

**BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Work Session**

**March 8, 2021**

**Meeting held electronically pursuant to Executive Order 2020-15**

**Zoom identification number Meeting ID: 868 6339 1938**

**PRESENT – BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Catherine LaValley

Kyra Wallace

Patty Poole-Gray

Charlie Fulbright

Jacqueline Slaby

Nathan Grajek

Absent

Art McClenney

**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

Jeff English – 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

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by President LaValley at 5:30p.m. Catherine LaValley, Kyra Wallace, Patty Poole-Gray, Charlie Fulbright, Jacqueline 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 March 8, 2021 Work Session remotely.  
I am physically located in Bedford Township, 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, Kyra Wallace, am attending this March 8, 2021 Work Session 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, Patty Poole-Gray, am attending this March 8, 2021 Work Session 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, Charlie Fulbright, am attending this March 8, 2021 Work Session 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, Jacqueline Slaby, am attending this March 8, 2021 Work Session remotely.  
I am physically located in the City of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania.  
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 March 8, 2021 Work Session 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 Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the Agenda as presented.

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

## **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### Bond Update

Superintendent Kim Carter provided an update on the Middle School Transformation Bond.

### Innovative Programming Facilities Branding RFP

Dr. Anita Harvey discussed the Innovative Programming Facilities Branding RFP presentation in the amount of up to \$60,000.00 for the 2020-2021 Grant Year and \$115,000.00 for the 2021-2022 Grant Year with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on March 22, 2021.

### Book Vendor Change for Middle School Libraries

Wes Seeley discussed the Book Vendor Change for the Middle School Libraries from Scholastic Books to Follett Learning. The cost is \$65,000.00 with the funding source being WKKF Grant.

### Hulu Digital Advertising

Nate Hunt discussed the Hulu Digital Advertising recommendation in the amount of \$24,000.00 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on March 22, 2021.

### Houghton Mifflin Harcourt International Center for Leadership in Education

#### Year 4 Renewal of Rigorous Curriculum Design

Superintendent Kim Carter discussed the Houghton Mifflin recommendation in the amount of \$40,500.00 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on March 22, 2021.

### E-Rate Building Switch

Mitch Fowler discussed the E-Rate Building Switch recommendation in the amount of \$441,505.80 with the funding sources being the ESSER Grant (\$66,225.97) and Federal E-Rate Funds (\$375,279.84).

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on March 22, 2021.

### OEC Forestry Project

Jeff English discussed the OEC Forestry Project presentation in the amount of \$13,350.00 with the funding source being Sinking Funds.

High School Walk-In Cooler/Freezer

Rhonda Potts discussed the High School Walk-In Cooler/Freezer recommendation in the amount of \$68,239.61 with the funding source being the Food Service Excess Funds.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on March 22, 2021.

ABM Contract Addendum

Charles Lipsey discussed the ABM Contract Addendum recommendation in the amount of \$96,521.14 with the funding source being the ESSER Grant Funds.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on March 22, 2021.

Student Representative Bylaws Amendment Report

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby discussed the Student Representative Bylaws Amendment Report presentation.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

President Catherine LaValley read the Public Comments aloud.

Vick

113 Maple Terrace

269-419-5704

Will there be a commencement ceremony for the seniors.

Toni Ardis

3085 Michigan Ave W, Battle Creek 49037

269-986-5760

Signage and visions of improvements to school are nice, but we need to put some effort into the courses offered and the placement process. We are failing some of our students.

President LaValley thanked Vick and Toni for their comments and indicated that someone will get back to them.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Book Vendor Change for Middle School Libraries**

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Book Vendor Change for Middle School Libraries in the amount of \$65,000.00 using WKKF Grant Funds.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

Wes Seeley advised the \$65,000.00 is for this year only.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0.**

### **OEC Forestry Project**

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the OEC Forestry Project in the amount of \$13,350.00 using Sinking Funds.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0.**

### **Sending Student Representative Bylaws Amendment to Policy Committee**

Motion by Trustee Jacqueline Slaby to refer the Student Representative Bylaws Amendment to the Policy Committee for review.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0.**

## **SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Superintendent Kim Carter reminded everyone that March is Reading Month. She encouraged everyone to ask children what they are reading. She reported we are celebrating Reading Month virtually across the District and she is proud of the events we have planned to celebrate a love of books. Superintendent Carter encouraged everyone to share what they are reading at #bcreads.

Superintendent Carter shared that Willard Library has many events planned for Reading Month and they are open Monday-Friday from 12:00-6:00pm. There are student times which would be helpful for hybrid students. For more information, visit [WillardLibrary.org](http://WillardLibrary.org)

Superintendent Carter reported we are gearing up for Kindergarten enrollment. There are spring into Kindergarten events planned at all of our Elementary Schools, Dudley is this week. She encouraged everyone to check out the events and share the information with the community.

There is more information on the Bond initiative at [www.bpcs.org](http://www.bpcs.org) and how it will shift outcomes for BCPS.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright shared the following:

- He is super excited that we have the Strategic Goal information listed by each Agenda item.
- Regarding the Innovative Program Branding matter, he thinks if we are rebranding the High School, we should also look at the facilities maintenance on the High School and make changes like replacing missing lockers and repairing torn up floors, as there is no point in having new wall décor if other things look like they are not taken care of.
- March 8<sup>th</sup> is International Women's Day and he thanked all the women for everything they do.

President Catherine LaValley shared the following:

- She wanted to take a moment to remember Art Angood who passed away on February 20. He was a genuine leader for BCPS, Miller Foundation and the development of Miller College in Battle Creek. Mr. Angood was honored in a front page article in the Battle Creek Enquirer and his many accomplishments were noted. Mr. Angood was a Battle Creek Central Graduate of the Class of 1952. President LaValley sent her condolences to his wife, Judy, and sons, Todd and David. She commented that Mr. Angood's dedication and care for BCPS was truly remarkable and he will be remembered always.
- She liked how Superintendent Carter reminding us that March is Reading Month. She has received several invites to participate in virtual sessions with our Elementary Schools and she will be reading this Wednesday and hopes to have more time to be reading to students.
- It is great news that staff have been vaccinated and a wonderful project that happened.
- She attended the Middle School Bond Transformation meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and appreciated the other 25 people who attended. The next meeting is March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- She was interviewed by Tim Collins on Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, and she talked about the Bond and all the Great Things Happening at BCPS. She was pleased with the opportunity to share.
- She took time to view Post-Franklin's February celebration of art, physical education and music and it was a great presentation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President LaValley thanked everyone for attending tonight.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm.

Submitted by  
Patti Worden

Patty Poole-Gray  
Board Secretary