

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Work Session

June 8, 2020

Meeting held electronically pursuant to Executive Order 2020-15

Zoom identification number Meeting ID: 825 8120 5586

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

Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education

Anita Harvey - Director, District Transformation

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 – Coordinator of State/Federal Programs & Grants

Charles Lipsey – Director, Facilities and Operations

Absent - Administration

Jeff English – Executive Director

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Evans at 5:30 p.m. Karen Evans, Catherine LaValley, Kyra Wallace, Patty Poole-Gray, Charlie Fulbright, Art McClenney and Jackie Slaby were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice President Catherine LaValley made a motion to approve the agenda with a couple of changes under Reports:

- Dr. Chandra Youngblood will be the presenter for item A (2020-2021 Contract with Battle Creek YMCA for Before/After Care for Fremont).
- The amount for item B (Communities In Schools Renewal) will be increased to up to \$710,000.00.

Trustee Art McClenney supported the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

REPORTS

2020-2021 Contract with Battle Creek YMCA for Before/After Care for Fremont

Dr. Chandra Youngblood discussed that Fremont International Academy is not part of the 21st Century Grant so we contract with the Battle Creek YMCA for before/after school care. We want to continue that contract in 2020-2021. The cost is \$112,000.00 and WKKF Grant Funds would be the funding source.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked if 21st Century provides services to BC STEM Middle School. Dr. Youngblood said they do not. Trustee Slaby asked about extending the YMCA services for BC STEM Middle School. It was noted that we need to wait until the new cycle for 21st Century to check into the opportunity to extend the Battle Creek YMCA to cover BC STEM.

Dr. Youngblood asked Dr. Anita Harvey to share her thoughts since she handles Middle School matters. Dr. Harvey mentioned there is no before/after school care at BC STEM Middle School, but noted students can participate in Middle School sports and they are adding after-school clubs for the upcoming year.

Trustee Slaby again asked if the Battle Creek YMCA can provide service for BC STEM Middle School. Dr. Harvey said we can check into it. Trustee Slaby said she would love to have an answer before the Board votes on this at the next meeting (June 22) and if there isn't anything covered by 21st Century that it be included in the Battle Creek YMCA contract. Dr. Youngblood noted there might be a capacity issue.

Superintendent Carter advised we will not have the answer about adding services for BC Stem Middle School prior to the June 22nd board meeting as it will require a bid process. She also advised we need to understand if there is an interest since parents have not requested this service at this time.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked if we know how many kids took part in the Y Center after school program. Dr. Youngblood advised she believed it was around ninety (90). Vice President LaValley asked if the students were able to go swimming and do other activities. Dr. Youngblood said they were.

President Karen Evans noted the Board will be voting on the contract for Fremont International Academy only at the end of the month. Superintendent Carter advised we will commit to finding out if there is interest for before/after care for Middle School students to determine if we need to add another program. Trustee Slaby agreed and shared that he probably won't support the Battle Creek YMCA contract without understanding the next steps for Middle School because she wants to make sure we are covering everything and all students.

Superintendent Carter asked to discuss that a vote for Fremont International Academy to receive these services does not negate the fact that we want to offer in other areas and she thinks that is important for the community to understand.

President Karen Evans noted there being a problem with preschoolers not being part of the after school program last year. Dr. Chandra Youngblood said there was, noting that preschool runs under different guidelines. The interest in a program for preschoolers was low but the number of adults a preschool program requires is, therefore we did not offer after school care for preschool.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked if parents and kids enjoyed the Y Center experience. Dr. Youngblood said she would have to assume they did. At the times she was in the building, the students were having fun, there was good attendance and the students were engaged. She will check with the Battle Creek YMCA to ask about the interest survey. Dr. Youngblood noted conversations, before the school shutdown, that parents wanted a summer program, which would lead her to believe the appreciated the program being offered.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020.

Communities In Schools (CIS) Renewal

Monique Cheeks reported she included information from CIS in the Board Packet that was previously provided to the Board, but she included it again so the Board could see the work CIS did for us this school year. She advised that she added additional funds to her original recommendation for the 2020-2021 contract because she was told by the Grant experts that, although the contract is one amount, she needs to bring the full amount that could be spent on expenses for operating to the Board. She noted the contract is \$619,644.00 and she is asking for an approved amount of up to \$710,000.00 which includes expenses, supplies and events CIS will put on.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked if the contract is for the Executive Director of CIS and wondered if there is an Assistant Executive Director. Monique said there are two other Directors, a Regional Director we share with Benton Harbor and the other two only work for Battle Creek in the Director capacity. Vice President LaValley asked if the funds in the contract also go to the Regional Director. Monique indicated she believes it would allocate to all those who work with our District and added the site coordinators and STEM site coordinator are in the contract as well.

Trustee Jackie Slaby wondered if there is a cost benefit analysis that shows the cost of moving family coordinators to using CIS or stats on the data from CIS and achievements compared to family advocates, something showing they have provided more benefits. Monique advised she doesn't have statics that compare, but does have stats that show the impact CIS has had and she can check with Human Resources to get the difference in the cost of a family advocate and CIS coordinator. Trustee Slaby said that would be great.

Wes Seeley indicated he had the cost difference at hand and advised it is \$60,000.00 for the site coordinators and \$20,000.00 for the family advocate.

Trustee Slaby asked if there will be outlined goals or next steps for next school year and how we are utilizing CIS services. Monique said we have stated those conversations with the CIS Team, i.e. what the goals and the measurable outcomes are for next year. Trustee Slaby asked for that information to be presented to the Board when it available. Monique indicated she will do that.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020.

Tentative Agreement with Battle Creek Educational Secretaries

Cheryl Johnson thanked the secretaries across the District, noting they are generally the first and last people staff, students and the community sees when coming in and out of the building. Cheryl discussed that the Tentative Agreement brought to the Board this evening was negotiated with Sarah Garrett, the President for the Secretaries Union and Brian Makowski from MEA UniServe.

Cheryl pointed out the Tentative Agreement is a one year contract that expires on June 30, 2021. Cheryl reported the District Secretaries currently receive nine (9) vacation days. The Tentative Agreement provides them with one (1) additional vacation day, being the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, if teachers don't have to report to work that day.

President Karen Evans asked if this discussion needed to be in Closed Session. Trustee Art McClenney thought it did. Superintendent Carter pointed out there was nothing to discuss prior to, that the matter would be presented for a vote at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020. Vice President Catherine LaValley commented if this were being negotiated, we would need to go into Closed Session, but because the negotiations have concluded and we have a Tentative Agreement, we do not need a Closed Session.

Vice President LaValley asked if it was District policy for the secretaries to work the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, if that has always been in place. Cheryl Johnson replied it has. Vice President LaValley commented she thought everyone that day off and if that is not the case, it would be nice to allow the secretaries to join in having that day off too. President Karen Evans agreed.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020.

2020 Technology Purchases

Mitch Fowler discussed that COVID taught us a lot about food service, continuing social emotional work and distributing nearly 2,000 Chromebooks; we have learned a lot. Mitch discussed that, in spite of our best effort to distribute Chromebooks, we do not have the equipment necessary to provide all students with a Chromebook, charging cart, etc. with the warranties to cover repairs.

Mitch reported we don't know what August will bring for instruction, but we want to be prepared quickly so that regardless of what we encounter, we have the tools the kids and staff will need.

Mitch advised the proposal before the Board takes into account moving students into 1:1 device (Chromebook and carrying case), based on feedback from parents that 1:1 ratio is important. We had multiple cases where students were trying to share a device and it created a multiple strain on families.

Mitch indicated the first 1:1 part is \$2.1 million, which is a considerable investment and cooperative to provide 1:1 devices for all K-12 students. Mitch noted this would be in addition to the fact that we are seeking funding for a variety of other projects this Summer, which include a document camera and projectors at buildings for spreading the kids out in the buildings; additional technology for staff for distance learning; and additional devices for additional grades at Fremont International Academy, BC Middle School Stem and for the High School Career Academies.

Mitch advised we will obtain quotes and get the equipment from REMC for competitive pricing or catalog discount pricing. The funding cost centers are mixed, with some coming from the Marshall Grant, some from ESSERS (Federal Government Stimulus Packet and the majority from the Kellogg Grant.

Secretary Kyra Wallace asked if the warranty for technology is a standard warranty like the Chromebooks come with or additional to the manufacturer warranty. Mitch responded there was no cost to families for this warranty and the warranty is like a 3 year bumper-to-bumper warranty. Accidental damage is covered, a bad battery is covered. This warranty is above and beyond the one year warranty and covers issues that are unavoidable with families and that information will absolutely be shared with families.

Mitch discussed that we want to make sure we are securing the resources for schools to start and we are not the only District doing this. We are trying to secure funding and have groups working on things, we want to make sure parents understand what they are bringing home and we want to help students understand and help teachers integrate technology. We realize the parental part is huge.

Vice President Catherine LaValley noted that Mitch is quite familiar with what other Districts are doing 1:1. She asked if Mitch knew what the return rate is for the Chromebooks when students are done with them, including if the student moves out of the District or is a High School Senior? Mitch responded that was a good question, he said the equipment would be returned like other equipment in most Districts. He noted a lot of schools allowed Seniors to buy the device at a reduced cost and many Districts gave away the devices to Seniors this year. Mitch noted we need input from the community and our staff for BCPS' position. Mitch reported that Chromebooks are around \$280 and should last 4-5 years. He said that is not to say we don't want them back, but the price point is not what it was 5 years ago.

Trustee Jackie Slaby indicated she asked to have the latest rollout at a previous Board Meeting and to have the Board understand which Districts received Chromebooks and which didn't. Mitch indicated he would be happy to send this information along, however, the graphs would be all different now as far as the number of devices that were not past their end of life and how many students. Mitch advised some buildings have new technology and all buildings have different device/student ratios. He said the graph is old data; but the intention was what our current reality was. He had hoped to get to a 1:2 ratio before COVID but, with COVID, we are in different spot.

Trustee Slaby asked if the District is considering what it looks like to make sure there is language access for parents when rolling out such a giant plan, especially for the parent university courses to help parents understand. She asked if we are considering the language aspect for all pieces. Mitch responded we are and noted we experienced a piece of that during the shutdown. He advised the Help Desk was turned into a community help desk and was set up with an English option, Spanish option and Burmese option and those supports helped the techs work with families. He said we need to add more proactive work that can reach out to all folks in the community, we started with a support angle first, which is what we had to do back in March.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked in Mitch's proposal included the purchase of storage carts the Board previously approved for Northwestern Middle School and Springfield Middle School. Mitch said the proposal took into account the equipment the Board approved back in December and noted those purchases saved us in a lot of ways.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright said he thinks it is great for 1:1 ratio for moving forward with equity and he is glad the District wants to do it. He wants to make sure we are having teachers and staff trained on technology because if we do go virtual, we want staff to be able to help families with technology. Mitch noted we know it was a really big lift for staff to take on what they did and they did it marvelously. He said the teachers did an amazing things and the feedback from teachers was they need more support. Mitch advised we started an Innovation Council back in September, which was administrators from the buildings, Central Office Team and teachers to talk about integration learning. The idea is to train the trainers throughout the District. Mitch noted we have to take care of the teachers and make sure they are comfortable. Our intention is to make sure that teachers and building administration are comfortable helping staff and students.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked about internet access and said she knew the District provided hotspots to some households, but what was the consideration for households without internet. Mitch advised that, from an equipment standpoint, the District purchased 300 Sprint hotspots. We gave out 120 of them and plan to use some during Summer School. Mitch indicated the need to do a different job of reaching out to families in the Fall and accessing their needs. He doesn't think only 120 people needed a hotspot and that more families have a need and social emotional work to fine tune and include additional tools needed for equipment. He noted we need to establish several supply chains to place and deliver orders and to communicate differently.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked when the computers are eventually outdated in 4-5 years if the Board can expect a similar cost to replace them or would be do a phasing process of replacing equipment. Mitch responded the price point has gone down in the last 2 years and we can now get a computer for \$160-\$170. He plans to establish a rotation basis for replacement, noting we don't want to do bulk order like this in 5 years. He is thinking of a replacement plan by Class, i.e. replace the Class of 2021, Class of 2022, etc. Mitch advised this bulk purchase is in addition to the \$500,000 approved by the Board last month which covered 2,000 Chromebooks. This proposal covers another 1,800 Chromebooks to bring us up to a 1:1 ratio. We will have a reserve with some coming back over the Summer and some will be used for swapping out.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020.

Curriculum Resource Adoption for Practical Law Course at BCCHS

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi provided information on the purchase of the Practical Law Course for BCCHS. This purchase is below the \$10,000 amount requiring Board approval and does not change the curriculum, but it is a textbook change. The Practical Law Course is part of the Career Academies and is a Sophomore class for those students who have chosen a public safety pathway or as an elective course. Dr. Nuzzi appreciates the design of the course and that it provides students with practical legal information for being active citizens first and in public safety careers secondly. The topics covered are crime, contracts, purchases, marriage, divorce and traffic violations to name a few.

Dr. Nuzzi shared we were able to pilot the text this year and we have information from students and teachers who were part of the pilot and appreciated they had the opportunity to reach out during this time of closure to get input from a number of people. Information about the text was provided on the BCCHS Facebook page and there was a live Facebook opportunity to see the book. There was also an opportunity for nine days of public access to the digital version of the textbook for those who wanted to dig further. The digital presentation was from McGraw-Hill. Google forms were sent to students, teachers and family to get their input. This text will be a resource, alongside a variety of different ways student will learn. It is a Street Law course in practical law and is recommended for use at BCCHS.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked if the Board can get a copy of the textbook, or a link to check out the textbook. Dr. Nuzzi said absolutely. It was on the High School Facebook page several times and she will provide the link. Trustee Slaby asked how the pilot program was put together and how feedback was received. Dr. Nuzzi gave feedback on this resource and indicated it is a rather narrow kind of curriculum course, not like literacy.

They began by first looking at all possible books to use for High School students and noted there were not a great number out there. Next they looked at the relevance to students, the way it was written, what was covered, activities for learning, reading about more current cases and then by getting input from our partners (GVSU). As a result of these efforts, this textbook was chosen to pilot this year. It was piloted by Casey Bess and he did a really nice job of looking into it, experimenting and exploring it, and asking students what they felt about it and how they liked reading the discussions. There were social media posts on the High School Facebook page and the District website and parents were invited to provide feedback and given nine days of access to review the full version of the book. A McGraw Hill representative provided an online discussion.

Trustee Slaby indicated she had looked at those results. She wondered if the District thought about feedback that we may be missing opportunities to engage different learners. Dr. Nuzzi said we did not respond to people directly, but she pointed out that the textbook is not the only learning resource. Dr. Nuzzi will provide that information.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked how many copies we would be ordering. Dr. Nuzzi said the approximate of two class sets, noting this is not a class a large volume of students will take. The cost is below \$10,000 and is about \$7,000 right now.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020.

Central High School Vestibule Renovation

Charles Lipsey discussed the recommendation for a secured vestibule for the High School, noting a secured vestibule has been added to most of our buildings throughout the District. We will utilize the FTE at the High School that we have someone there all day. The funding source for the secured vestibule would be the Sinking Fund.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked if we have a Facilities Plan that will help the Board understand how to prioritize all these projects. Charles advised it is coming together but is not done yet.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray asked if the secured vestibule would be on Van Buren and Champion. Charles advised it would be on Van Buren and noted visitors would not be able to go anywhere until the office allows them access.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked if the secured vestibule would be ready by the start of school. Charles indicated that is the projected date. He shared that we had 3 bid packages and most of the contractors were local so it could be ready before school. Laura Ash indicated yes, it would be. Vice President LaValley discussed the bid provided in the packet and that it was somewhat confusing. Laura ash discussed it was a contingency budget with some dollars built in, in case there are issue when opening the wall. Laura advised if we don't use all contingency dollars, the project is estimated at \$7,500.

President Karen Evans asked how visitors would enter the building for sports. Charles said he brought up the question himself and learned the doors can be open during events to allow access.

Secretary Kyra Wallace asked why it was decided to do a secured vestibule. Charles replied it is to add security and better utilize the FTE we already have

Superintendent Carter advised the most important added benefit is that all schools have added security and a vestibule in response to security requirements coming out for schools. We don't want visitors to have direct access to our students. There is no way to stop visitors right now. Charles added the High School is working with Corporal Young on this and he is 100% on board with a secured vestibule. It was noted the only buildings without a secured vestibule, after the High School is finished, will be Fremont International Academy and Verona Elementary.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright asked if there is a drawing and, if so, can the Board have the drawing. He is a visual person and would like to see how it looks for the High School. Charles Lipsey apologized to the Board and said he thought he had included the drawing in their packet.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020.

Dreambox Renewal

Dr. Chandra Youngblood apologized for her camera not working tonight. Dr. Youngblood discussed the District has used Dreambox the last couple of years. It is coming up early for renewal because we will be using it as part of Summer School and it expires June 30th. The K-5 total is \$54,524 and will be paid from the Kellogg Grant. It will include a supplemental Math online program.

Dr. Youngblood added she has seen a lot of Dreambox usage during the COVID shutdown. There was quite a bit of usage in April and Dreambox gave us access for 6-8th Grades free through June 30th due to the shutdown. Dr. Youngblood advised some Middle School students were starting to access Dreambox.

Secretary Kyra Wallace asked if there is enough time for renewal if this isn't approved by the Board until June 22nd. She wanted to make sure there was no lapse in coverage. Dr. Youngblood said yes, it will be fine; as soon as the Board approves the renewal, Dori will do PO and Dreambox knows we are renewing early per their conversation with Dr. Youngblood so they will keep the switch on.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020.

2020-2021 NEP Contract

Superintendent Carter discussed the Supplemental Contract ends June 30, 2020. July 1st will start the new Contract for the 2020-2021 school year and the collaboration with District Leaders regarding strategy needs. NEP will continue to support us in the building of leadership, capacity and racial and social equity. Our work with NEP is aimed at disrupting instructional racism and personal equity work with teachers. NEP has the capacity to provide specific deliverables around instructional and institutional practices to change. They have a database to make sure no child is invisible and to design a pattern for that and 90 day equity focused implementation plans for all schools. We are asking for approval up to \$175,000 for the new Contract. Some of the work may be done in person and/or some virtually, depending on social distancing. This amount is less than previous years at \$250,000.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked if Truth and Titus ever come to the District when the NEP is teaching. Superintendent Carter responded they do not because the two companies have two different purposes, the work with Truth and Titus is to develop an infinity group.

Vice President LaValley asked which option the District is looking to adopt, Option 2? Superintendent Carter advised more discussion will take place, but we are leaning toward Option 2. Vice President LaValley asked if the amount of up to \$175,000 will be travel for facilitators to come into our District. Superintendent Carter replied it is and it provides a cushion to include travel expenses.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright asked why the NEP Contract was less this year, is there less work or is the price down. Superintendent Carter Kim advised the work is different and we are leveraging our local partners more than we have in past.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked what has been done to engage community members, families and students. Trustee Slaby asked why we work with NEP, what do they offer, what are the results. Superintendent Carter indicated she didn't understand the question. Trustee Slaby noted we use NEP to address inequities in the school system, what are the ongoing conversations with families around the NEP and what they do. Superintendent Carter indicated she is not sure what that would look like and asked Trustee Slaby what she would want the conversation to be, noting the work with NEP has been with leadership and how to use the equity lens and have the English Department highlighted by the work with NEP. Superintendent Carter advised no one was looking at the EL population and that was brought about by the work with the NEP.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked how we are communicating that to families, noting it sounds like great stuff but how are we telling that story to families and how are we engaging them. She believes we need to help them understand the work with NEP and that it is here to build leadership around capacity. Superintendent Carter indicated she needs to give this more thought, she would hope our families don't need a direct communication about that; they should see we have equity impairment and implemented individual plans. Superintendent Carter will talk with the Communications Team about how to broadly communicate what equity work looks like and what the result has been. Trustee Slaby said she would love a follow-up on this, she thinks it's important for families and the community to be engaged in this work and partner with us to address inequities in our District, noting we put all this money toward an out-of-State partner (NEP) and we should allow families the visibility to see what that work looks like. Superintendent Carter discussed the community's understanding of the work comes from their involvement in the parent council, EL council, meeting with students and that's how they get input and that information leads to development of inequity. Trustee Slaby replied the community gives us input, but how do we report back to them. Superintendent Carter indicated she will think about that, consider the possibilities and come back for continued discussion.

Secretary Kyra Wallace inquired if the work done with NEP would be considered a form of professional development. Superintendent Carter replied absolutely.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright discussed the involvement in the groups mentioned above are a different way for people to communicate what they need and that's how we direct the partnership with NEP. Trustee Fulbright asked if the groups that meet and give opinions get results back the next time they meet. Superintendent Carter replied she thinks that's what Secretary Wallace was trying to help clarify. The deliverable to the community from the work with NEP is the professional learning for the staff to better serve the community. This work is building a capacity for the leaders working in BCPS to design a system to respond to inequities for children. The NEP work is very much professional development and learning. It is different than work with the American Research Institute, who provides research, reports, graphs of data and very specific measureable outcomes.

Trustee Slaby clarified that she understands the NEP work is professional development, but she still strongly believes the community should be involved if we are spending over \$100,000 for an out-of-State partner. The community should have a better understanding of the work and have communications from the District as to what we've been doing with the NEP, that's her point. Superintendent Carter replied he has some strategies about how to reach that aim and she will come back with information. Superintendent Carter commented that amazing things are going on at BCPS and that has been the benefit of this work. It is part of the reason we are moving to the 1:1 technology initiative, the equity lens, is that we know four kids to one Chromebook is not equitable. We are much attuned to that due to the work with NEP. We are also working with CIS to recognize the opportunity gaps that exist for families (food and security) and the NEP work has highlighted the way we can address those issues, which is shown in the work with CIS.

Trustee Slaby discussed wanting the community to see we have done this work. Superintendent Carter replied she appreciates this has been a Work Session to get some clarity and thanked Trustee Slaby and Trustee Fulbright for helping to create the path forward.

Vice President Catherine LaValley invited Board Members to help Trustee Slaby understand one of the strengths of the NEP work is to provide professional learning to the staff based on an imperative agreement and to take action to make sure things are happening for students.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright noted the teacher who emailed with comments such as the NEP project trainings are a great start for those just starting their work with equity; the equity work with our own Truth and Titus is great and instrumental and it's important to have them based in Battle Creek and the hope they will be part of training. On a personal note, the letter thanked Superintendent Carter for her leadership for the last 3 years at BCPS, noting it has been instrumental. That Superintendent Carter is the real deal, she motivates people and leads with the community and students in mind first, is a champion for teachers, and is working and leading as the Superintendent. The teacher said we see you, appreciate you and the teacher is grateful to be a Bearcat. The letter from the teacher commended Superintendent Carter for her work with the NEP and Truth and Titus.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020.

Best Estimate 2019-2020 General Fund Final Budget Amendment

Laura Ash reported the closed budgets for 2019-2020 and the preliminary budgets for 2020-2021 were provided to the Board in their packet.

Laura walked through the highlight of each budget. Because we are not sure if there will be a proration from the State at this time, these budgets were calculated with an anticipated reduction of \$700 per student. These closed budgets also include the fact that all BCPS staff has been paid as we were requested to do by the State.

The General Fund Total Revenue is \$50,191,277 and the Total Expenditures are \$51,001,277 leaving a deficit of \$810,000 on June 30th. The Ending Fund Balance is \$8,222,849 which is down to 16.12%.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020.

Best Estimate 2019-2020 Food Service Final Budget Amendment

Laura Ash discussed the Food Service budget and noted that, due to school not being in full session since the middle of March, she adjusted the catering service and other interest income received due to COVID, we picked up additional Grant monies for serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The General Fund Total Revenue is \$4,678,303 and the Total Expenditures are \$4,399,089 leaving a profit of \$279,214 on June 30th. The Ending Fund Balance is \$2,003,311 which is 45.54%.

Charlie Fulbright asked about the CIS food distribution and if that was part of BCPS or separate. Laura advised CIS picked up some food from BCPS and distributed it to families and it was a cooperative joint venture between BCPS and CIS.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020.

Best Estimate 2019-2020 Math and Science Center and Outdoor Education Center Final Budget Amendment

Laura Ash discussed the BCAMSC and OEC final budget takes into consideration the potential loss of foundational monies and a decrease in revenue sources. Laura reported that the fund is in the deficit, but we are fortunate to have Cereal City Science having a fund balance so we can transfer dollars from the CCS fund balance to support BCAMSC.

Laura advised we have 190 FTE's. President Karen Evans asked if we are at full capacity at BCAMSC. Laura responded that enrollment had dropped in February, but we are working to increase it back up for the Fall.

Laura reported the OEC budget is also included with BCAMSC. Laura noted the OEC has less revenue because there were no Spring events due to COVID.

CCS has a good fund balance and can cover OEC as well.

The General Fund Total Revenue is \$2,515,518 and the Total Expenditures are \$2,515,518 leaving a \$0 balance on June 30th. The Ending Fund Balance is \$100,000 which is 3.98%.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020.

Best Estimate 2019-2020 Cereal City Science Final Budget Amendment

Laura Ash discussed CCS having a decrease in revenue due to sales and districts not being in session. This caused a decrease in funding for CCS. We were able to trim some of the cost with staff and other measures to save money but had to dip into the fund balance with BCAMSC and OEC.

The General Fund Total Revenue is \$1,658,080 and the Total Expenditures are \$2,935,616 leaving a deficit of \$1,277,536 on June 30th. The Ending Fund Balance is \$2,385,957 which is 81.28%. Laura noted this is still a healthy fund balance, but it was a significant dip due to COVID.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020.

Best Estimate 2019-2020 WK Kellogg Foundation Grant Final Budget Amendment

Laura Ash indicated she just needs to do a true-up on the WK Kellogg Foundation Grant Budget. She said the General Fund will receive \$890,000 to support BC STEM and Fremont International Academy programs. She will do a true-up transfer and trim expenditures to make that happen, which will be the only change in the Grant.

The Total Revenue is \$15,925,586 and the Total Expenditures are \$15,925,586 leaving a \$0 balance on June 30th. The Ending Fund Balance is 0.00%.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020.

Best Estimate 2019-2020 Custodial Care Funds Final Budget Amendment

Laura Ash said the Custodial Care Funds is a new report from the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) who wants to see the estimated revenues and expenditures for Student Activity Funds.

The General Fund Total Revenue is \$195,000 and the Total Expenditures are \$175,000 leaving a profit of \$20,000 on June 30th. The Ending Fund Balance is \$20,000 which is 11.43%.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020.

2020-2021 Preliminary General Fund Budget

Laura Ash reported the Preliminary General Fund Budget included an anticipated loss of \$700 per student, which affects the General Fund by 2.6 million, and an anticipated 150 student reduction from where we were in the Fall. Laura noted there are many big unknowns at the current time. Laura discussed the expenditures in the General Fund Budget and advised that the District made the decision to honor all negotiated contracts with instructional staff and those figures were placed in the Preliminary Budget. We also looked at class sizes and made an adjustment to instructional vacancies. No positions were reduced, but there are six (6) Elementary and four (4) Middle School positions we are not filling. The Preliminary Budget includes anticipated retirement, health and insurance.

President Karen Evans again encouraged people to call our State legislators. Laura Ash agreed.

The General Fund Total Revenue is \$50,646,377 and the Total Expenditures are \$52,418,039 leaving a deficit of \$1,771,622 on June 30th. The Ending Fund Balance is \$6,451,187 which is 12.31%.

Vice President Catherine LaValley commended Finance Officer Laura Ash and her Team for providing these figures that take the Board's breath away and she agrees with President Karen Evans that we need to call our State legislators because they need to wake up and understand the difficulties we are all facing for all Michigan students in all Districts. Vice President LaValley commented that she appreciates Laura Ash providing the beneficial numbers in front of the Board and noted it was an overwhelming and outstanding job.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020.

2020-2021 Preliminary Food Service Budget

Laura Ash discussed we are not sure what Food Service will look like in Fall, however, we will be leaning heavily on Federal funding for all meals.

The General Fund Total Revenue is \$3,994,908 and the Total Expenditures are \$3,731,001 leaving a profit of \$263,907 on June 30th. The Ending Fund Balance is \$2,597,803 which is 69.63%.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020.

2020-2021 Preliminary Math and Science Center and Outdoor Education Center Budget

Laura Ash reported the BCAMSC and OEC budgets include an anticipated loss of \$700 per student and does put pressure on the budget. The BCAMSC and OEC will need \$750,000 from Cereal City Science in order to balance this fund for the upcoming year. Laura reported the BCAMSC is seeking students for next year. The OEC will be actively seeking clients for the Spring of 2021. BC STEM is hoping to use the OEC this Fall and in the Spring of 2021.

The General Fund Total Revenue is \$2,381,005 and the Total Expenditures are \$2,381,005 leaving a \$0 balance on June 30th. The Ending Fund Balance is \$100,000 which is 4.20%.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020.

2020-2021 Preliminary Cereal City Science Budget

Laura Ash advised we assume Cereal City Science will have a slow start at the beginning of the school year due to what educational systems look like in the Fall. She reported we are transferring about \$754,267 to the OEC and BCAMSC.

The General Fund Total Revenue is \$1,789,300 and the Total Expenditures are \$2,720,003 leaving a deficit of \$930,703 on June 30th. The Ending Fund Balance is \$1,455,254 which is 53.50%.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020.

2020-2021 Preliminary WK Kellogg Foundation Grant Budget

Laura Ash discussed we have an estimated carry over from the 2019-2020 school year, noting the normal allocation for Year 4 is almost \$9.6 million and we anticipate a \$6 million carry over. This is due to not having as many new programs, but maintaining the current programs in place. The Board Recommendation included a review of the 6 goals from Dr. Anita Harvey.

There was discussion that in Year 4 of Year 5 of the Kellogg, we have to move forward as a District and start thinking past the Grant. Superintendent Carter noted we had to make an unexpected shift in planning as a result of COVID-19. We had originally intended to increase stability by increasing enrollment to roll over to the Fund Balance. That plan was completely shifted and we have to make harder decisions than anticipated, due to the lack of State Aid. We have an enrollment plan in place and we were able to help people believe in the change and come. Now we have to help them see the change with new and improved opportunities.

The General Fund Total Revenue is \$15,925,586 and the Total Expenditures are \$15,668,598 leaving a \$0 balance on June 30th. The Ending Fund Balance is \$0 which is 0.00%.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020.

2020-2021 Preliminary Custodial Care Funds

Laura Ash discussed the Preliminary Custodial Care Fund is back to a zero fund balance, which is purpose of student activities, i.e. Revenues = Expenditures.

The General Fund Total Revenue is \$220,000 and the Total Expenditures are \$240,000 leaving a deficit of \$20,000 on June 30th. The Ending Fund Balance is \$0 which is 0.00%.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020.

OEC Main Lodge Renovations

Laura Ash reported the OEC is operating under the guidelines that several components are classified as emergency items due to the safety and well-being of our students and staff. These components consist of all structural work to the interior and exterior of the main lodge including an entire roof replacement and eavestroughs. These items are being funded from the Sinking Fund.

Laura advised we have been seeking Grant funds to support the instructional program and facility structure at the OEC. We have been awarded a Grant for Capital Improvements for \$41,960 from the Battle Creek Community Foundation to support the initiative of lighting and ceiling improvements to the Main Lodge. Barry County Community Foundation granted \$8,310 to assist in replacing several sections of the dock.

Laura indicated we also found several areas at the Main Lodge that had structural weaknesses in the trusses due to leaking roofs. In order to protect the Grantors investments, we must replace the entire roof and eavestroughs at the Main Lodge.

The renovations are estimated at \$230,000 with funding coming from the BCPS Sinking Fund, BC Community Foundation and Barry County Community Foundation.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked when we say the word “renovation” is that referring just to the roof replacement or are there other structure sites in need of repair/replacement. Laura Ash replied that we have an existing insurance claim for insurance proceeds from a tree that fell on the North Bathhouse and it is being renovated at this time. The deductible to the District is \$2,500. Another roof came in under \$10,000 and the insurance is covering that.

The Board will vote on this matter at the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2020.

Laura Ash thanked the Board and all the administrators for helping with the budget, she appreciated their support.

NEW BUSINESS

Administrative Appointment

Superintendent Carter reported it was with great pleasure that she recommends the Board appoint TaShaune Harden as the new BC STEM Principal. Superintendent Carter shared TaShaune is a graduate of BCPS, having attended Elementary, Middle School and High School and being in the first class to graduate from BCAMSC. She has a rich background in STEM. TaShaune has a B.S. in General Science from The University of Michigan; a Professional Education Certificate from The University of Michigan; and M.S. Educational Leadership from Concordia University. She has taught Science for 17 years at the Cesar Chavez Academy Middle School in Detroit and is a continued leader and has contributed to several roles. She is a great example of 100% success for every Bearcat.

Superintendent Carter is confident TaShaune Harden has the skills needed for this position. Superintendent Carter along with an engineer curriculum specialist, the BC STEM parents, and several administrators in Central Office were part of the Interview Committee. There was also a Meet & Greet with students.

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the appointment of Ms. TaShaune Harden to the position of STEM Innovation Center Principal.

Secretary Kyra Wallace supported the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

Superintendent Carter introduced TaShaune Harden who participated in our virtual meeting. TaShaune shared she is super excited to begin her new career in her hometown. TaShaune is proud to be a Bearcat and a graduate of the first class from BCAMSC. She discussed she felt all her unique experiences at BCPS and BCAMSC prepared her for success and helped her be well-rounded and to advocate for self-seeking partnerships for others. She is looking forward to helping develop BC STEM and to be part of a team that strives for 100% success for every Bearcat.

All of the Board Members welcomed TaShaune to BCPS.

Resolution for Federal COVID Funding

Secretary Kyra Wallace read the Resolution aloud.

WHEREAS, in March 2020, the coronavirus disease that causes COVID-19 first appeared in Michigan, causing the Governor to declare a state of emergency under her powers in the Michigan Constitution; and

WHEREAS, in response to this emergency, after Michigan school districts were required to cancel in-person learning, school districts have risen to the challenge by being innovative and focused on their unique needs, provided distance learning for all Michigan students; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has created tremendous uncertainty on how to provide quality education while maintaining safe conditions for both staff and students, causing districts to face new expenses and challenges for the upcoming school year, including providing personal protective equipment; creating new health screening procedures; increased cleaning costs; reorganization of learning spaces to accommodate social distancing; and expanded access to school-based mental health services; and

WHEREAS, both the state and national economies have suffered greatly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has dramatically reduced state and local revenue placing enormous pressure on the state budget, including the School Aid Fund, which is predicted to be more than \$1 billion below previous estimates for the next two years; and

WHEREAS, due to falling revenues, local school districts face severe budget shortfalls for the current fiscal year, including a potential proration cut of at least \$650 per student, and similar budget problems for the upcoming year, making it difficult to provide high-quality education, access to technology, and safety for both students and staff;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Battle Creek Public Schools Board of Education supports the passage of legislation by the U.S. Congress appropriating needed funds to be distributed to states and local districts with maximum flexibility to fill budget gaps during this state of emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Battle Creek Public Schools Board of Education urges congressional action to provide additional funding for the highly successful E-Rate Program, which helps schools ensure connectivity for online learning;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to our Governor, and to all members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate representing the families in our District.

Vice President Catherine LaValley commented she is hopeful that State legislators fulfill the 2019-2020 State Aid payments to Districts. She is most hopeful it shows Congress the State fulfilled their obligations and convinces Congress to use rainy day funds to show support of their commitment.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright inquired about the \$650 reduction per student noting he thought it \$700 per student. Superintendent Carter indicated it is all an estimate at this point.

Vice President LaValley asked if we figured the budget for \$700 lost per student. Superintendent Carter indicated that was correct.

Motion by Trustee Charlie Fulbright to approve the Resolution for Federal COVID Funding.

Vice President Catherine LaValley supported the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6 – 1

BC Districts Joint Response

President Karen Evans discussed being contacted by the other three Battle Creek Board Presidents regarding the George Floyd incident. President Evans reported they met several times this week to come up with a statement about their combined support and working on equity. President Evans indicated it started with Eric Green from Lakeview, she took the letter to our Communications Department and Nate tweaked and went back to the four Board Presidents and filled in blanks. President Evans advise the letter in the Board Packet is the letter they have come up with and Eric waiting to hear back from BCPS and Harper Creek after their meetings tonight to find out if the Boards support the letter.

Vice President Catherine LaValley thanked President Evans for her time and effort to meet with other Presidents and have this dialogue means a lot to the Board, students and community and to put it together in a short time was great work.

Secretary Kyra Wallace asked about the reaction to the joint equity statement and thoughts about the timeline for when these things will take place. President Evans said they do not have a specified timeline, they had this initial discussion and are working on a date when they can meet again. Lisa at Harper Creek is working on putting something together. President Evans let Lisa know that Vice President Catherine LaValley and Trustee Jackie Slaby would be the BCPS representatives on this. There is no time to meet as a full Board right now, but maybe at the end of Summer.

Secretary Wallace wants to be sure we are not just putting something out there that sounds good and feels good when people read and then don't follow through because that's not good business. President Evans said she will take that back to the Board Presidents and agrees this is not meant to be just a feel good letter and we need to take action.

Trustee Jackie Slaby stands with Secretary Wallace's comments and said, from reading the letter, it is vague as to what we are committing ourselves to. She would hope as four Districts working on this type of work, we need to think about what we are committing ourselves to and make sure the community understands we intend to address horrific racial injustices in our own community.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright thinks the letter is great. Moving forward he thinks we need to make sure when we are all involved, as four districts, and we need to have voices that are people of color and not just white people. He again said the letter is great but asked if there were ideas or suggestions from people of color and noted it's ok if there were not this time, but moving forward we need to have those voices at the table. President Karen Evans advised that was a concern of hers and the why she brought the letter back to our Communications Department because it was four white people on the call; actually six because Harper Creek had a mini committee of three representatives. President Evans also talked with Superintendent Carter to make sure our voice was in there; it was important to her this wasn't a white letter.

Secretary Kyra Wallace thanked President Evans for that part and noted that was what she was getting to; that we want people to stand behind sad times, civil unrest and more and do something about it. President Evans agreed and shared that when she first saw the letter, she felt their white privilege was coming through and she knew we couldn't have that coming through on something as important as this.

Trustee Jackie Slaby noted she has not heard anything from Lisa regarding what it looks like as a joint board. Trustee Slaby saw the email where President Evans discussed timing. She indicated she was not sure how Vice President Catherine LaValley felt, but as someone who sits on that board, she feels they need to do ASAP, noted rushed, but they need to talk about what it looks like to make a solid commitment to community.

Nate Hunt shared he has been talking with Lisa and also advised he got a lot of input from Superintendent Carter and Fenton, so we didn't speak off the seat of our pants.

Superintendent Carter added as background that when it came to her as a person of color, a black person, it seemed a little soft. She commended the committee for taking our suggestions and revisions around being more straight forward and accepting the challenge of not "white washing" the language which we were all agreeing with. She commented there was something to be said that the committee was willing to revise the language to take a forceful stand against racial injustice.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked Secretary Kyra Wallace if she would fill in for her at this meeting, due to some upcoming health issues she has. Secretary Wallace advised she was absolutely happy to fill in. President Karen Evans advised she will share Secretary's Wallace's email with Lisa.

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the Battle Creek Districts Joint Response Letter as a statement of how we stand strong to disrupt any inequities.

Trustee Jackie Slaby supported the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rebecca Ramon

312 NE Capital Avenue

Speaking to the Statement on Racial Equity! How can we ensure these standards are met when our schools' staff does not reflect our student body? As a Trauma Informed Educator who has begun work on my Ph.D. in Education Management, the fact that I was placed in a position as a Literacy Tutor making \$15/hr. is indicative to me that equity doesn't exist in the schools (at least not where it is needed and counts) and that's because the teaching staff have certificates but not necessarily, the expertise, and knowledge base necessary to work effectively with the diverse student body that exists within the district, so I ask, how will this issue be dealt with, as it is a clear part of the problem as a whole?

Kirstin

kirstinthoffman@gmail.com

President Karen Evans noted this comment did not contain the required information of first/last name and mailing address and asked if the Board Members wanted her to read it aloud. It was agreed by all Board Members it was okay to read it aloud.

I just read through the BCPS statement on racial equity. Well worded. I'm glad BCPS is making a formal statement. What I'd like to know is what steps will BCPS make moving forward to stop policing our students? Furthermore, addressing racism and the need for equity is a great step. But what steps will BCPS take to incorporate an anti-racist curriculum into every school. Inclusion is the beginning, but anti-racism is past due.

Casey Bess

19 Woodmere Ln

First the Street Law Textbook is a great educational tool and I am no longer teaching the course however it is a must for our Practical Law course. Second thing, I missed part of the meeting and I'm not sure it was covered but I hope we are quickly figuring out how we can open our facilities so that we are allowed to work with our student athletes. The last three months has had major negative impacts on our kids and they need the positive support we can provide while safely practicing social distancing

Amanda Bryant

724 S. Park St.

Having one-to-one technology would be extremely beneficial as a classroom teacher when providing differentiation. Especially with the hope that we will continue utilizing I-Ready, as that has been a major contribution to growth just in the short time we have been using it.

Toni Radis
242 Oriole Drive

I want to give a big thank you to all of the Battle Creek Public School administrators, teachers, support staff, lunch staff, Chartwell, Dean Transportation and Communities in Schools employees for the outstanding work they have done during this COVID-19 fiasco to support BCPS students and their families. BCPS is the Pride of the State!!

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

- Superintendent Carter started with reading her statement to the community aloud, noting it was important for those not able to read it.

Dear BCPS Community,

There is so much injustice in this world. The events of this week have been painful. The pain we feel now is something many of us aren't even able to put words to. George Floyd's death made a gruesome public spectacle of the deep injustices that black people have been facing in our country for centuries. In this time, many people are wishing and hoping for things to go back to normal. I don't want to go back to a normal where not all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential. At BCPS, we are committed to creating a new normal.

Racism is real, whether we want to believe it or not. As a school district, we can't end racism and injustice, but what we can do is learn about patterns and root causes of injustice and commit to do things differently. The transformation of BCPS is at its heart, an effort to increase equity. At Battle Creek Public Schools, our equity imperative is rooted in our belief that all students, regardless of race, income, zip code, identities or abilities, should have the opportunity to reach their potential.

At Battle Creek Public Schools, we see all students by name, need and strength. Over the last several years, our teachers and staff have received unconscious bias training from the National Equity project, studied and implemented culturally-relevant teaching practices, and learned to make stronger connections with all children based on each student's individual background and experiences. This is an ongoing journey — there is no "mission accomplished" moment for ending racism and injustice. We will continue to do this work, to learn and to grow, as we pursue a better future for our young people and our community, and we hope that you'll stand together with us.

We know that our students have different needs, different identities, and different paths to success. We are driven by our equity imperative to celebrate these differences and to create schools where all students have the opportunity to succeed. Our commitment to our community is that at BCPS, all truly means ALL.

Thank you for standing together, and standing with us.

- Superintendent Carter invited the community to come and see the change, BCPS puts students first and we are committed to continuing that.
- Superintendent Carter shared that she wanted to continue to thank CIS for being our partners, our Food Service Team (Chartwell's) who to date have served over 380,000 meals and will continue into the summer, and staff members who are continuing to stand up and help. She thanked everyone who participated in the Graduation Parade and reported there were over 100 individuals who took time out of their day to participate. To those individuals, she said Damayla, which in Battle Creek means "we see you, we appreciate you and we see your potential". Superintendent Carter commented the Graduation Parade was one of the most rewarding experiences she's had in a long time. She thanked the BCCHS staff for putting it together, along with other staff members who put in over 12-18 hours of work to make sure every single Senior had their home visited, including those students who live in apartment complexes or those living outside the City of Battle Creek. Superintendent Carter again thanked the staff for all they do.
- Superintendent Carter announced we look forward to continuing to celebrate our Graduates. She shared we have set two Graduation dates, one on June 26th and the second date being July 24th. We are committed to celebrating Graduation with a ceremony, it will most likely be outside. She noted we are leaning toward the July 24th date in order to have the capacity to have more individuals involved. She noted if we cannot do an in-person Graduation because of social distancing, we will have a Virtual Ceremony on July 24th.
- Superintendent Carter thanked President Evans for the time to share this information.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Trustee Art McClenney thanked Nate Hunt for the Zoom invites and apologized that he kept losing his audio on Zoom.

Trustee McClenney congratulated Secretary Kyra Wallace on a well organization protest downtown, noting it was very well put together and he was very proud. He saw several current students, way in the background, along with PST students and future students, and they were all on their best behavior. Trustee McClenney shared that, even after everyone left and had a party on M-66, he had first-hand knowledge that students conducted themselves in a peaceful manner. Trustee McClenney congratulated all Bearcats who attended and kept things peaceful, he said students don't hear that often from adults and need to.

Trustee McClenney reported he enjoyed the Graduation Parade and seeing the students smiling in yards. He thinks the students appreciated the effort and he congratulated those who put it together.

- Secretary Kyra Wallace shared that she had a great time participating in Graduation Parade. She felt it was very well executed and she gave kudos to everyone who had a part in putting the parade together.

Secretary Wallace gave kudos to the BCPS staff for their hard work the last few months.

Secretary Wallace gave congratulations to Officer Young who is Officer of the Year for BCPD. She is so glad he is getting that recognition.

Secretary Wallace commented she appreciates everyone who has been supporting the various events taking place surrounding the protest, they had a nice protest on Sunday and Thursday with a candlelight vigil. She shared they are having a dedication tomorrow at 12:00pm for what is going to be urban memorial for racial killing ground. They will be planting flowers from 12:00pm to 6:00pm and at 6:00pm there will be a dedication of the space. The memorial is located right behind the Sojourner Truth monument. The event is open to the community, the effort is to try having events and activities to memorialize what is going on and give a space for people to grieve as part of the healing process.

- Vice President Catherine LaValley said she too wanted to thank Secretary Kyra Wallace. She thinks these events are so important to increase people's knowledge and help for people to be heard, the dialogue is so important.

Vice President LaValley reported she attended a White Hall webinar on Wednesday, the webinar is put on by Town Hall every 2 weeks and they are looking at how classrooms will look with physical distancing. The next webinar is Wednesday, June 17th at 1pm and the topic is CDC Return to School Guidelines. They meet and then have breakout sessions. She would be happy to share the information with anyone who is interested.

Vice President LaValley gave a big thank you to the Valley View Staff and Parent Council for hosting a Catherine happy to share the information. Great big thank you to VV staff and parent council for hosting the 5th Grade Promotion Car and Truck Parade. She said it the weather was beautiful and the blaring horns were awesome, she is proud of the new 6th Graders.

Vice President LaValley asked when the public hearing about the budget is. Laura Ash replied it is Monday, June 22nd. The notice is ready to be published in newspaper.

- Trustee Jackie Slaby announced we have elections coming up in November. She shared the filing date is July 21st for anyone interest in running for office. The Calhoun County Clerk's Office closes at 4:00pm. Interested individuals can request the information be mailed to them by calling 269-781-0988 or send an email to tlowe@calhouncounty.mi.gov
- Trustee Charlie Fulbright commented "Great Things are Happening in BCPS"!
- President Karen Evans said she participated in a small part of the Graduation Parade and in her 15 years on this Board, it was one of the most fun and satisfying things she has participated in. She said it was so great to see how excited the kids and families were, even the neighbors were excited. It was a blast and she loved it, so much fun.

President Evans shared our after-school program is the most cited reason for satisfaction with our school district and we need to keep it going.

President Evans thanked the Board Members for being part of thank you video, she thought it turned out so good and she hopes the staff appreciates it. The video went out as an "all staff" email sent from her email, right before the Board Meeting tonight.

President Evans reminded everyone to call our legislators, noting the District cannot afford a \$600-\$700 cut per pupil next year. She said the Governor and legislators required the District to keep everyone employed during COVID. We can't afford that kind of cut, so we need to call and tell them it is absolutely unacceptable and not to take money from kids and our futures.

Meeting adjourned – 8:00p.m.

Submitted by
Patti Worden

Kyra Wallace
Board Secretary