

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Work Session
January 11, 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

Patty Poole-Gray

Charlie Fulbright

Jackie Slaby

Art McClenney

Nathan Grajek

Present – Administration

Kim Carter – Superintendent

Dr. Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education

Dr. Anita Harvey - Director, District Transformation

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi, Director, Secondary Education

Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services

Mitch Fowler – Director, School Data Systems & Innovations

Nathan Hunt – Communications Manager

Laura Ash – Independent Contractor for Bond

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

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, Art McClenney and Nathan Grajek were present.

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 7 – 0

DISCUSSION

President Catherine LaValley commented she thought it would be good to debrief from December 19th Board Retreat. She enjoyed Ann Macfarlane and the Parliamentary Discussion/Work Ann did with the Board that day.

There was discussion about what this information means for the Board moving forward and their key takeaways. Superintendent Kim Carter noted it would be helpful to know what information the Board needs to make decisions for strategic work as we move forward.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING BUSINESS

President Catherine LaValley discussed that every January School Boards organize for the upcoming year.

Oath of Office and Seating of New Board Members

President Catherine LaValley read the Oath of Office and Trustee Nathan Grajek repeated it after her.

Superintendent Kim Carter congratulated Trustee Nathan Grajek and welcomed him back to the Board.

Appointment of Board Officers

President LaValley read aloud the slate of Board Officers as presented this evening, which is:

- President – Catherine LaValley
- Vice President – Kyra Wallace
- Secretary – Patty Poole-Gray
- Treasurer – Charlie Fulbright
- Trustee – Jacqueline Slaby
- Trustee – Art McClenney
- Trustee – Nathan Grajek

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Board Officers as presented.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

There was no discussion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6 – 1

Board Committee Assignments

There was discussion about the Board Committee Assignments and the following items will be added to the Board Committee list: Joint Equity Task Force, Facilities Ad Hoc, SEED Awards and Legal Advocacy.

The Board Committees were decided as follows:

- Committee Assignments

- Student Reinstatement

- Secretary Patty Poole-Gray and Vice-President Kyra Wallace

- Board Policy

- Trustee Art McClenney, Secretary Patty Poole-Gray and Treasurer Charlie Fulbright

- Battle Creek Public Schools Education Foundation (BCPSEF)

- Treasurer Charlie Fulbright and Trustee Nathan Grajek

- Calhoun Area School Board Members Association (CASBA)

- President Catherine LaValley (Representative) and Trustee Art McClenney (Alternate)

- Promise Zone Board Representative

- President Catherine LaValley

- Joint Equity Task Force

- President Catherine LaValley, Trustee Jacqueline Slaby and Vice-President Kyra Wallace

- Facilities Ad Hoc

- Trustee Jacqueline Slaby and Secretary Patty Poole-Gray

- SEED Awards Representative

- Trustee Nathan Grajek

- Legal Advocacy Representative
Trustee Jacqueline Slaby

Board School Building Assignments

President Catherine LaValley discussed the list of past Board School Building Assignments that was included in the Board Packet.

The Board School Building Assignments were decided as follows:

- President Catherine LaValley
LaMora Park and Valley View
- Vice President Kyra Wallace
Ann J. Kellogg and Dudley
- Secretary Patty Poole-Gray
Northwestern Middle School and BC STEM
- Treasurer Charlie Fulbright
Post-Franklin and Verona
- Trustee Jacqueline Slaby
Battle Creek Area Math & Science Center and Outdoor Education Center
- Trustee Art McClenney
Battle Creek Central High School, WK Preparatory High School and Adult Education
- Trustee Nathan Grajek
Fremont and Springfield Middle School

Board Planning Calendar

President Catherine LaValley discussed the 2021 Board Planning Calendar template that was included in the Board Packet. She noted the Extended Continuity of Learning (ECOL) was already listed on the calendar for each month from February through June.

Additional items the Board determined should be added to the Board Planning Calendar include: 6 Goals for Greatness Review - end of January 2021; Athletic Updates; Bearcat Health (Absenteeism Update); Board Self-Evaluations; Bond Updates; Budget Readings and Approval 2021-2022; Budget Review 2020-2021; Budget Updates; Extended Learning (YMCA for Fremont Students); Facilities Updates; Legal Advocacy (Monthly Regular Meetings); Partnership Updates (CIS & GVSU); Program Innovations (21st Century & Career Academies) ; Recruiting Efforts (Updates & Annual Presentation on HBCU Stats); Student & Athletic Handbook Updates; Summer Programming; Superintendent Evaluation and Superintendent Goals.

Superintendent Kim Carter and her Administrative Team will review the topics to be added and determine the most appropriate months to address these topics and provide a proposed Calendar to the Board at a future Work Session.

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Secondary Chromebook Case

Mitch Fowler discussed the recommendation for Cases for Secondary Chromebooks. The brand is Bump Armor. A test of the product was conducted and it received good reviews from students and teachers.

BCCHS Course Catalog Update

Dr. Nuzzi discussed the recommendation regarding an update for the BCCHS Course Catalog. There is no cost to this update.

Approval of Independent Contractor

Cheryl Johnson discussed the Independent Contractor contract and the upcoming Bond process. Laura Ash has been retained as an Independent Contractor. The Contract is not to exceed \$27,600 for the life of the Contract.

There was discussion about a one-time, non-precedent PTO payment in the amount of \$2,314.55 less taxes.

Pandemic Employee Leave

Cheryl Johnson discussed the recommendation allowing BCPS employees to access paid leave for COVID-19 related reasons from January 1 to March 31, 2021.

An overview of the Paid Leave Programs was discussed.

Elementary School Reading Books RFP

Dr. Chandra Youngblood discussed the Elementary School Reading Books RFP in an amount not to exceed \$81,000.00 with Funding Sources being Title I and Early Childhood 35a Grant Funds.

Dr. Youngblood will be asking for Board approval of the Summer Reading Books at the Regular Meeting on January 25, 2021.

9-12 Winter Sports Approval

Superintendent Kim Carter recommended BCPS resume High School athletics beginning January 16th and pending no changes to the Michigan Department of Health Order.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Catherine LaValley read the Public Comments out loud.

Brenda Mayaka
21 Wyndtree Dr
269-274-4889

I want to know what specific safeguards are being put in place for the middle schoolers. I have my younger grandchildren during virtual. My grandchildren have asthma and my immune system is suppressed. I have to be cautious at all times.

President LaValley thanked Brenda Mayaka for her comment and reported someone would get back to her.

Toni Ardis
3085 W Michigan Ave
269-986-5760

On behalf of our Bearcat athletes and parents, thank you for allowing winter sports to begin.

NEW BUSINESS

Secondary Chromebook Case

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the Secondary Chromebook Case in the amount of \$21,577.21 with the funding source of CARES Act.

Vice President Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

There was no discussion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

BCCHS Course Catalog Update

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the BCCHS Course Catalog Update as presented.

Vice President Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

There was no discussion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

Independent Contractor

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the contract for the Independent Contractor in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00 with the funding source being the General Fund.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

There was lengthy discussion about separating the approval of the Contract and the PTO portion and voting on them separately.

There was discussion around the process for Amending a Motion.

Trustee Nathan Grajek made a Motion to Amend the original Motion and remove the last 2 paragraphs related to the PTO.

Trustee Jackie Slaby supported the Amended Motion.

Cheryl Johnson read aloud the last 2 paragraphs of the Human Resources Recommendation to the Board.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6 – 1

President LaValley advised the Board would now vote on the Motion to Amend Vice President Wallace's Motion and delete the last 2 paragraphs related to the payment of PTO. She indicated the Board is voting on the Motion to approve the Independent Contract in an amount not to exceed \$27,600.00 with the funding source being the General Fund.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6 – 1

President Catherine LaValley asked to entertain a Motion regarding the 9-12 Winter Sports.

There was discussion about the appropriate time to vote on the PTO portion of the Independent contract.

9-12 Winter Sports Approval

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve that 9-12 Winter Sports resume with COVID safety protocols in place.

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

There was no discussion.

Motion passed 5 – 2

Pandemic Employee Leave

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Pandemic Employee Leave as presented.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

There was no discussion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Kim Carter thanked the staff for working tirelessly after Winter Break to return to remote learning and prepare for the return of in-person learning for our students. She encouraged families to make sure their Elementary students are logging into remote learning the rest of this week and Secondary students are logging in this week and next.

Elementary students will return to in-person learning on Monday, January 18th which will be a half day of school.

Secondary students will return on Monday, January 25th in a hybrid model. Students received the information about their cohorts and the days they will attend. Superintendent Carter encouraged parents to go to our Facebook page or website to get information about upcoming Town Hall meetings occurring at each school to make sure families have the information needed for the hybrid model for Secondary students.

Superintendent Carter also encouraged families to reach out to their child's school if they have any questions.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright congratulated all Board Members, noting January is Board Recognition Month. As volunteers, Treasurer Fulbright thinks his fellow Board Members do a great job and he thanked them.

Treasurer Fulbright noted Monday, January 18th, is Martin Luther King Day, which is an important day.

Treasurer Fulbright advised he thinks the PTO for the Independent Contractor needs to be added to the Agenda for the next meeting.

Trustee Art McClenney agreed with Treasurer Fulbright to bring back the PTO matter for a vote and suggested adding it to the Regular Meeting tonight, following the Work Session.

Trustee McClenney commented to the young lady who he had communication with, sports are back he knows she will be happy; to the rest of the students who want to get back to sports, he just wants everyone to be safe.

Trustee McClenney congratulated the staff and the Board for the work they continue to do in these trying times.

Trustee Nathan Grajek said he is glad to be back on the Board and looks forward to working with everyone and seeing where this goes. To the students, families and staff, he wished everyone the best, said continue to be safe and he hopes we can make it through the end of this pandemic as soon as possible.

President Catherine LaValley noted in these trying times we have to approach everything with grace. Grace will be important to understand where people are coming from, for the disruptions we are not used to and for the ability to understand what is right. She indicated a need to have grace for our students who have been under so much pressure, as well as staff. It will be important for the Board to approach each meeting and give grace that can be extended to students and all staff members.

President LaValley indicated she agrees with her colleagues that the PTO matter needs to come forth again in January.

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Submitted by
Patti Worden

Patty Poole-Gray
Board Secretary