunt – Communications Manager

Wes Seeley – Director of Grant, Federal Programs and Adult Education

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by President LaValley at 5:30pm. Catherine LaValley, Kyra Wallace, Patty Poole-Gray, Charlie Fulbright, Jacqueline Slaby, Art McClenney and Nathan Grajek were present.

President LaValley read aloud our Mission Statement.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Trustee Art McClenney to go into Closed Session after the first Public Comments.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 1.**

Motion by Trustee Art McClenney to approve the Agenda as presented.

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 7 – 0.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sam Gray  
245 Irving Park Drive  
Battle Creek MI

Sam Gray commented that he was present tonight on behalf of the NAACP. He thanked BCPS for their continuous support of the NAACP Heritage Quiz Bowl. The Quiz Bowl was held on February 12<sup>th</sup> and was a huge success. Sam noted they appreciated all the support received from BCPS Staff, Maintenance and Cafeteria. He apologized to Board Members who may not have heard about the event, noting they intentionally kept the numbers low because of COVID.

Homer Schools competed in this event for the first time and won for High School, along with Marshall and Albion. New Level Ministries won for Middle School.

President LaValley thanked Sam for his efforts and commented the NAACP Heritage Quiz Bowl is a wonderful event.

Micah Perkins  
Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council  
2133 Richard Street  
Grand Rapids MI 49504  
616-256-9473

Micah Perkins indicated he was representing the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council which is made up of 10,000 construction workers with 14 different skilled trades. He is going around to large area Boards to introduce himself and share knowledge about the work this group does. He is a plumber who is also a licensed teacher.

He discussed the importance of skilled trades professions and shared he is working with Mr. Warrant at the Calhoun Area Career Center and Steve Claywell with the BCPS Hall of Fame. Their organization is trying their best to talk with students about careers in skilled trades and show that it is a viable career providing for a comfortable lifestyle.

Micah discussed bidding work and commented about asking for bids locally and having bidding policies in place to provide diverse equity.

**CONSIDERATION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION  
TO DISCUSS NEGOTIATIONS**

Motion by Trustee Art McClenney to go into Closed Session to Discuss Negotiations at 5:43pm.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 1.**

**CONSIDERATION TO RECONVENE**

Motion by Trustee Art McClenney to Reconvene at 6:25pm.

Trustee Nathan Grajek supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 7 – 0.**

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Motion by Trustee Art McClenney to approve the Consent Agenda items.

- A. Trust Fund/Comerica (Written only)
- B. Minutes of the Work Session on January 10, 2022  
and Regular Meeting on January 24, 2022
- C. Bills for the Month of January 2022
- D. Personnel Changes and Recognition of Retirees
- E. Membership Report
- F. Finance Report

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 7 – 0.**

## **DISCUSSION**

### Board Terms of Service

President Catherine LaValley talked about the availability of the Board By-Laws being changed from 6-year terms to 4-year terms.

There was consideration discussion about this topic and each Board Member shared their opinion and thoughts.

### Mid-Year Review of Progress Towards Goals

Superintendent Kim Carter discussed the Board Report presentation, which provided an update about each of our Six Goals for Greatness.

Our Six Goals for Greatness are:

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

President Catherine LaValley thanked Superintendent Carter for this mid-year update on our Goals.

## **REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

### Bond Update

Dr. Anita Harvey discussed the District's appreciation to the community for supporting our efforts to improve our Middle Schools by voting to pass the Bond.

Dr. Harvey discussed the efforts the Team has taken to gather input from staff, community members and the community in planning the Schematic Design for NWMS and SMS. The Team held 14 Transformation Meetings with more than 40 Stakeholders participating.

Dr. Harvey introduced the Consultants we are working with us on the Bond projects, specifically Bob McGraw and Tom McKercher from C2AE, Ryan Long from Elite Companies and Laila Miada from TMP. Bob McGraw indicated that Eduardo Blanc from TMP is also involved with this group, but he is attending a conference and was unable to attend the meeting this evening.

The Consultants reviewed the Schematic Design presentation and answered questions from the Board.

Bob McGraw advised the Consultant Team will be back before the Board on Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, to share the cost and budget information for the projects.

The Consultant Team will return on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, for Board approval to continue the design project.

President Catherine LaValley thanked the Consultants for the information shared in the presentation.

Policy 3660 – Bids and Quotations Requirements – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Monique Cheeks discussed the Bids and Quotations Requirements Policy and provided a 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Policy 3660.

President Catherine LaValley noted the Board Policy Committee met again within the last 2 weeks to discuss this Policy. She indicated discussion about this Policy will be addressed under New Business.

Bearcat Health Update

Monique Cheeks shared the Bearcat Health Update presentation.

President Catherine LaValley indicate we should take a moment to celebrate all the supports available for students to allow them to live up to their potentials.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

OEC Forestry Service

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the OEC Forestry Service in the amount of \$39,593.00 with the Funding Source being Sinking Funds.

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 7 – 0.**

Implementation Partner for K-8 Integrated Arts RFP

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Implementation Partner for K-8 Integrated Arts RFP in the amount of \$207,771.00 with the Funding Source being WKKF Grant Funds.

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 5 – 2.**

### GVSU Summer Camps

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the GVSU Summer Camps in the amount of \$0.00 with the Funding Source being 100% Funded by GVSU.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 7 – 0.**

### Policy 3660 – Bids and Quotations Requirements

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve Policy 3660 Bids and Quotations Requirements as presented.

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 4 – 3.**

### **SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

None.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby thanked Micah Perkins for attending the meeting tonight. She indicated she has had a great time talking with him and has learned so much about access for all to alleviate barriers. She indicated the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council has an all-paid Apprentice Program for individuals 18 and older and she hopes the District will set up some time to have them present about their program so the Board understands who they are and how their program would help with Trades.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray discussed having the opportunity to visit the new NWMS. Principal Dave Fooy gave her a tour and she was very impressed that there was not one kid in the hall without a pass. She said the students knew where they were going, no doors were slammed, the building was clean and she is excited about this new leadership. She encouraged Board Members to visit the new NWMS because she was in awe.

Trustee Nathan Grajek took a moment to recognize all the people around the world suffering from hardships, specifically Ukraine and Russia. He commented the need to not lose sight of global aggressions around the world. He added his disappointment with a fellow Board Member indicating that something might not have happened. That was concerning to him and felt unethical.

Trustee Art McClenney responded to Trustee Grajek's comment about his disappointment and clarified his own comment being that individuals who were totally against the Policy discussed this evening should have come before the Board to address their concerns.

Trustee McClenney added that he felt Superintendent Kim Carter gave a good presentation at the Community Town Hall event and did a good job. He apologized to the rest of the Board Members about his being called out and responding.

President Catherine LaValley shared the following:

- The Lady Bearcats were playing at 5:30pm this evening in the Season End Tournaments. She added we are proud of their efforts.
- She attended a Virtual CASBMA Meeting last Wednesday. There will not be an Annual Meeting this year. Board Trustees received the CISD General Ed Budget which must be approved by June 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be part of our March Board Packets/Meetings.

Special Ed Reimbursement provided the best news with 88% reimbursement for the costs we experience as a District. President LaValley indicated we have never received that amount of money for Special Ed and this is wonderful news. Previous reimbursement have been between 62-75%.

- Jerry Johnson, a legislative lobbyist, participated in this meeting and reported about new District Congressionals as well as State Houses. A new map will be available to review. Battle Creek, Michigan will now be in new Congregational District #4 instead of #3. President LaValley will share a link with Board Trustees.
- This Saturday we have a BCC Wrestler going to State Finals. Kaijehl Williams has 48 wins and 5 losses. He finished 3<sup>rd</sup> at Regionals.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01pm.

Submitted by  
Patti Worden

Patty Poole-Gray  
Board Secretary