

**BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**February 8, 2021**

**Meeting held electronically pursuant to Executive Order 2020-15**  
**Zoom identification number Meeting ID: 868 6339 1938**  
**Immediately following the Work Session at 5:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT – BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Catherine LaValley  
Kyra Wallace  
Patty Poole-Gray  
Charlie Fulbright  
Jackie Slaby  
Nathan Grajek  
Art McClenney (joined at 5:43pm)

**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  
Nathan Hunt – Communications Manager  
Rhonda Potts - 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**

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi, Director, Secondary Education  
Jeff English – Executive Director

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by President LaValley at 5:30p.m. Catherine LaValley, Kyra Wallace, Patty Poole-Gray, Charlie Fulbright, Jackie Slaby 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 8, 2021 Regular Board Meeting remotely.  
I am physically located in Bedford Township, in the State of Michigan.  
I am able to have two-way communication for this Board Meeting.*
  
- *I, Patty Poole-Gray, am attending this February 8, 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.*
  
- *I, Charlie Fulbright, am attending this February 8, 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, Kyra Wallace, am attending this February 8, 2021 Regular Board Meeting remotely.  
I am physically located in the Calhoun County, 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 8, 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, Nathan Grajek, am attending this February 8, 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 presented.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

President Catherine LaValley asked if there was any discussion and nothing was mentioned by other Board Members.

President Catherine LaValley shared that in two weeks, on February 22, 2021, the Board will vote on the Resolution to Permit School Boards to Meet in Person, which is a Discussion item this evening.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0.**

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

## REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Resolution to Adopt Electronic Board Meeting Policy – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

Monique read aloud a Synopsis of the Resolution to Adopt Electronic Board Meeting Policy as required by Michigan Legislature that recently amended the Open Meetings Act (OMA).

Trustee Art McClenney joined the meeting at 5:43pm.

Trustee McClenney read the Remote Attendance Script.

- *I, Art McClenney, am attending this February 8, 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.*

Monique Cheeks reported we will have a 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of the Electronic Board Meeting Policy as a Discussion item and the Board will vote on the Electronic Board Meeting Policy this evening, if the Board agrees.

### Resolution for Special Election on May 4, 2021

Superintendent Kim Carter advised the Board Packet contained the Resolution calling for a Special Election to be adopted by Board this evening.

This evening, we are asking the Board to adopt the Resolution to call a Bond Election on May 4, 2021, based on the approval from Treasury.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray read aloud Exhibits A and B of the Resolution for Special Election on May 4, 2021.

### Update on Progress towards Pandemic Learning Goals

Mitch Fowler discussed the Pandemic Learning Goals presentation, noting this type of reporting is something we do anyways because we are always looking at our data.

Superintendent Carter reported we will continue slicing and re-slicing this data over the next couple of weeks and we intend to use it to provide different goals for the future. She wanted the public to understand this is a snapshot in time so we make sure we are understanding the individual results for each student. This data also shows the struggles of some students with remote learning.

Rhonda Potts presented the 2020-2021 Transition Budget, which represents our transition into the second part of the fiscal year as well as the transition from Laura Ash, former Executive Director of Business and Finance to herself.

There was discussion about the CARES monies received and if they have been paid out. Rhonda reported we are working toward that, some of the funds have deadlines of December 31<sup>st</sup> and some moved to September so we are working on spending what we have remaining.

There was discussion about State Aid monies coming in on a monthly basis and Rhonda advised they are.

### Book Vending Machines

Wes Seeley shared he was excited to bring a recommendation to purchase Book Vending Machines using Building Title I Funds. These vending machines dispense books. The cost for the machines is \$30,034.00 with the funding source being Building Title I Budgets.

The machines come with a custom BCPS wrap. Students will earn specialized tokens by meeting goals for academics, attendance, and behavior; incentive types of rewards to use in the book machines.

This will be an Agenda item for the February 22, 2021 Regular Meeting and the Board will vote on it then.

### Consideration to Approve Participation in Athletic Competitions

Superintendent Carter discussed participation in Athletic Competitions and noted we will be asking the Board to approve the beginning of Athletic Competition participation this evening.

Superintendent Carter reported that BCPS athletic games for February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> were moved to later date because we didn't want to jump into games before having safety protocols in place. We are requesting that Boys and Girls Basketball begin February 11<sup>th</sup>, Wrestling on February 13<sup>th</sup> and Sideline Cheer on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

COVID-19 safety measures will be followed which include social distancing when not engaged, bench and scoring areas will be set up to accommodate for social distancing, Wrestling will have Rapid testing requirements. Athletes will wear face masks, including swimmers when they are not in the water. Equipment will be cleaned before all events and between quarters. Athletes will bring their own water bottles. There will be no concessions. Spectators may not bring food or drinks into venues. All spectators will be required to wear masks. Each sport will have a limited number of participants and athletes will receive vouchers for guests.

Superintendent Carter recommended the Board approve allowing Athletic Competitions as discussed.

### 2021 MASB Board of Directors Election

President Catherine LaValley discussed the upcoming MASB Board of Directors Election and noted that all Board Members should be receiving emails from the three (3) candidates for Region 6. The three (3) candidates are: Pamela Dickinson (Comstock Public Schools), Ella Harrington (Covert Public Schools) and Don Myers (Harper Creek Community Schools). President LaValley noted that Don Myers sent a voice statement rather than an email.

This will be an Agenda item for the February 22, 2021 Regular Meeting and the Board will vote on it then.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

President Catherine LaValley read the Public Comments aloud.

Toni Ardis

3085 W Michigan Avenue, Battle Creek, MI 49037

Just another thank you to all of the BCPS administrators, teachers, staff, students and contractors for all of your hard work during this crazy year! You are all awesome.

President Catherine LaValley thanked Toni for taking the time to send a comment.

### **DISCUSSION**

Resolution to Adopt Electronic Board Meeting Policy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Monique Cheeks provided a summary of the information for the 2nd Reading.

There was discussion about Board Members notifying the Superintendent if they cannot attend a remote meeting. It was also noted they could notify Patti Worden, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education, or whomever else Superintendent Carter designates.

Resolution to Allow In-Person Contact Sports

President Catherine LaValley shared this Resolution was received from the MASB and relates to in-person contact sports, or winter sports.

Superintendent Kim Carter discussed this Resolution was put out before the MHSAA allowed sports to continue. She is not certain it is necessary now considering the vote has occurred and MHSAA and MDDHS have allowed for sports to resume.

Resolution to Permit School Boards to Meet In Person

President Catherine LaValley discussed this Resolution was also received from the MASB and is to allow School Boards to meet in person. President LaValley indicated there is an urgency, not so much on our part, by many Boards are wanting to have the option to meet in-person, noting that we are currently supposed to conduct virtual meetings until March 31, 2021.

This Resolution will be on the February 22<sup>nd</sup> Agenda for voting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Approval of Resolution to Adopt Electronic Board Meeting Policy**

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray read aloud the first page of the Resolution to Adopt Electronic Board Meeting Policy.

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the Resolution to Adopt the Electronic Board Meeting Policy as presented.

Vice President Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 7 – 0.**

#### **Resolution for Special Election on May 4, 2021**

At Secretary Patty Poole-Gray's request, Superintendent Kim Carter read aloud the "Whereas" and "Now Therefore" portions of the Resolution for Special Election on May 4, 2021.

President Catherine LaValley added that the Battle Creek Shopper is an added newspaper for publication.

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Resolution for Special Election on May 4, 2021 as presented.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 5 – 2.**

#### **Approval of Participation in Athletic Competitions**

Superintendent Kim Carter recommended the Board approve that athletic competitions resume for all Winter sports.

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve that athletic competitions for all Winter sports resume.

Trustee Jackie Slaby supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 7 – 0.**

### **SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Superintendent Kim Carter gave a reminder to all BCPS families that tomorrow, February 9<sup>th</sup>, will be a day of Remote Learning in order to provide teachers and staff with the opportunity to attend the COVID Vaccination Clinic. As a result, there will be no in-person instruction tomorrow. For anyone with questions about this, please contact your child's school.

Superintendent Carter shared the following Great News:

- BCAMSC is the only High School in Michigan to receive the College Board's [AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award](#) for expanding young women's access to AP Computer Science A (CSA). This award acknowledges 1,119 schools for their work toward equal gender representation during the 2019-20 school year—nearly 37% more than the 818 schools recognized last year. BCAMSC is one of only 231 schools to be recognized for achieving this important result in computer science. Congratulations to BCAMSC!
- BCCHS Business Development – Superintendent Carter gave a shout out to Mr. Coates for the work he has been doing. Our students competed virtually in both the DECA District Conference and the Annual WMU Sales Challenge. Numerous BCCHS students were award winners and a celebration of those students is featured on our Facebook page. Congratulations to all of our students! Superintendent Carter noted we see our students and thank them for all they do.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray thanked Superintendent Carter, her Team and the Staff who did the Board Appreciation for them; the Goodie Boxes were very, very nice, an excellent thought. President Catherine LaValley said she quite agreed and it was lots of fun this year, despite difficult circumstances, once again the BCPS Staff pulled it off.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright reminded everyone this Wednesday is Count Day and urged families to make sure students are in school, whether virtual or in-person. This helps the District get monies from the State. Treasurer Fulbright shared the District is still doing meal pick-ups and we have English, Spanish and Burmese translations still going on. He said Great Things Are Happening in BCPS.

Vice President Kyra Wallace said she was going to say the same thing as Secretary Patty Poole-Gray and she wanted to thank Superintendent Carter and the Staff for the Gift Boxes, they were really really nice.

President Catherine LaValley passed along her thank you for the Appreciation Gift Boxes as well. She said it has been kind of a jam packed meeting tonight, but the Board did important things for the District and our students. It is a joy to know the Bond Campaign is beginning and the Board should be be aware that more information will be coming as we work on the Bond Campaign.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

President LaValley thanked the Board Members for attending tonight, as well as the audience.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm.

Submitted by  
Patti Worden

Patty Poole-Gray  
Board Secretary