

**BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Regular Meeting**

**October 25, 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

Jacqueline Slaby

Art McClenney

Nathan Grajek

Absent

Charlie Fulbright

**Board Student Representative**

Imani Jones

**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

Pat McCann – Chief Executive Officer, Human Resources

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

**Absent – Administration**

Jeff English – Executive Director

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by President LaValley at 5:34pm. Catherine LaValley, Kyra Wallace, Patty Poole-Gray, Jacqueline Slaby, Art McClenney and Nathan Grajek were present.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chris Momcilovich

287 Border

Battle Creek

269-341-1986

Chris shared this year is off to a much better start and he loves having a classroom full of musicians. His concern is the Holiday Season and Music Performances which he was told they are not allowed to have because it is an indoor event. He added Wrestling, Volleyball and Swimming are having events indoors and he would like to have Band Performances with a masked audience.

He indicated MHSAA sets the guidelines for Athletics and he has asked the MSBOA to give guidance on Music Performances. He hopes to receive a letter from them later this week.

Chris also discussed long-term subs and some of the concerns they have.

Sylia Williams

52 Mary Street

Battle Creek MI 49014

269-579-0845

Sylia thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak with them. She discussed her son, a BCCHS student, being bullied and her contact with school administrators and staff to try and resolve the issues. She shared the response she received was that a Bearcat Coach could follow her son around all day, her son could go to Adult Ed or he could join the Virtual Academy. She said since School of Choice was not an option, she decided to have her son do the Virtual Academy. She is dissatisfied with that decision and feels that her student should be able to go to school in-person and be safe at school. She indicated she has continued to try and reach out to school staff and this situation has not been resolved to her satisfaction.

Shawn Nichols

22 Brown Drive

Battle Creek MI 49037

269-274-5864

Shawn indicated he was in attendance tonight to support the Band Director. He shared that he has 2 kids in the District, one is in sports and the other in Band. Every day his daughter comes home and he can see her disappointment that she can't perform in front of her parents. He mentioned the current sports being played, adding it just doesn't make any sense because he knows how people show up for Basketball games. The music students deserve the opportunity to show what they do.

Shawn said he was a BCCHS student himself. He believes in this school and likes it but when the District takes the Performing Arts and pushes it off to the side and doesn't allow students to perform, it is wrong. Performing gives them a chance to boost their confidence and show what they have learned.

President Catherine LaValley thanked all 3 of the individuals who shared Public Comments and advised that someone from District will get back to each one of them.

### **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 September 13, 2021 and Regular Meeting on September 27, 2021
- C. Bills for the Month of September 2021
- D. Personnel Changes and Recognition of Retirees
- E. Membership Report
- F. Finance Report

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0.**

### **DISCUSSION**

#### Welcome Student Representatives

President Catherine LaValley welcomed Imani Jones to the Board as a Student Representative.

President LaValley advised the other Student Representative was not able to attend the Meeting tonight.

Student Representative Imani Jones thanked the Board and indicated she appreciates the opportunity to serve as a Student Representative.

#### Board Retreat – Saturday, November 20, 2021

President Catherine LaValley discussed the Board Retreat on November 20, 2021 and indicated Dr. Rod Green from the MASB will be the facilitator for the Board Self-Evaluation exercise.

## **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### 2020-2021 Audit Report

Rhonda Potts introduced Matt Kelly and Charles Sportel from Plante Moran.

Matt Kelly and Charles Sportel discussed the 2020-2021 Audit Report.

They reported they had to test four (4) budget areas this year, Title I, 21<sup>st</sup> Century, CRF Funds and the ESSER Funds.

There were no findings of deficiencies and no non-compliances were found; everything is in great shape, which is wonderful with all the changes for the 2020-2021 school year.

Matt closed by noting this was a year like no other, there were challenges all over and it was a difficult year. He pointed out some positives for BCPS were Food Service providing over 1 million meals, 1:1 Chromebooks for all students, Teachers adapting to serve our students and our getting 86 students to choice-in to BCPS.

Matt thanked the Business Office Team (Rhonda Potts, Brenda DeMott, Courtney Hoelscher and Ofelia Rangel) for all their help with the Audit.

President LaValley reported that paper copies of the Audit were sent in the mail and will be here tomorrow afternoon.

President LaValley said the Audit Report was encouraging and the Board is so thankful to have Plante Moran's expertise to take us through 4 different Audits. It was noted the Board has to approve the Audit Report this evening due to the State deadline of November 1<sup>st</sup> for approval.

### Operation Fit

Dr. Chandra Youngblood discussed the Operation Fit program. The cost of this program is \$39,000.00 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

Dr. Youngblood reported that we started the Operation Fit program 5 years ago and all 7 BCPS Elementary Schools are receiving services and are part of the YMCA.

The Board will vote on this item at the Work Session on November 8, 2021.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 2020-2021 Audit Report

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the 2020-2021 Audit Report.

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

President Catherine LaValley asked if there was any discussion.

Trustee McClenney commented that is so nice to be on this side of the Report, adding that for so many years the District was in the negative and below the percentage set. He noted the District is doing a good job of managing our finances.

President LaValley agreed with Trustee McClenney and said to see the growth and turn around in our financial picture has been exciting for sure. She noted the staff has been working hard to make sure we had a clean Audit.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0.**

### HMH ThinkCentral Renewal

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the HMH ThinkCentral Renewal in the amount of \$50,953.31 with the funding source being the ESSER Funds.

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0.**

## **SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Superintendent Kim Carter shared the following comments:

- First and foremost, she extended her thanks to all of the staff (Food Service, Maintenance, Teachers, Central Office, Support Staff) who endure staffing shortages and all the challenges of COVID-19 as they relate to in-person instruction. She said this is a testament to the partnerships, resiliency and teamwork of BCPS.
- The BCCHS Hall of Fame Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner is tomorrow evening from 4:30-7:30pm with take-out meals from Barista Blues. Proceeds support scholarships for BCCHS students.
- There will be a Vaccine Clinic at NWMS, with food distribution, on Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-6:00pm. This will be an opportunity to receive the COVID Vaccine, COVID Booster or Flu Shot.

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby shared there is one more week until the Bond Election. BCPS is on ballot for the Middle School transformation. She encouraged residents to drop by City Hall if they are interested in getting an Absentee Ballot so they can vote now and don't have to wait.

President Catherine LaValley commented as follows:

- She repeated what Superintendent Kim Carter said about the Hall of Fame Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner. She, too, is looking forward to the Dinner, which has been a successful venture for the Hall of Fame Committee and raises quite a bit of funds for BCCHS Scholarships.
- It is an exciting time for BCPS and she is looking forward to the Bond Election a week from tomorrow on Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. She said it is very important the District hear from the community. She indicated the District has been quite involved making lots of information available to tax payers. She encouraged residents to visit our social media sites, Facebook and Instagram, to get additional facts. The District will be working at several functions this week, one being the Fall Into the Arts event at the Kellogg Area this Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00-9:00pm. We will be showing student artwork.
- There is a special gathering at Post-Franklin on Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, along with the Vaccine Clinic Superintendent Carter mentioned at Northwestern Middle School.
- This is an exciting time for the Community as we look to keep BCPS strong.
- She appreciates all the work conducted for the recent Audit.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14p.m.

Submitted by  
Patti Worden

Patty Poole-Gray  
Board Secretary