

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

November 22, 2021

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

5:30p.m.

PRESENT – BOARD OF EDUCATION

Catherine LaValley

Kyra Wallace

Patty Poole-Gray

Charlie Fulbright

Jacqueline Slaby (arrived at 5:37pm)

Art McClenney

Nathan Grajek

Present – Administration

Kim Carter – Superintendent

Mitch Fowler – Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Dr. Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education

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

Dr. Anita Harvey – Director, District Transformation

Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services

Nathan Hunt – Communications Manager

Rhonda Potts - Executive Director

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

Absent – Administration

Pat McCann – Chief Executive Officer, Human Resources

Jeff English – Executive Director

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President LaValley at 5:32pm. Catherine LaValley, Kyra Wallace, Patty Poole-Gray, Charlie Fulbright, Art McClenney and Nathan Grajek were present.

President LaValley reported that Trustee Jacqueline Slaby would be arriving shortly.

President LaValley read aloud our Mission Statement.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Consent Agenda items.

- A. Trust Fund/Comerica (Written only)
- B. Minutes of the Work Session on October 11, 2021 and Regular Meeting on October 25, 2021
- C. Bills for the Month of October 2021
- D. Personnel Changes and Recognition of Retirees
- E. Membership Report
- F. Finance Report

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

DISCUSSION

Welcome Student Representatives

President Catherine LaValley commented we were hoping to have the Student Representatives in the audience tonight, but they were not able to attend. She wished the Student Representatives a Happy Thanksgiving and noted the Board looks forward to their participation in next month's meetings.

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby arrived at 5:37pm.

Bond Update

Superintendent Kim Carter provided an update on the Bond and shared the following:

- She expressed her gratitude for all the supporters and volunteers who donated their time to get this Bond passed. She gave a special thanks to Trustee Jacqueline Slaby who chaired this campaign and getting the Bond passed.
- She thanked every Community Member who came out to vote and for Believing in the Change.
- We have accomplished so much and the passing of the Middle School Transformation Bond will allow us to provide a wealth of options for students, depending on their interests and talents.

- We currently have design slated to begin as early as next Summer and construction as soon as possible thereafter. We will be bringing the Community in for design discussions.
- A complete schedule is in the works and we will provide an update at the December 13th Regular Meeting, including a design calendar and when construction begins.

CASBA Awards

President Catherine LaValley discussed the CASBA Awards.

President LaValley recommended the Board vote on their recommendations at the Regular Meeting in January as she believes nominations are due in February.

There was a brief discussion about past nominees. Patti Worden will get the names of former nominees to Board Trustees before the December meetings.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summer Learning Report

Dr. Chandra Youngblood and Dr. Deborah Nuzzi discussed the Summer Learning Report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Bond Authorizing Resolution

Rhonda Potts discussed the Bond Authorizing Resolution.

Motion by Trustee Art McClenney to approve the Bond Authorizing Resolution.

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby supported the Motion.

President Catherine LaValley read aloud Sections 1-2 of the Bond Authorizing Resolution.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray read aloud Sections 13, 16, 21, 22, 23 and 24 of the Bond Authorizing Resolution.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

Administrative Appointment for Interim Principal at Verona Elementary

Superintendent Kim Carter discussed the Administrative Appointment of Rhonda Washington as the Interim Principal at Verona Elementary.

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve Rhonda Washington as the Interim Principal at Verona Elementary.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

Operation Fit

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve Operation Fit in the amount of \$39,000.00 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Kim Carter shared the following comments:

- Thank you again to the Community for supporting our students with the passing of the Bond. She looks forward to working with the Board for the transformation of our Middle Schools.
- Thank you to Erin Romel, BCCHS Art Teacher, for her dedication and time in preparing BCCHS students for their participation displaying the talents of BCCHS in the Fall Into the Arts event.
- For families in need of a hot meal on Thanksgiving, Firekeepers is partnering with BCPS. On Thanksgiving Thursday, November 25th, a hot Thanksgiving meal will be available from 10:00am to 1:00pm in the BCCHS Commons. She is proud of how our Community rallies to make sure everyone has an opportunity to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.
- Happy Holidays to Staff and the Board. Thank you for all that you continue to do to support families and the students we serve.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright shared that he attended the Christmas Parade in downtown Battle Creek on Saturday. He was to see the BCCHS Band play and he was glad BCPS was part of the Parade.

Treasurer Fulbright invited the public and Board Trustees to a Thanksgiving meal, the day after Thanksgiving, hosted by Battle Creek Pride at the First Congregational Church from 6:00-8:00pm on Friday, November 26th.

Trustee Art McClenney wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and commented be safe.

President Catherine LaValley shared the following comments:

- Thank you to the BCCHS Students who participated in the Fall Into Arts event. She was proud of our students' efforts that evening and it was a joy to hear people come up to the tables and asking questions of our students. Those who participated were: Emiley McCulloch, Briahna Norg, Cameron Daniels, Abby Arndt, Ramairez Harper, Maya Peterson, Dion Warren-Evans and Kaijehl Williams.
- She attended the Childcare Virtual Town Hall on November 18th. It was an interesting event with a presentation about KinderCare, a company that has the ability to plan out childcare options for Communities and could be a solution to the ever growing childcare crisis happening in the Battle Creek region. The event was sponsored by BC Pulse and BC Unlimited.
- That same evening, she attended a BIF meeting wherein the Battle Creek City is looking at projects for rescue, using ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds that total \$31 million. The City felt it was important to hear from the citizens about the ways these funds could be used to benefit the Community. They will have additional Community events to gather ideas. Anyone interested in learning more can watch the video of a Workshop hosted by City Officials, where they can also submit funding ideas, by visiting battlecreekmi.gov/arpa. The new census number were shared at the meeting and there is 52,147 people living in the City of Battle Creek. Because this number exceeds 50,000 that enabled the City to be entitled to the extra ARPA Funds. They would not be receiving these funds if we were below the 50,000 mark.
- She closed with two simple words that come with so much gratitude – Thank You!

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04p.m.

Submitted by
Patti Worden

Patty Poole-Gray
Board Secretary