

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

October 26, 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

Charlie Fulbright

Jackie Slaby

Patty Poole-Gray

Art McClenney

Present – Administration

Kim Carter – Superintendent

Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education

Deborah Nuzzi, Director, Secondary Education

Anita Harvey – Director, District Transformation

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 and Jackie Slaby were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6-0.

Art McClenney joined at 5:33pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the Consent Agenda items.

- A. Trust Fund/Comerica (Written only)
- B. Minutes of the Work Session on September 14, 2020 and Regular Meeting on September 28, 2020
- C. Bills for the Month of September 2020
- D. Personnel Changes and Recognition of Retirees
- E. Membership Report
- F. Finance Report

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Resolution Regarding Open Meetings Act

President Karen Evans discussed the Resolution Regarding Open Meetings Act and advised the Open Meetings Act was adjusted to grant greater latitude for Board participation through December 31, 2020 with virtual meetings for any reason.

Beginning January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, electronic participation will solely be under the circumstances set out in Paragraph 1 of the law, which areas are due to a medical condition or a Statewide or local State of Emergency (example being the flood in Midland over the Summer).

After December 31, 2021, the only Board Members allowed remote access to Board Meetings will be those absent due to military duty.

These legislative changes were made, voted on and approved.

President Karen Evans noted the BCPS Board Policy does not follow the new Open Meetings Act and our policy for remote participation has been sent back to the attorneys for alignment with the OMA Law.

President Karen Evans discussed attending the MASB Open Meetings Act webinar and receiving helpful information we can work from.

Vice President Catherine LaValley discussed her disappointment that the legislation didn't make virtual meetings something we could continue without end. She commented that we have a lot of people viewing our virtual meetings and it's a great way for the community to see what's going on at BCPS and is an opportunity for people to make up their mind about becoming a Board Member. It allows people to participate without getting a babysitter or leaving their home. She plans to speak with legislators to share some of this input we have received. She indicated this Resolution gives direction and is appropriate to have as part of our Policy and By-Laws.

Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy – 2nd Reading

Monique Cheeks conducted a 2nd Reading of the Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy. She read aloud the Executive Summary.

On August 14, 2020 new regulations pertaining Title IX took effect which requires modifications in Board Policy. Refer to proposed Board Policy.

The scope of the regulations focus on sexual harassment as a subset of sex-based discrimination; and applies to harassment of:

- Staff to staff,*
- Staff to student,*
- Student to staff,*
- Student to student*

Big changes in the regulations are:

- All K-12 staff have a reporting obligation (i.e., "mandatory reporter") which includes third party vendors such as bus drivers of Dean, food service workers of Chartwell and ancillary staff of EduStaff.*

- A new investigatory model which eliminates a single investigator and is replaced with 4 separate, distinct and non-duplicative roles which must be held by different people:*

Key Role Role Definition

Title IX Coordinator Oversees investigation and coordinates school's compliance with Title IX

Investigator(s) Conducts investigation process

Decision Maker Makes determination of responsibility

Appeals Officer Hears appeals of dismissal and determination of responsibility

- *Significant changes in the investigation process with emphasis on due process.*
 - o *Parties may be accompanied by an advisor of their choosing*
 - o *Each party must have equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence*
 - o *Each party must have the opportunity to respond to the evidence before the investigation's conclusion*

1 New definition of sexual harassment which is conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following: 1). Employee quid pro quo, 2). sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking as defined by the Violence Against Women Act, 3). Hostile environment.

- *New Terminology*
 - o *Alleged Victim Complainant*
 - o *Alleged Perpetrator Respondent*
 - o *Investigation Grievance Process*
 - o *Educational Institution Recipient*
 - o *Interim Measures Supportive Measures*

- *Seven (7) year record retention requirement*

- *Requirement that all staff including third party vendors are trained*

There was no other discussion about the Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy.

Elementary Summer School Report

Dr. Chandra Youngblood presented the Elementary Summer School Report.

She advised the District conducted a survey ahead of time and there was much interest for us to provide an opportunity for Elementary Summer School and we had a great program.

The presentation provided the following information:

- 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 this powerful program to support the success of our Bearcats.

- Survey ahead of time much interest. Had great program.
- 5th Grade was added back to the Elementary Summer School program. The program was open to eligible BCPS Kindergarten through 5th Grade students.
- Virtual sessions were held using Google Classroom.
- Sessions provided a half day of academics and a half day of enrichment provided through 21st Century.
- Literacy program included Scholastic Lit Camp, K-2 F.I.R.S.T. (Foundational Skills) and 3-5 W.O.R.D. (vocabulary).
- Enrollment included 197 students K-5 Grade. There were more students in the Lower Elementary Grades than the Upper Elementary.
- Staff included 1 Principal, 10 Teachers, 9 Paraprofessionals and Ancillary staff members.
- 50% of Summer School participants were rising 1st, 2nd and 3rd Graders.
- Demographic data was included and this year more Black or African American students attended and made up for 44% of the student population.

Changes made to the Elementary Summer School program this year included:

- Virtual program
- Lit Camp online version
- Added 2 other online Scholastic Literacy programs
- Use of designated Dreambox Math lessons on Chromebook
- Provided supply packets
- Live lessons repeated several times a day and recorded for students who cannot attend the live sessions

The presentation included:

- Average CGP Fall to Fall NWEA Reading data and noted that in many cases the average growth for Summer School students was higher than non-summer school students. The Average Test Percentile NWEA Reading was also included.
- Average CGP Fall to Fall NWEA Math data noted in many cases the average growth for Summer School students was higher than non-summer school students. The Average Test Percentile NWEA Math was also included.

A description of the programs added for virtual learning was provided and indicated:

- Scholastic F.I.R.S.T. is a highly adaptive foundational reading program for grades Pre-K through 2. Students receive explicit phonemic awareness training in the 44 sounds, systematic phone instruction, and the skills needed to become strong, fluent readers.

Scholastic F.I.R.S.T. provides ongoing formative assessment with accelerations and interventions ensuring decoding fluency so students can focus on comprehension.

- Scholastic W.O.R.D. is a new vocabulary acquisition and knowledge program that engages students through captivating games blended with research-based learning strategies.

Scholastic W.O.R.D. teaches the 2,500 word families that make up 90% of the text students encounter in school,

Bearcat Summer Bridge Program K-4 overview reported:

Successes

*Teacher Engaging Lessons

*21st Century Partnership

Challenges

*Certified Staff

*Students not attending

*Chromebook firewalls

Lessons Learned

*Lead time is important for materials to be mailed home and translations to be done

*30 minute live lessons is not enough time for instruction

The 4 Summer Pillars were The Arts, College/Career, Fitness/Recreation and STEM.

Partnerships in addition to 21st Century included Kingman/Leila, Binder Park Zoo and the Gilmore Foundation.

President Karen Evans asked if there were any questions.

Trustee Jackie Slaby would like to see side-by-side stats from this year compared to last year. She realizes we had a different program this year due to COVID but would like the Board to see the information and the average test percentiles. She'd also like to see who went to summer camp and who didn't and have a breakdown by demographics. Dr. Chandra Youngblood and Mitch Fowler will work on providing this information.

Vice President Catherine LaValley commented she was pretty impressed with the results of a this different complex type of Summer School and asked Dr. Youngblood to pass on her thanks to the staff, herself and whomever was involved to move the program forward. She was impressed that 21st Century could tap into Binder Park, Kingman and Gilmore. She noted it was a job well done and she hopes we do not have to do this next year.

Extended Continuity of Learning Plan

Superintendent Kim Carter noted this serves as the Board of Education Reconfirmation Meeting for the Extended Continuity of Learning Plan.

According to Public Act 149, Section 98a, Statute Sec. 98a(1)(c) Thirty days after the approval of the plan under subsection (2, and every 30 days thereafter, the District must, at a meeting of the Board or Board of Directors, as applicable, of the District, reconfirm how instruction is going to be delivered during the 2020-2021 school year. Public comment must be solicited from the parents or legal guardians of the pupils enrolled in the District during a meeting described in this subdivision.

Superintendent Kim Carter indicated this points back to why our Public Comments was moved and reported we consulted with the MASB to make sure we were meeting the new law requirements.

The Extended Continuity of Learning Plan presentations included the following:

Reconfirmation Meetings

- Held every 30 days with school board after approval of the Extended Plan by ISD
- Purpose is to reconfirm how instruction is going to be delivered during the 20/21 school year
- Solicit public comment on how instruction is going to be delivered
- Publicly announce weekly 2-way interaction rates at the meeting and post to transparency reporting link

Superintendent Carter noted reconfirmation does not have to be exactly 30 days. We will conduct this at the Regular Meeting each month. December will be early based on the holidays.

Superintendent Carter reported the 2-way interaction reporting begins in November. Moving forward, that will be part of the Reconfirmation process.

Recommendation

- Because virus cases in Michigan are currently rising, the administrative team recommends that the Board of Education approve continuation of the current structures for PK-5 and 6-12 learning.
- Because current K-5 structures have been effective in containing spread, the Calhoun County Department of Public Health recommends keeping these measures in place and not bringing more students together in person during this time.

BCPS Phase-By-Phase Overview: Next 30 Days

- 1-3 – Virus spread is significant
- 4 – Virus spread is slowing (Current Phase)

Grades K-5 – will continue with in-person school full time, 5 days a week

Grades 6-12 – will continue to engage in remote learning with targeted in-person small group support

- 5 – Virus spread is containable

We will continue to offer the Virtual Academy. It is important to note we recognize there have been some problems with the Elementary Virtual Academy. We are thankful for the families who have reached out. Vetting the program was not allowed due to COVID. The program meets our standards of vigor and quality and we are working through the issues and will reach out to families as needed. We have hired a Technology Assistant to help families navigate the Pearson platform and the Secondary platform and trouble shoot issues.

Health and Safety is Our First Priority

- Facial coverings continue to be required for all students and staff at all times, including on the bus, except for during mealtimes or when drinking, or if medical needs prevent the safe use of facial coverings.
- Staff and students conduct daily self-examinations, including a temperature check, prior to coming to work/school.
- All buildings have a designated Care Room for any students who are waiting to be examined by the school nurse. Students who are sick will be isolated in a designated Sick Student Area, separate from the Care Room, until they are able to go home or to a healthcare facility. Both areas will be well-ventilated, allow for social distancing and be disinfected after each use.

- All buildings have visible signage throughout to direct the flow of foot traffic and with reminders promoting hand washing, use of facial coverings, and coughing/sneezing hygiene.
- Large gatherings such as field trips and assemblies have been canceled and provided in virtual format when possible.
- P.E. has been limited to activities that do not involve physical contact with other students or equipment.
- BCPS provides supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for safe use by staff and students, paper towels, tissues and signs reinforcing proper handwashing techniques).
- In all classrooms, hand sanitizer or soap and cleaning products are readily available. Windows and doors remain open when possible to maximize ventilation, sharing of supplies is limited, and supplies and surfaces are disinfected between classes.

Superintendent Carter reported we had one vacancy in the school nursing position at Ann J. Kellogg and she is pleased to report that position has been filled and the nurse will begin on Wednesday.

Possible Plan Changes and Updates on Current Plan

- We will continue to consult with our local health department to make decisions based on local data regarding the spread of COVID-19 in our county and its impact on our “return to learn” plans.
- The Board of Education will review an updated recommendation regarding in-person learning on November 23.

Superintendent Carter reported our Extended Continuity of Learning Plan is submitted monthly to the Michigan Department of Education.

Secretary Kyra Wallace asked if the Phase-By-Phase Overview is from the State of Michigan. Superintendent Kim Carter indicated it is.

Secretary Kyra Wallace asked if that determines how we will structure if in-person learning or remote, etc. She understands we talk with the local Health Department regularly. Her question is if our local Health Department informs us that the numbers in our County are higher than the norm, even if the Phase for the State of Michigan doesn't change, can the Board make a decision to change based on the County information. Superintendent Kim Carter said absolutely. If the State Phase is Phase 4, the Board has the option to change and the decision is left to the Board and we can collaborate with the local Health Department. If the State moved back to Phase 3, then we don't have the choice and all learning would have to be virtual.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked, in follow-up to Secretary Wallace's question, if based on a significant rise in our County compared to the overall State, would we defer to the Calhoun County recommendation not to offer in-person learning versus waiting for the State to move us back to Phase 3? Since the Board is voting to approve or not approve the Extended Continuity of Learning Plan later this evening, she would like to see this written into the Plan.

Trustee Jackie Slaby inquired if the Health Department came to us and recommended going to Phase 3, would we go with their decision because the way she reads the Learning Plan, we would only go that direction if the State mandated it. Superintendent Kim Carter agreed and said we will note this in the Board Minutes when we make the Motion to approve.

Vice President Catherine LaValley thanked Superintendent Kim Carter for the Reconfirmation Report required by the State and also for the two successful Town Halls in the last few days. She asked if it could be noted in the Learning Plan that Superintendent Kim Carter held two Town Halls that were well attended virtually and that the Calhoun County Health Director, Eric Pessell, attended the most recent Town Hall.

Superintendent Kim Carter advised we will continue to have the Town Halls, they have been impactful. She noted a moment of insight was we needed to create some ways of 2-way communication and not just by a newsletter. We needed a way for all staff to have the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification.

Superintendent Kim Carter reported there will be Monthly Town Halls to provide staff with firsthand information and updates. The last one was well received with the Health Officer attending to explain and help us understand where to go next. We will continue to consult with him. If staff is wondering or has more questions she can't answer, Eric Pessell is ready and willing to come and help us through this. Superintendent Kim Carter commented she truly appreciates Eric Pessell and all his support.

Trustee Jackie Slaby indicated there were a few slides in the presentation she'd like to seek clarification for as she is tracking those and wants it to be clear to the community. Regarding the 2-way interaction rates, she is not sure that language is clear to the average community member. Superintendent Kim Carter thanked Trustee Jackie Slaby for clarifying the educational lingo we use.

Superintendent Kim Carter clarified part of the legislation requires that we determine attendance and engagement of students. We have to track how often we are interacting with students, i.e. whether the student logged in for remote instruction or if the teacher made phone calls. It is not just regular attendance, we have to show some form of communication with every student. We have to post the monthly percentage of students we have personal connections with. We must connect with at least 75% of our students in order to meet the requirements under the new pandemic learning plan.

Monique Cheeks shared for funding, during each 4-week period of the count, we must obtain one 2-way interaction with each student and meet the 75% goal per week for funding. Attendance requires two 2-way interactions per month and meet the 75% goal for the full school year.

Trustee Jackie Slaby commented it would be helpful if the Board could get that written down. Superintendent Kim Carter shared we will do a presentation on interaction requirements at the next Regular Board Meeting in November.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked about soliciting feedback from the community and the families we serve. She noted we have a Town Hall for staff and asked what we do to gather community input. She wants to get community feedback and indicated it needs to be solicited in multiple languages. She would like this information to be provided with the Learning Plan presented for Board decision on November 23rd.

Superintendent Kim Carter advised we did a survey of our families, in multiple languages, and the majority wanted in-person learning and for us to bring back secondary students. However, because of the Health Department recommendation, we are submitting the proposal the Board has before them this evening.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked if the links to the survey can be shared to the Board.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked to discuss the slide around P.E. and field trips. She wondered if we can briefly say what we are doing for sports to keep students and coaches safe.

Superintendent Kim Carter advised that sports are a challenge in her opinion and they continue to be. She shared the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services said not to have sports. The MHSAA wanted sports and the community wanted to have sports. As a result, we are following the MHSAA Guidelines with players having to self-report and athletes have to wear facial coverings to participate and there are very specific hygiene practices. Superintendent Kim Carter reported it is safe to say we may be looking at some cases that result from football and we may need to revisit this plan when we meet in November.

Trustee Jackie Slaby would like to have sports mentioned in the Extended Learning Plan for anyone going to our website.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Extended Continuity of Learning Plan

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the Extended Continuity of Learning Plan.

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

President Karen Evans asked if there was any discussion.

Trustee Jackie Slaby pointed out the approval is to include the things added to the Plan, as written in these Minutes.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright asked if the Motion needed to be amended.

Superintendent Carter reported the Board is approving K-5 in-person learning and 6-12 remote learning with the caveat bring that if the local Health Department deems we need to look at something different, we will defer to the Health Department recommendation.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked if the Motion needed to be amended and commented she was looking to President Karen Evans to confirm whether we can have this as a caveat and not part of the language in the Motion.

President Karen Evans advised she was good with the Motion as it is, noting we can look back to the Minutes if we have to defer to all remote learning before the next Regular Meeting.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

Resolution Regarding Open Meetings Act

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the Resolution Regarding the Open Meetings Act.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

President Karen Evans asked if there was any discussion.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked if the Resolution needed to be read aloud.

Secretary Kyra Wallace read the Resolution aloud.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

- 1. The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to create procedures to accommodate electronic participation by Board members who are absent due to a medical condition or due to a statewide or local state of emergency declared pursuant to law or charter by the governor or local official or local governing body that would risk the personal health or safety of members of the public or the public body if the meeting were held in person. In the event of such an emergency, if the meeting location is usually held in an affected area the entire Board may participate electronically, otherwise, only members who reside in the affected area may participate electronically.*

For purposes of this paragraph, medical condition means an illness, injury, disability, or other health-related condition.

Electronically may include video and/or telephonic conferencing.

2. The procedures must provide for:

a. Two-way communication;

b. For each member of the Board attending the meeting electronically, a public announcement at the outset of the meeting by that member, to be included in the meeting minutes, that the member is, in fact, attending the meeting electronically and, except for members who are participating electronically due to military duty, stating the county, city, township or village and state where the member is located.

c. A means by which the public is provided notice of the absence of a member and information about how to contact the member sufficiently in advance of the meeting to provide input on any business that will come before the Board.

3. Through December 31, 2020, the Board may hold its meetings electronically, in whole or in part, for any reason.

4. The Board further authorizes, from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021, electronic participation solely under the circumstances set out in paragraph 1, as well as the pre-existing law requiring accommodation due to military duty. After December 31, 2021, only members requiring accommodation due to absence for military duty may participate electronically.

5. [X] The Board authorizes the use of technology to facilitate typed public comments during the meeting that may be read to or shared with Board members and other participants in satisfaction of the requirement that members of the public be heard by others during the electronic meeting and the requirement that they be permitted to address the Board.

6. Advance notice of any meetings held electronically, in whole or in part, shall be posted on the District's website either on the homepage or on a separate web page dedicated to public notices for non-regularly scheduled or electronic public meetings through a prominent and conspicuous link on the homepage. This notice must be posted at least eighteen (18) hours before the meeting begins. Notice of a meeting held electronically must explain as follows:

a. Why the Board is meeting electronically.

b. How members of the public may participate in the meeting electronically, including provision of the specific telephone number, internet address, or both needed to participate.

c. How members of the public may contact members of the Board to provide input or ask questions on any business that will come before the Board at the meeting.

d. How persons with disabilities may participate in the meeting.

7. If an agenda exists for an electronic meeting held under this resolution, the Board shall post the agenda on the website at least two (2) hours before the meeting begins. This does not prohibit subsequent amendment of the agenda at the meeting.

8. Members of the public who are participating electronically or in person shall not be required to register, other than as required by the bylaws to participate in public comment.

9. Members of the public will not be allowed to participate in any closed sessions during meetings held electronically, in whole or in part, and all prior laws and bylaws relating to closed sessions continue to apply.

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that execution of this Resolution is conclusive evidence of the Board of Education's approval of this action and of the authority granted herein.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

Contract for 21st CCLC Local Evaluator

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the Contract for the 21st Century CCLC Local Evaluator.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

President Karen Evans asked if there was any discussion.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked about the report from last year that was included in the Board Packet and if that information was to be part of the vote.

President Karen Evans noted this information was presented to the Board at the Regular Meeting on September 28th and it was touched on during that meeting. Tonight's meeting is for the approval of the 21st Century CCLC Local Evaluator.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy Approval

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy as presented.

Secretary Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

President Karen Evans asked if there was any discussion.

Secretary Kyra Wallace asked if there only has to be two readings of a Policy. President Karen Evans indicated that was correct, noting two readings were all that were ever needed and she is not sure how the Board got to having three readings.

Vice President Catherine LaValley thanked the Board Policy Committee for their work on this very detailed policy that will be adopted tonight. She noted the need for a quick turn-around because the Law came into being in the middle of August, the Committee did their due diligence to get everything set for this evening.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

BCPS Athletic Handbook

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the 2020-2021 BCPS Athletic Handbook as presented.

Secretary Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

President Karen Evans asked if there was any discussion.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked, in the spirit of being inclusive around gender discrimination, if we can move to using gender neutral language for the Athletic Handbook and not use “him/her, etc.” so everyone feels like they are being spoken to in this Handbook. Superintendent Kim Carter replied we would be happy to make this adjustment and thanked Trustee Slaby for raising it up.

Trustee Jackie Slaby shared her thoughts for the updated Handbook next year. She thinks our Handbook is light compared to other Districts and thinks we need to add or include the following information:

- Notice of Discrimination
- Grievance Process
- Process for Submitting Complaints
- Locker Room Procedures
- Grievance for Stealing Property
- Gross Misconduct
- Travel Regulations

Trustee Jackie Slaby commented she didn't see any of these topics in the Handbook. She noted these Handbooks all range from District to District, but she thinks we are missing some areas in ours and we need to be proactive about the future situations. Again, she would like to look at the above items for updating next year, she just wanted to put them on the radar, but she would love to see the gender language updated in this version of the Handbook.

Superintendent Kim Carter advised the majority of the things Trustee Slaby mentioned are in the regular Student Handbook and the Athletic Handbook does not replace that, it is just an addendum to those around Athletics. If we need to review it, we can bring it up at that time.

Trustee Jackie Slaby indicated if we don't reference it in the Athletic Handbook, possibly we could make a notation to refer to the Student Handbook for other encompassing policies. She just wants to be sure we cross our "T's" and dot our "I's".

Trustee Charlie Fulbright asked if need to make a new Motion.

Vice President Catherine LaValley said she didn't think so.

Trustee Art McClenney referred the question to President Karen Evans.

President Karen Evans indicated the Minutes will indicate the Board is approving the Athletic Handbook with a change to gender neutral language.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

2019-2020 Audit Report

President Karen Evans advised the 2019-2020 Audit Report was reviewed two weeks ago at the Work Session on October 12th with the auditor and Laura Ash.

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the 2019-2020 Audit Report as presented.

Secretary Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Superintendent Kim Carter commented, as always, she wants to start by sharing her deep appreciation for the frontline workers, teachers, bus drivers, food service, paraprofessionals, literacy coaches, secretaries, administrators. She deeply appreciates what they do every day to make sure we are providing a quality education to the students that we serve. She sees you and appreciates all you do.

Superintendent Kim Carter reminded everyone of the Spaghetti Dinner tomorrow evening for the BCPS Hall of Fame fundraiser. She advised the Hall of Fame recognizes sports and the arts for outstanding achievements to the community and the nation. The Hall of Fame has awarded more than \$35,000.00 in scholarships to students and we should truly celebrate them. The Spaghetti Dinner is \$15 per meal at Barista Blue, to go orders and curbside only, from 4:30-7:30pm.

Superintendent Kim Carter gave a heartfelt Congratulations to the SEED Award Winners. She shared the winning individual students receive a grant towards their college education and all students did a wonderful job. It was a tough competition with many doing well and wrote great essays. Superintendent Carter thanked the SEED Committee who ensures we have a process to award the grants.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Vice President Catherine LaValley commented as follows:

- She thanked Superintendent Carter for the reminder about the Hall of Fame Dinner and noted it is a very important event.
- She attended the first Valley View Parent Meeting last Monday and the Principal mentioned students are doing well with masks and the routines in place and the staff is working hard. The Parent Council will be providing meals for teachers on conference nights.
- Like President Karen Evans, she attended the MASB webinar regarding the Open Meetings Act. She was disappointed we won't be able to continue remote meetings after the end of the year and will be contacting State legislators to help the, understand the convenience of remote meetings, no need for a babysitter, community can watch at home and see the Board and public bodies, she suggested all Board Members and the community contact our legislators and share what we have learned in this experience and what we liked.
- She enjoyed the Town Hall on October 21st that Superintendent Carter planned and commented Mr. Eric Pessell, the Health Department Officer, was very easy to understand and he answered various questions. The virtual meeting can be viewed on our District website.
- She attended the SEED Awards Ceremony online and though Terry Burleson did an excellent job. She extended her Congratulations to all the winners and best wishes for their academic future.

Trustee Jackie Slaby shared an exciting Statewide opportunity for kids, staff and families to participate in. The program is called "Write Michigan" and is a short stories competition and poetry. All ages can enter and they have a division for Spanish stories. Entries will be accepted between September 1st and 12:00noon on November 30th. For more information on the 9th Annual Write Michigan Contest, visit WriteMichigan.org to learn more and submit stories.

President Karen Evans shared the following:

- She also attended Superintendent Carter's Town Hall and thought it was very exciting to have the Health Department presence. She felt it was imperative for staff to understand all these changes that we have to make every day are not coming from our Administration, they come from outside in an effort to try to keep staff and students safe. She thought it was very valuable for staff to hear that from the Health Department and was glad Mr. Pessell was there.
- We made a change regarding Public Comments at Board Meetings. We shared our meeting practice with the MASB to approve we were doing this properly with the recent OMA changes and they recommended we should not mandate individuals to include their address and phone number for Public Comments, noting that we couldn't restrict people from commenting based on those items. President Evans discussed that had never been the intent for the reason we ask for address and phone number. We ask for that information as a means for replying to Public Comment, if a response is needed, because we don't respond to comments during the Board Meeting. President Evans advised that we have changed the Public Comment form to indicate those items (address and phone number) are optional and not mandatory.
- She is looking forward to the Hall of Fame Spaghetti Dinner.
- She has exciting news to share. She said the Board should be familiar with the MASB LeaderBoard Magazine that comes out quarterly. She shared the last one in the Fall had Detroit Schools highlighted in it and she was excited to report that Battle Creek Public Schools will be highlighted in the next issue. She submitted most of our information earlier today. She thanked Nate Hunt and Patti Worden for all the help. She is excited that BCPS gets to be highlighted in the next issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49pm.

Submitted by
Patti Worden

Kyra Wallace
Board Secretary