

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Work Session
November 9, 2020**

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

Karen Evans
Catherine LaValley
Kyra Wallace
Patty Poole-Gray
Charlie Fulbright
Art McClenney
Jackie Slaby

Present – Administration

Kim Carter – Superintendent
Dr. Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education
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 – 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 Evans at 5:30p.m. Karen Evans, Catherine LaValley, Kyra Wallace, Patty Poole-Gray, Charlie Fulbright, Art McClenney and Jackie Slaby were present.

President Karen Evans noted we were going to start the meeting this evening a little different than usual, based on information she learned at the MASB Leadership Conference over the weekend.

President Evans read the Board Norms and Guidelines that were approved by the Board on January 27, 2020, and are usually displayed on the tables when the Board meets in-person. She asked that Board Members keep these Norms and Guidelines in mind when we are conducting virtual meetings.

BOARD OF EDUCATION NORMS

1. We will keep our focus on the best interests of our students and remain positive in our intent.
2. We will be supportive of any decision the Board makes, whether we are for it or against it.
3. We will show respect for each other, staff, community members and students by valuing others thoughts and ideas and by using respectful body language.
4. We will respect team meeting times; notifying President if arriving late or not at all.
5. We will build upon the ideas of others and look for common ground we will paraphrase for understanding.
6. We will wait to be called upon by the President before speaking.
7. We reserve the right to call a time out if anyone needs a break.
8. We will stay focused on our goals and avoid getting side tracked.

*Revised January 27, 2020. These Norms are
Intended to help the Board conduct effective meetings.*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the Agenda as written.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Secondary Summer School Report

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi presented the Secondary Summer School Report. She shared that she was so appreciative of the Summer School Principal, a teacher at BCAMSC, who did a remarkable job of pulling the program together with teachers and providing a virtual Summer School.

Overview

Facing a global pandemic and a school year filled with uncertainty, on top of the typical ‘summer slide’ we knew it was more important than ever to continue providing summer enrichment to support the success of our Bearcats.

- Rising 7th-12th grade students attended Monday-Thursday for six weeks via remote learning options.
- Enrichment occurred each day through activities and virtual experiences.

Middle School Programming

- The purpose of the academic portion- to build confidence and competence for students in both ELA and Math.

High School Credit Recovery

- The purpose of the 9-12 program- credit recovery to support students in their path towards Graduation

Preparing for Summer Remote Instruction

- Researched best practices in online learning
 - National Standards for Online Quality Learning
- Developed Social Emotional Support (SEL) Plan
 - CharacterStrong
- Coordinated with 21st Century Programming
- Identified 6-8 Essential Standards in Math & ELA
- Developed a Week 1 PD Plan that allowed for teacher choice in learning
- Began Registering & Communicating with Families
 - Introduction Letters (6-8) & (9-12)

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi discussed the partnership with 21st Century and that they helped provide Art, Fitness and STEM opportunities for our students. They were also able to provide partner opportunities with Binder Park Zoo, Kingman Museum, Leila Arboretum and Gilmore Car Museum.

Middle School Academic Resources

Math & ELA

- Scootpad
 - Provided data folders for goal setting and tracking
 - Provided adaptive program based on student needs.
 - Provided data for instructors to drive live zoom sessions.

Social-emotional Learning (SEL)

- CharacterStrong Visual Programing provided weekly student challenges and instruction
- Behavior Interventionist provided additional support.

Continuous Family Communication through Summer

- Weekly Newsletters sent each Sunday Night to all families including information such as:
 - Principal Notes
 - SEL Challenges
 - Staff Introductions
 - 9-12 Weekly Progress Goals
 - Schedules & Contact Info
 - Example from Week 3
- Facebook Page for 6-8 Programming & 9-12 Programming
- Weekly Family Support Meetings for first three weeks, until parents didn't need.

Acknowledgments & Rewards

Pizza Celebrations!

- 6-8 Students who participated daily in remote learning were placed into a weekly drawing by grade level and with a chance to win a pizza delivery!
- 9-12 Students who completed all their courses were reward with pizza deliveries!
- Over 30 pizzas were delivered throughout the summer.

Dr. Nuzzi shared we partnered with Pizzeria and pizzas were delivered to the homes of 30 students with the message the driver understood this student had done great with learning. 30 thank you's were received.

6-12 Summer Enrichment Program Data

Slides with the following data were included:

- Number of Enrolled Students by Grade
- Enrolled Students by Race, by Grade
 - African American was the biggest population
- Average CGP Fall to Fall NWEA Reading
 - This slide showed students who attended Summer School scored higher than those who did not, especially in 6th and 8th Grades
- Average Test Percentile NWEA Reading
- Average Test RIT NWEA Reading
- Average CPG Fall to Fall NWEA Map
- Average Test Percentile NWEA Math
- Average RIT Score NWEA Math
 - This slide showed students in 6th and 8th Grades who attended Summer School scored a little higher than those who did not in 6th and 8th Grades
- Remote Attendance By the Numbers
 - There were 57 Middle School students with an average weekly attendance of 53% and 61 High School students with an average weekly attendance of 48%
- Remote Engagement By the Numbers
 - There were 57 Middle School students with an average weekly engagement of 2.27 and 61 High School students with an average weekly engagement of 1.97
- Credit Recovery for High School
 - 53 Credits were recovered including English (14), Math (12) ad Social Studies (11). Dr. Nuzzi shared 30 credits were recovered for WK Prep.
- ScootPad Data revealed
 - 6th Grade Math – 8/11 students demonstrated growth on essential standards
 - 6th Grade ELA – 9/11 students demonstrated growth on essential standards
 - 7th Grade Math – 5/7 students demonstrated growth on essential standards
 - 7th Grade ELA – 2/7 students demonstrated growth on essential standards
 - 8th Grade Math – 7/9 students demonstrated growth on essential standards
 - 8th Grade ELA – 3/8 students demonstrated growth on essential standards

GVSU Partnership

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi discussed the partnership with GVSU and the EXCEL Camp (Exploring Careers in Education and Leadership Summer Camp). Highlights of this opportunity were:

- Rising 12th Grade Students (28)
- Remote camp experience learning about the field of education, teaching strategies and preparing for college
- Met with camp staff twice weekly through a 4 week camp period
- Received kit to complete camp activities at home, including teaching books and notebooks
- Created a video sharing advice for teachers

President Karen Evans asked if there were any questions.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked, looking at NWEA scores, if we can show the scores against student demographics and also show them against previous years. She mentioned requesting the same information for the Elementary Summer School students and is waiting to receive it. She wants to make sure the Board is getting follow-up on the critical, fuller picture and the impact programs have; not isolated to just one summer. Dr. Nuzzi said she will work on getting this information.

Trustee Jackie Slaby would like to get a better understanding of who these students are, from a performance standpoint, are the students excelling academically or are some having academic challenges. Dr. Nuzzi asked if Jackie is talking about Middle School or GVSU. Trustee Slaby said Middle School. Dr. Nuzzi said they reached out to targeted students with low scores, but we did not turn down any students who wanted to attend Summer School.

Superintendent Kim Carter clarified we won't break out demographics for groups smaller than 10. Given the size of summer school, the report won't be by demographics, which is common across the State.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked if demographics could also include income. Superintendent Kim Carter said for less than 10, we don't pull that information due to anonymity of students.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright asked about the 7th Grade Reading scores being lower for students who attended Summer School versus those who did not attend and if we knew why. Dr. Deborah Nuzzi indicated one thing they observed was they had a harder time engaging that group of students, but they are not certain why. It is believed lower attendance and engagement were part of the problem.

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi indicated information as shared with the Principals so they could see those students and arrange intervention groups to bring those students in, however, some parents declined to send their child due to not feeling safe. Dr. Nuzzi discussed the need for our students to be reading; they need books in hands with full texts, not excerpts. She reported Book Clubs have started and more are coming in the Middle Schools.

Trustee Art McClenney asked to clarify the program tracking future teachers is through Dr. Deborah Nuzzi indicated that was correct. It is a Career Academy pathway of education through dual enrollment with GVSU and opportunities for GVSU scholarships are available as students move ahead. The students remain connected through the college experience and we bring them back to BCPS. Trustee McClenney asked if they are required to return to BCPS. Dr. Nuzzi indicated students are invited back and do their intern experience with BCPS.

Vice President Catherine LaValley thanked Dr. Nuzzi for a really outstanding report, noting there were 3 separate camps and it looked to be they were having so much fun, which is great in a difficult year. Vice President LaValley commented the BCPS Staff and GVSU were to be commended for being involved.

President Karen Evans also thanked Dr. Nuzzi for a great report.

Staff PC Laptop Purchase

Mitch Fowler discussed the recommendation for the purchase of 75 additional staff laptops. He noted the laptops are very similar to those the Board Members have. There is a need for an additional 75 staff laptops due to the pandemic and the need to shift to remote learning to provide staff with the tools needed to educate students and also to provide staff who are working remotely with the tools they need to do their jobs.

Mitch reported he received a quote for the laptops on a REMC Contract and we will be getting comparative pricing. The total cost of the staff laptops is \$65,030.25. Mitch will be discussing Grant funds with Wes Seeley and Laura Ash tomorrow to determine if the funds will come from WKKF or the CARES Act Grant.

Roof Replacement at Dudley Elementary School

Laura Ash discussed the recommendation and reported we have eight overhangs at the roof perimeter at Dudley Elementary School that need to be replaced. We have been working with Tichenor Inc. at Battle Creek to completely tear off the existing product and replace the membrane over the existing deck. They will secure inserts as well for drains and add flashing where needed.

Laura advised there is currently a classroom at Dudley Elementary School that has a water leak due to the overhang needing replacement.

The total cost for the necessary roofing repairs at Dudley Elementary School is \$36,560.00 with the funds coming from the Sinking Funds.

Laura shared that if the Board approves the repairs this evening, the supplies will be delivered to Dudley Elementary School tomorrow and the repairs will begin on Wednesday.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked about the extent of the damage to the roof and if it was something that happened overnight. Laura indicated it happened over time. Trustee Slaby was extremely disappointed this was not included in the 5 Year Facilities Plan provided to the Board in June. Laura noted the 5 Year Facilities Plan focused on projects that had been done recently, or would be. Laura noted Charles Lipsey is working diligently on an updated report.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked when the Board would receive the updated report. Laura advised December or January. Trustee Slaby indicated she looks forward to receiving the updated report.

Laura again indicated if these repairs are approved tonight, the work will begin on Wednesday. She has talked with the Principals and they are on board with the replacement happening as soon as possible to make things safe for all parties, students and staff.

Trustee Slaby thanked Laura Ash for the clarification and indicated she looks forward to receiving the 5 Year Plan.

Superintendent Kim Carter clarified we did not submit a 5 Year Facilities Plan in June, but rather a very detailed report about the various projects that were budgeted from various sources.

She apologized indicating she believes Trustee Slaby is looking for a full report and the June report was snapshot. We are working diligently on a 5 Year Facilities Report to be brought to the Board.

There were no further questions.

WK Kellogg Auditorium Theatrical Lighting

Laura Ash discussed the recommendation for the WK Kellogg Auditorium Theatrical Lighting. She reported over the last two years the District has been working diligently to update the WK Kellogg Auditorium projection and sound system upgrades. She advised the last phase of the renovation is the lighting system. We have retained the services of TPC Technologies as the designer and integrator of Production Systems. They have created solutions in auditoriums across the State of Michigan.

Laura indicated Phase II is concentrating on replacing our single color (white) incandescent light bulbs to multi-colored LED bulbs and fixtures. We will also be installing a digital control board that will allow the changing of the colors easily from the control booth. This will enhance performance and set us apart from other auditoriums in the surrounding areas.

We are asking the Board to approve an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 for the lighting upgrade and the funds would come from the WK Kellogg Foundation Grant.

Laura reported this project is currently out on the street with RFPs. Laura indicated the RFP requests should be in by November 23rd so she will bring an exact dollar amount and who the vendor will be to the November Regular Board Meeting.

Laura indicated this heads up another round of improvement for the Auditorium going out for bid in December. Laura noted it should be ready for the December 7th and December 14th Board Meetings. This will be for the final improvements to the Auditorium, which is very close to completion.

President Karen Evans asked if there were any questions.

Trustee Jackie Slaby noted being disappointed this topic also wasn't covered in the 5 Year Facilities Plan the Board received back in June, explicitly when they were told it was the full plan. She was under the impression the Board was requested to approve this project this evening and was disappointed this would not allow lead time to look the proposal over and get community perspective. Vice President Catherine LaValley pointed out the Board was not being asked to approve this matter this evening and would vote on approving at the November 23rd meeting or one of the December meetings.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked that the Board be provided with a full list of all investments and improvements for WK Kellogg Auditorium in case a community member approaches her. Laura Ash advised she can give a report from the time she was hired in September of 2017 to the present time and what improvements were done.

Secretary Kyra Wallace inquired about how the estimated figure was arrived at, without our having received bids. Laura Ash said we are working with an engineering company out of Three Rivers, TPC Technologies, and they have auditorium renovation experience, They prepared a supply list and an estimated figure since they have a general idea on prices being an expert in the field.

President Karen Evans discussed the WK Kellogg Auditorium upgrades were first started as a way to bring in applications because people didn't want to use the Auditorium because it was out of date and the improvements were to attract better use.

Adult Education High School Diploma

Wes Seeley reviewed the recommendation and presentation.

Wes advised the Battle Creek Adult Education Program would like to offer a high school diploma option for students who have aged out of High School and WK Preparatory High School.

Currently, Adult Education students wanting to earn or complete their High School Diploma are only able to receive their Diploma through WK Preparatory High School. Any student who is 22 or older can no longer attend WK Prep and has no option for earning or completing their High School Diploma. At age 22, the student's only option is to earn their GED.

The recommendation is for the Battle Creek Adult Education Program to offer a High School Diploma for students who are interested in earning or completing their High School Diploma. The recommendation is designed so the Adult Education Program would not be a competition to WK Preparatory High School. The Adult Education Diploma offering would also be a natural option for students who age out of WK Preparatory High school since its requirements would align with WK Prep's Graduation requirements.

Students interested in pursuing a High School Diploma from the Battle Creek Adult Education Program would follow a set enrollment criteria:

1. If the student will be 17 or younger on December 30th of the year they are enrolling:
 - a. They must attend WK Prep to earn their high school diploma
 - b. Enrollment in the Adult Education Program will not be an option for these students
2. If the student is 18 or 19 on December 30th of the year they are enrolling:
They must enroll at WK Prep to earn their high school diploma
 - a. They must enroll at WK Prep to earn their High School Diploma
 - b. These students would have the option to earn a GED through Adult Ed
3. For students who will be older than 19 on December 30th of the year they are enrolling:
 - a. They may choose to enroll in the Adult Education Program
 - b. These students may choose to pursue either a high school diploma or a GED

Eligible students wanting to earn/complete their high school diploma through the Battle Creek Adult Education Program:

- Will be required to earn a total of 19 credits (the same requirements as WK Prep)
- Will complete their coursework through Odysseyware, with monitoring and support of the Adult Education teachers
- Will meet the requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum by earning the following credits in the following areas:
 1. Four (4) English Language Arts Credits
 - a. English 9
 - b. English 10
 - c. English 11
 - d. English 12
 2. Four (4) Math Credits
 - a. Algebra 1

- b. Algebra 2
 - c. Geometry
 - d. Application Math
3. One (1) PE Credit
4. Three (3) Science Credits
 - a. Biology
 - b. Chemistry/Physics
 - c. Choice
5. Three (3) Social Studies Credits
 - a. US History
 - b. World History
 - c. Government (½ credit)
 - d. Economics (½ credit)
6. Three (3) Fine Arts / World Language Credits With Two Options:
 - a. One (1) Fine Arts Credit & Two (2) World Language Credits
 - b. Two (2) Fine Arts Credits & One (1) World Language Credit
7. One (1) Computer Class

Purchase Recommendation (for Board consideration)

The recommendation is for the Battle Creek Adult Education Program to offer a high school diploma for students who are interested in earning or completing their high school diploma. Currently, Adult Education students wanting to earn or complete their high school diploma are only able to receive their diploma through WK Preparatory High School. Any student who is 22 or older can no longer attend WK Prep and has no option for earning or completing their high school diploma. At age 22, the student's only option is to earn their GED.

The recommendation is designed so the Adult Education Program would not be a competition to WK Preparatory High School. The Adult Education diploma offering would also be a natural option for students who age out of WK Preparatory High school since its requirements would be aligned with WK Prep's graduation requirements.

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 - b. Chemistry/Physics
 - c. Choice
5. Three (3) Social Studies Credits
 - a. US History
 - b. World History
 - c. Government (½ credit)
 - d. Economics (½ credit)
6. Three (3) Fine Arts / World Language Credits With Two Options:
 - a. One (1) Fine Arts Credit & Two (2) World Language Credits
 - b. Two (2) Fine Arts Credits & One (1) World Language Credit
7. One (1) Computer Class

President Karen Evans asked if there were any questions.

Secretary Kyra Wallace asked to clarify if a student chooses to pursue a High School Diploma after age 22, are they still working through Odysseyware. Wes Seeley said yes, they would use the Odysseyware platform with the support of the Adult Education teacher.

Secretary Wallace asked if that would require new licenses in that area to use in Miller Stone, or does it transfer. Wes indicated we will check on the Adult Education students using the WK Preparatory program. He indicated we do have some funding available to purchase additional licenses, if needed.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked Wes if he thinks other schools will offer the choice of getting a High School Diploma after age 22. Wes replied he knows Plainwell does. They offer a very similar program to what we are proposing. Wes was not sure if any local Districts offer this opportunity.

Superintendent Kim Carter commented it was important to note that not very many people will take advantage of the High School Diploma, it will likely just be some individuals with life circumstances that caused them to be so close; someone with 16 credits already and rather than having a GED would love the option to get a High School Diploma. The majority of students will still get a GED.

Wes Seeley indicated he has a 31-year old student who is just a few credits shy of earning a High School Diploma and he wants to make this available to them.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Yolanda White
7 HIGH ST
269-274-8509

#1 - With the Coronavirus cases on the rise, will the nurses now be allowed to start taking daily temperatures on students also to ensure students aren't being sent to school with temps and symptoms to spread to student and staff?

#2 - When/Will it now be suggested that if a student comes to school sick or get sick while at school from any of the listed symptoms from the Health Department guidelines, will they now be sent home and not to remain in the building since it's been confirmed by professionals that it's a "Deadly" airborne virus?

President Karen Evans thanked Yolanda for the questions and indicated one of the administrators will get back to her with answers.

NEW BUSINESS

Staff PC Laptop Purchase

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the Staff PC Laptop Purchase in the amount of \$65,030.25 using WKKF or CARES Act Funds.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

Roof Replacement at Dudley Elementary School

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the Roof Replacement at Dudley Elementary School in the amount of \$36,560.00 using Sinking Funds.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

Adult Education High School Diploma

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the recommendation as presented by Wes Seeley for offering High School Diplomas in Adult Education.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Kim Carter thanked all of our partners in the Career Academics project. We were able to host panels for public safety, engineering, technology and trades. 9th Graders were able to attend 4 BCCHS Career Panels and 10th Graders attended a virtual job shadow hosted by Duncan Aviation and were able to see the cockpit fire up. Superintendent Carter noted these types of partnerships are creating great opportunities for students.

Superintendent Carter shared Willard Library has great opportunities for students as well. There is a Teen Time open to Grades 5-12, Monday through Friday, for up to 1 hour daily. Students can use the computers and printers and enjoy craft projects. Masks must be worn. Superintendent Carter indicated Willard Library has a lot of programs available on their website about activities that are occurring.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Vice President Catherine LaValley shared with the Board a letter addressed only to her. She thought it was important to share it as it concerns an article in the Battle Creek Enquirer, dated 10/30/20, on the front page. She read the letter aloud.

*Glenn Alday
Wing Road Bellevue, MI*

Dear Mrs. LaValley, I am writing to you as a member of the BC Board of Education. I graduated from BC Central in 1945 and I am a WWII, Korean War veteran plus 31 years of military service total. I am very upset with the enclosed picture from the BC Enquirer dated October 30, 2020. A couple of former classmates feel the same way. There are a few of us still alive in Battle Creek now. We celebrated our graduation of 75 years ago at Capt. Louie's August 26th. We just wanted you to know our thoughts.

Sincerely, Glenn W. Alday, Bearcat "1945".

Note: Picture was not enclosed in Google Form submission.

Vice President LaValley noted she was glad to see Trustee McClenney in the article. She noted if the caption had not been included in front page, there would not be a letter to the Board. She advised that Board Members could let her know if you want to see copy.

Vice President LaValley commented she enjoyed the first time virtual MASB Leadership Conference last weekend. She said the staff did something really remarkable at the request of their Board of Directors and she enjoyed a free conference that is usually expensive. The theme was about equity and Dr. Dominique Smith from California started his presentation with the quote "I Can, I Must and I Will". She said there were a few technical glitches, but that was to be expected. It was a wonderful conference and a remarkable experience – well done, good information, well organized and she enjoyed the virtual exhibits, she couldn't ask for a better conference.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright commented as follows:

- He also attended the MASB Annual Leadership Conference and it was very informative and new. One highlight he wanted to bring to the Board was he learned on Thursday, November 12th at 12:00pm, there will be a sign-up sheet for Board Members to meet with MASB representation to talk about priorities for the Legislative Session. This is very needed for Board Members in the State of Michigan to attend and give priorities. Trustee Fulbright will email the link to sign-up to Board Members.

- He attended a session about student representation and it was well received. He emailed the President at Motor Shores Board to get more information. The Tri-County Board is working on mental health services for students. He has emailed the University of Michigan as well.
- MASB CBA 101 class is free this year. He noted this is the most expensive CBA class and MASB has waived the fee for new Board Members. CBA online classes will be offered on December 3rd through 6th.
- Wednesday, November 11th, is Veterans Day and Trustee Fulbright wished a Happy Veterans Day to all those who have served.

President Karen Evans discussed the Board Retreat regarding Robert's Rules of Order and reviewing the Strategic Plan. She indicated we were looking at two dates in December, both on Saturdays. The first is December 5th which conflicts with the MASB CBA classes and the other is December 19th. The time will be 10:00am to 2:00pm. The first hour will be reviewing the Strategic Plan and Ann Macfarlane will join at 11:00am for the Robert's Rules training.

The Board Members agreed to conduct the Virtual Retreat on Saturday, December 19th.

Trustee Jackie Slaby suggested having the Retreat in January so the new Board Member could join. President Karen Evans advised we were going to invite Nathan Grajek.

Meeting adjourned – 6:57p.m.

Submitted by
Patti Worden

Kyra Wallace
Board Secretary