

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
January 25, 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 (arrived at 5:39p.m.)

Present – Administration

Kim Carter – Superintendent
Dr. Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education
Dr. Deborah Nuzzi, Director, Secondary 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, Business and Finance
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 and Art McClenney were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the Agenda as written.

Trustee Jackie Slaby supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6 - 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Secretary Patty Poole-Gray to approve the Consent Agenda items.

- A. Trust Fund/Comerica (Written only)
- B. Minutes of the Work Session on December 7, 2020,
Regular Meeting on December 14, 2020 and
Special Meeting on December 19, 2020
- C. Bills for the Month of December 2020
- D. Personnel Changes and Recognition of Retirees
- E. Membership Report
- F. Finance Report

Trustee Jackie Slaby supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6 – 0

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Burma Center Tutoring Contract

Wes Seeley presented the recommendation for the Burma Center Tutoring Contract at a cost of \$22,893.20 and the amount will be funded by our Section 41 Grant.

Trustee Nathan Grajek joined the meeting at 5:39pm.

Legislative Advocacy Report

Trustee Jackie Slaby advised she had no update at this time.

Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan

Superintendent Kim Carter reported, as required by law, we are reconfirming our Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan and she reviewed the presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan (Reconfirmation)

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan (Reconfirmation) as presented.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 5 – 2

Elementary Summer Book RFP

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Elementary Summer Book RFP in an amount not to exceed \$81,000.00 with the funding source of Title I and Early Childhood 35a Grant Funds.

Support by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

Burma Center Tutoring Contract

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Burma Center Tutoring Contract in the amount of \$22,893.20 with the funding source being the Section 41 Grant.

Support by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

DISCUSSION

Board Appreciation Recognition

Superintendent Kim Carter thanked each and every Board Member for the service they provide to the District. She noted January provides a unique opportunity for communities across the State to acknowledge local School Boards for their dedication and service. She shared an Appreciation Gift Box we created which includes items from each school building. There is a Gift Box for each Board Member.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Carter advised she had no further updates and again thanked the Board for all they do.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Art McClenney extended condolences to Bernie Gordier's family on her passing, noting Bernie had been in the District for a long time and was there when some of them went to school. He attended Bernie's visitation this afternoon.

President Catherine LaValley noted Bernie was devoted to BCPS for 54 years, which is just fantastic.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright shared he received an email from MASB asking him and Superintendent Carter to be on a panel discussion for the MASB Winter Institute. Treasurer Fulbright noted this is a big deal for our District because out of all the Districts in the State, the MASB chose BCPS. This is a huge honor and shows that they see us and see all the great things we are doing at BCPS. Great Things are Happening at BCPS! Treasurer Fulbright is super excited to participate in the February Winter Institute.

Treasurer Fulbright advised he really misses the opportunity to have the Post-Franklin Choir sing for Board Appreciation month, it is a highlight of his month in January. He can't wait to attend their events in the future.

President LaValley commented the Board does miss the interactions with students and building leaders and hopefully we will be back in action soon.

Vice President Kyra Wallace thanked the BCPS family for their recognition of Board Appreciation Month and said it is very much appreciated.

Trustee Nathan Grajek indicated he has heard a lot of fear from the community and teachers about returning; he is thinking of everyone and wished for everyone to stay safe this week. He is thankful for the recognition of the Board and is excited to see the Gift Boxes.

President LaValley shared the following:

- She attended a virtual Plante & Moran webinar on school finance last Saturday for 4 hours. She heard about Proposition A, which dates back to 1994, and we are still living with the ramifications of that Public Act today. It is really affecting financing and funding for schools. She also learned about upcoming COVID Grant matters discussed by Congress in December.
- This week she is attending a virtual webinar from NEP, located in California, and this webinar will be for 3 hours.
- She is looking forward to the Valley View virtual Parent Meeting on Wednesday at 5:00pm. This will air on Facebook.
- She reminded everyone about the important meeting on Thursday, January 28th, at 5:30pm to update the community, Committee members and our community partners about the upcoming Bond. She noted those interested in attending can RSVP through the BCPS page. This meeting should be informative and she looks forward to hearing from the public.
- She echoed the comments of Trustee McClenney on the passing of Bernadette Gordier. She also attended the visitation this evening before tonight's Board Meeting. She noted Bernie provided 54 years of dedication and loyalty to our District, which is pretty remarkable and takes a special person. When she joined the Board six years ago, everyone recommended she talk to Bernie because Bernie knew everything and she found that Bernie did. We will truly remember Bernie.
- This Friday, January 29th at 6:00pm is the virtual WK Kellogg Preparatory Graduation. This is a very important celebration.

President LaValley closed by noting this will be a busy week, but good enjoyment for us.

She asked if any Board Members had anything else to add and nothing was mentioned.

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:11pm.

Submitted by
Patti Worden

Patty Poole-Gray
Board Secretary