

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Work Session

January 10, 2022

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

5:30 p.m.

PRESENT – BOARD OF EDUCATION

Catherine LaValley

Charlie Fulbright

Jacqueline Slaby

Art McClenney

Absent

Kyra Wallace

Patty Poole-Gray

Nathan Grajek

Present – Administration

Kim Carter – Superintendent

Mitch Fowler – Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Dr. Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education

Dr. Anita Harvey, Director, District Transformation

Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services (Virtual)

Rhonda Potts - Executive Director

Pat McCann – Chief Executive Officer, Human Resources

Absent – Administration

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

Nathan Hunt – Communications Manager

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

Jeff English – Executive Director

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President LaValley at 5:32pm. Catherine LaValley, Charlie Fulbright, Jacqueline Slaby and Art McClenney were present.

President LaValley read the BCPS Mission Statement.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby supported the Motion.

Superintendent Kim Carter asked about removing the Board Member Building Assignments (Item B) under Discussion since the Board wanted to table this topic until the Regular Meeting on January 24th due to three Board Members being absent this evening.

President Catherine LaValley inquired if any of the Board Members present this evening wanted to change their building assignments. None were noted.

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby asked to make a Motion to Amend the Agenda to add Responsible Contractor Policy as Item F under Discussion.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion, adding that we delete the Board Member Building Assignments due to attendance this evening.

Trustee Art McClenney made a Point of Order that the Board should vote down the original Motion and move forward with the new Motion. President Catherine LaValley said point well taken and agreed.

The Board voted down the original Motion 4-0.

Motion by Trustee Jacqueline Slaby to approve the Agenda with the addition of Responsible Contractor Policy as Item E under Discussion and the deletion of Board Member Building Assignments as Item B.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

DISCUSSION

CASBMA Nominations

President Catherine LaValley discussed the CASBMA Nominations and shared that every April at the Annual CASBMA Meeting, Board Members are invited to nominate Professional and Outstanding Citizen individuals to receive an award. The nominations are due on February 6, 2022.

President LaValley shared previous individuals discussed for nominations, which included:

- LaJune Montgomery Tabor – Community Member
- Tyler Gilland – Professional Nominee
- Kathy Szenda Wilson – Professional Nominee
- Karolynn Ferguson – Citizen Nominee
- Dora and Delilah DeMaso – Citizen Nominees
- Melvin McNight – Citizen Nominee
- Catherine LaValley

The Board previously nominated Roxie Perry (Professional) and Karolynn Ferguson (Citizen).

The Board will discuss and vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on January 24, 2022 due to nominations being due on February 4, 2022.

Board Member Building Assignments

The Board Member Building Assignments will be tabled to the Regular Meeting on January 24, 2022.

Revised Schedule of Monthly Board Meetings for 2021-2022 School Year

Superintendent Carter discussed the Revised Schedule of Monthly Board Meetings for 2021-2022 School Year.

It was decided to move the Regular Meeting on March 28th to Wednesday, March 23rd.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on January 24, 2022.

Board Update – Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) Policy

Monique Cheeks joined virtually and discussed the Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) Policy.

Monique reported the Policy Committee met and asked for some clarifications about the ETS Policy. Their questions have been sent to the attorney's office and we are waiting to hear back from them.

We plan to bring the ETS Policy to the Board for a 1st Reading at the Regular Meeting on January 24, 2022.

Board Update – Southwestern Purchase Agreement

Rhonda Potts discussed we are in negotiations for the sale of Southwestern for \$65,000.00 which is equal to our appraised value for this property.

Rhonda reported the attorney's office is currently working on the Purchase Agreement, which we will bring it to the Board for review at the Regular Meeting on January 24, 2022.

Responsible Contractor Policy

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby said we currently have the Responsive and Responsible Contractor Policy, Policy 4760.

Trustee Slaby requested that Policy 4760 be sent to the Policy Committee to review and consider additional language prioritizing minority and union contractors, which the current Policy does not include.

Trustee Slaby asked to entertain a Motion in this regard.

Motion by Trustee Jacqueline Slaby to refer the Responsive and Responsible Contractor Policy (Policy 4760) to the Policy Committee for review and preparation with an update on next steps to be presented for a 1st Reading at the Regular Meeting on January 24, 2022.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

There was discussion about whether this can be accomplished in time for the Regular Meeting on January 24th and it was determined we will share the City of Jackson Policy with the attorney's office for review and advice and will make our best attempt to accomplish this in time for a 1st Reading on January 24th.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Elementary Summer Reading Books

Dr. Chandra Youngblood discussed the Elementary Summer Reading Books in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00 with the Funding Source being Title I Funds.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on January 24, 2022.

Master Scheduling Contract Services with Education Advance

Dr. Anita Harvey discussed the Master Scheduling Contract Services with Education Advance in the amount of \$30,000.00 with the Funding Source being ESSER Funds.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on January 24, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Kim Carter shared the following comments:

- On December 30, 2021, BCPS lost Bruce Barney, the all-time great Mr. Bearcat. Bruce was a Battle Creek lifer who graduated with the Class of 1966 and went on to serve as a Principal. He served BCPS for nearly 40 years as a Teacher, Football Coach and Leader. His legacy lives on. She extended her deepest condolences to his family and loved ones.
- She wanted to publically celebrate our Teachers and thank them for all of their hard work and dedication to our Bearcats. They have gone above and beyond this year during this hard time. She commended them and reminded them the work they are doing is life changing. She indicated on behalf of the Board, herself and the Community she was thankful for how they show up each day and their resilience to our students and families. She said District Transformation does not happen overnight and she continues to be inspired by this Community every day. She again thanked the staff for their support and unwavering efforts to achieve 100% Success for Every Bearcat.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby indicated she wanted to share on behalf of Vice President Kyra Wallace that the Southwest Michigan Urban League is hosting an event at Kellogg Arena on Monday, January 17th. The key note speaker will be Dr. Mark Lamont Hill. The event begins at 10:00am with the Keynote Speech at 12:00noon. Anyone interested in attending this event should contact the Southwest Michigan Urban League Office by phone at 269-962-5553 or by email at: info@swm.l.org

Trustee Art McClenney wished everyone a Happy New Year and reminded our students to do their homework and pay attention this week during Virtual Learning.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright commented that “Great Things Are Happening at BCPS”.

President Catherine LaValley shared the following comments:

- She discussed the Board of Education Governance Standards, indicating she wanted to talk with Board Members about how they can use this tool in our upcoming meetings to talk about and share information with the Community about what it takes to be a Board Member for a Public School.
- She also paid tribute to Mr. Barney indicating many of his colleagues and students learned a lot from him. He was always a Bearcat as well as a fine role model for students and the Community. He was loved and respected by many and BCPS Pride can be contributed to him. He made students feel like they belonged. He attended Class Reunions and Lead Building Tours whenever possible. She always looked forward to his announcement of the “Pride of the State, your BCC Marching Band”. His fine commitment will always be remembered. He had a keen sense of humor, was a great listener and lived a life well-lived. He was known for his great big smile and genuine service to all Bearcats. She looks forward to learning about things we can do to honor Mr. Barney and, as Superintendent Carter said, he will be missed.

ADJOURNMENT

President LaValley adjourned the meeting at 6:43pm.

Submitted by
Patti Worden

Patty Poole-Gray
Board Secretary