

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Work Session

June 14, 2021

Conference Room at the Miller Stone Building, 77 Capital Avenue NE, Battle Creek, MI

5:30 p.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

Dr. Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi – Director, Secondary Education

Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services

Mitch Fowler – Director, School Data Systems & Innovations

Nathan Hunt – Communications Manager

Rhonda Potts - Executive Director

Pat McCann – Chief Executive Officer, Human Resources

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

Absent – Administration

Dr. Anita Harvey, Director, District Transformation

Jeff English – Executive Director

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President LaValley at 5:38p.m. Catherine LaValley, Kyra Wallace, Patty Poole-Gray, Charlie Fulbright, Jacqueline Slaby, Art McClenney and Nathan Grajek were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Trustee Art McClenney to approve the Agenda with the addition of the Landscaping Service – Summer 2021 as “Item M” under Reports and Recommendations and “Item B” under New Business.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

RECOGNITIONS

2021 BCPS Staff Retirements

Pat McCann presented a slideshow spotlighting the 2021 BCPS Retirees.

A round of applause was given to the BCPS Retirees.

President LaValley thanked the Retirees, expressed the Board's appreciation for their service and wished them a happy retirement.

DISCUSSION

Fine Arts

Trustee Charlie Fulbright discussed the topic of Fine Arts and inquired about the Board and District's intention to keep the momentum going and having Fine Arts at the forefront of the work.

There was discussion about the Facilities Committee's work and the possible creation of a Fine Arts Committee consisting of community members, students, Superintendent Carter and a few Board Members.

It was noted there is a need to have onboarding steps for Fine Arts beginning in Elementary and continuing on through Middle School and High School.

President Catherine LaValley mentioned our great partnership with the Brass Band of Battle Creek, which includes offering two youth camps this Summer.

The Board requested this matter be placed on the June 28th Regular Meeting Agenda with a recommendation from Superintendent Carter and her Executive Team for creating a Fine Arts Committee or other ideas for exploring the Fine Arts opportunity.

State of the District

Superintendent Kim Carter shared the State of the District presentation.

Facilities Committee Bond Recommendation

Superintendent Kim Carter shared the Facilities Committee Bond Recommendation presentation and the recommendation to move forward with a November Bond initiative.

President Catherine LaValley noted herself, Trustee Jacqueline Slaby and Secretary Patty Poole-Gray are serving on this Committee.

It was noted the Committee is reviewing the possibility of using the ESSER Funds to update HVAC air conditioning and heating for the buildings that do not current have air conditioning. This could result in the need for window replacement and abatement issues in some buildings which is also being reviewed. Air conditioning has been a big ask by many of our families.

Due to the age of our buildings, we need to get the Bond passed to allow us to deal with the needs in other buildings not addressed in the Bond.

The Treasury timeline is tight and we have to meet on June 25th to get the Bond on the November ballot.

It was noted it will be important to better get the word out about this Bond and everyone agreed we need to do things differently this time.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2021-2022 MHSAA Membership Resolution

Superintendent Kim Carter discussed the 2021-2022 MHSAA Membership Resolution.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on June 28, 2021.

BCCHS World History and US History Curriculum Resource Adoption

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi discussed the BCCHS World and US History Curriculum Resource Adoption. The cost is \$93,878.00 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on June 28, 2021.

Renaissance Learning Year 5 Renewal

Wes Seeley discussed the Renaissance Learning Year 5 Renewal. The cost is \$159,452.40 with the funding source being WKKF Grant.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on June 28, 2021.

Dreambox Renewal

Dr. Chandra Youngblood discussed the Dreambox Renewal. The cost is \$52,700.00 with the funding source being ESSER2.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on June 28, 2021.

Flyleaf Decodable Reader Supplemental Program for Post-Franklin

Dr. Chandra Youngblood discussed the Flyleaf Decodable Reader Supplemental Program for Post-Franklin. The cost is \$42,090.55 with the funding source being Title I.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on June 28, 2021.

NWEA License Renewal

Mitch Fowler discussed the NWEA License Renewal. The cost is \$34,500.00 with the funding source being the ESSER Grant.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on June 28, 2021.

OEC Kitchen Renovation

Rhonda Potts discussed the OEC Kitchen Renovation. The cost is \$476,377.00 with the funding source being the Food Service Excess Fund Balance.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on June 28, 2021.

L-4029 Tax Rate Form

Rhonda Potts discussed the L-4029 Tax Rate Form.

2020-2021 General Fund Final Budget Amendment

Rhonda Potts reviewed the 2020-2021 General Fund Final Budget Amendment.

There will be a Budget Hearing before the Regular Meeting on June 28, 2021.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on June 28, 2021.

2020-2021 Supplemental Fund Final Budget Amendments

Rhonda Potts reviewed the 2020-2021 Supplemental Fund Final Budget Amendments.

There will be a Budget Hearing before the Regular Meeting on June 28, 2021.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on June 28, 2021.

2021-2022 Preliminary General Fund Budget

Rhonda Potts reviewed the 2021-2022 Preliminary General Fund Budget.

There will be a Budget Hearing before the Regular Meeting on June 28, 2021.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on June 28, 2021.

2021-2022 Preliminary Supplemental Fund Budgets

Rhonda Potts reviewed the 2021-2022 Preliminary Supplemental Fund Budgets.

There will be a Budget Hearing before the Regular Meeting on June 28, 2021.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on June 28, 2021.

Landscaping Services – Summer 2021

Rhonda Potts discussed the Landscaping Services recommendation in the amount of \$85,687.00 with the funds coming from the General Fund and Greenscape Services will be the provider.

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby read aloud the services to be provided by Greenscape Services.

Superintendent Carter recommended the Board consider approving up to \$100,000.00 for landscaping services in the event additional needs were found. The Board was supportive of this recommendation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

L-4029 Tax Rate Form

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the L-4029 Tax Rate Form.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

Landscaping Services – Summer 2021

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the recommendation regarding the Landscaping Services for Summer 2021 in an amount up to \$100,000.00 with the funds coming from the General Fund.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

**CONSIDERATION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION
TO DISCUSS SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION**

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to go into Closed Session to Discuss Superintendent's Evaluation at 8:33pm.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

CONSIDERATION TO RECONVENE

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to Reconvene at 9:16pm.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT DISCUSSION

Dr. Rod Green, a consultant with the MASB, discussed the Superintendent Contract.

Dr. Green noted there had been several Addendums to the Superintendent Contract and he recommended updating the Contract by changing the dates.

President Catherine LaValley reported that Superintendent Kim Carter waived a pay raise for the last two (2) years.

Dr. Green noted it is important to be competitive with the Superintendent salary and advised the Board is not overpaying for this position in any way.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Kim Carter thanked everyone who worked to ensure an amazing 2021 Graduation Ceremony. She congratulated the BCCHS Class of 2021, wishing them the best and a lifetime of success.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Nathan Grajek echoed Superintendent Carter's comments about Graduation, thanking all staff who worked on the event and making the best of it with COVID.

Trustee Nathan Grajek also thanked Dr. Green, Consultant from MASB for attending the meeting this evening to discuss the Superintendent Evaluation and Contract.

President Catherine LaValley made the following comments:

- She echoed the previous comments about the Graduation ceremony and thanking staff.
- She congratulated the Elementary Schools for their health and wellness efforts.

- She shared a Learning Opportunity to be held on June 24th from 5:00-7:00pm. There will be Fun Day event promoted by the Rise, Support and Empower Group to encourage community conversations and gather input about ways to make the community better. This event will be held at Washington Heights United Methodist Church.

ADJOURNMENT

President LaValley adjourned the meeting at 9:46pm.

Submitted by
Patti Worden

Patty Poole-Gray
Board Secretary