

**BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Work Session**

**May 10, 2021**

**Meeting held electronically pursuant to Executive Order 2020-15**

**Zoom identification number Meeting ID: 868 6339 1938**

**PRESENT – BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Catherine LaValley

Patty Poole-Gray

Charlie Fulbright

Art McClenney

Jacqueline Slaby (arrived at 5:39pm)

**Absent**

Kyra Wallace

Nathan Grajek

**Present – Administration**

Kim Carter – Superintendent

Dr. Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi, Director, Secondary Education

Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services

Mitch Fowler – Director, School Data Systems & Innovations

Nathan Hunt – Communications Manager

Rhonda Potts - 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**

Dr. Anita Harvey – Director, District Transformation

Jeff English – Executive Director

**MINUTES**

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

### **REMOTE ATTENDANCE SCRIPT**

As required for compliance with the Open Meetings Act for conducting Electronic Board Meetings, each Board Member read aloud the Remote Attendance Script, as follows:

- *I, Catherine LaValley, am attending this May 10, 2021 Work Session remotely.  
I am physically located in Bedford Township, Calhoun County, in the State of Michigan.  
I am able to have two-way communication for this Board Meeting.  
Please record this public announcement in the Meeting Minutes.*
  
- *I, Patty Poole-Gray, am attending this May 10, 2021 Work Session remotely.  
I am physically located in the City of Battle Creek, in the State of Michigan.  
I am able to have two-way communication for this Board Meeting.  
Please record this public announcement in the Meeting Minutes.*
  
- *I, Charlie Fulbright, am attending this May 10, 2021 Work Session remotely.  
I am physically located in the City of Battle Creek, in the State of Michigan.  
I am able to have two-way communication for this Board Meeting.  
Please record this public announcement in the Meeting Minutes.*
  
- *I, Art McClenney, am attending this May 10, 2021 Work Session remotely.  
I am physically located in the City of Battle Creek, in the State of Michigan.  
I am able to have two-way communication for this Board Meeting.  
Please record this announcement in the Meeting Minutes.*

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Secretary Patty Poole-Gray to approve the Agenda as presented.

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 4 – 0.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

## REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Resolution Appointing a Member of District Library Board of Trustees

Superintendent Kim Carter introduced Willard Library Director, Catherine Christ Lucas and Board President, Jim Keefer.

Jim Keefer discussed the services provided by the Library Board Trustee. He has served on the Library Board since 2003.

Catherine Christ Lucas shared the Board Structure and Responsibilities presentation.

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby joined the meeting at 5:39pm.

Trustee Slaby read aloud the Remote Attendance Script.

- *I, Jacqueline Slaby, am attending this May 10, 2021 Work Session remotely. I am physically located in the City of Battle Creek, in the State of Michigan. I am able to have two-way communication for this Board Meeting. Please record this public announcement in the Meeting Minutes.*

Catherine Christ Lucas reported Kathleen Baker's Trustee position is up for renewal with the new term beginning July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. Kathleen has served as a committed Board Member since 2013, having missed only one meeting. She is a former BCPS Teacher.

President Catherine LaValley thanked Jim Keefer and Catherine Christ Lucas for attending the meeting this evening.

### 2021-2022 Chartwell Food Service Agreement (Year 2)

Rhonda Potts discussed the 2021-2022 Chartwell Food Service Agreement (Year 2) and reported this is Year 2 of a 5-year Agreement.

Rhonda discussed and explained the increase in the administrative fee, which is highly regulated by the State of Michigan.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2021.

### BCCHS Career Academies Update

Noah Hollander discussed the BCCHS Career Academies Update presentation.

Noah shared a couple of videos about the Career Academies.

President Catherine LaValley thanked Noah for the presentation. She encouraged those interested in learning more about the Career Academies to visit our website for additional information.

### BCPS/BCEA Joint Statement on SB 218

Superintendent Kim Carter discussed the BCPS/BCEA Joint Statement on SB 218.

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby provided the history behind how this Joint Statement came to be.

Superintendent Carter commented she is so proud of the work BCPS has been doing on equity imperatives. She read the Joint Statement aloud and noted it was based on the Board and BCEA position with the plan of sending it on to our legislators.

There was discussion about the effect of Senate Bill 218 on student athletes and the discrimination it would create.

### 1200 Student Representative Policy – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

Monique Cheeks gave the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading for the 1200 Student Representative Policy.

Monique discussed the Policy Committee meeting and the Committee members expressing a desire to:

- Have two (2) Student Representatives serve in this role, one from BCCHS and one from WK Preparatory HS.
- Reserve a section on the Agenda, separate from the Public Comments, for the Student Representatives to share information with the Board.
- Add a requirement that the Student Representatives must be enrolled as full-time BCPS students and remain as full-time students during the time they are serving. If one of the Student Representatives vacates their position, the position will remain vacant until the next school year.

There was lengthy discussion about the Student Representative matter and various ideas the Board Members had for this role.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2021.

### 2021-2022 BCPD Police Liaison Contract

Monique Cheeks discussed the 2021-2022 BCPD Police Liaison Contract. The cost is \$94,050.00 with the funding source being the General Fund.

Board Members inquired as to what services Corporal Young provided during remote and hybrid learning and asked about the contract being increased up to \$1,000.00 for the next school year.

There was a question about how Corporal Young's service is evaluated. Monique reported she will check into the evaluation process and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2021.

#### LaMora Park Walk-In Cooler/Freezer

Rhonda Potts discussed the LaMora Park Walk-In Cooler/Freezer recommendation. The cost is \$64,713.74 with the funding source being the Food Service Excess Funds.

Rhonda reported that Food Service Director, Michelle Morrissey, is looking for units for Post-Franklin and Verona. She is trying to find the right freezers due to spacing issues. Michelle is also looking at plans for the OEC Kitchen.

The Board will vote on the LaMora Park Walk-In Cooler/Freezer at the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2021.

#### SmithCo Baseball/Softball Field Grooming Equipment

Athletic Director Charles Seils discussed the SmithCo Baseball/Softball Field Grooming Equipment recommendation. The cost is \$24,697.00 with the funding sources being the General Fund, WKKF Grant and the Athletic Fund (General).

Charles shared photos of the baseball and softball fields and discussed this being a safety issue for all athletes.

Charles noted this equipment can be shared with the Facilities Department as well.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2021.

#### LaMora Park Ceiling & Lights

Charles Lipsey discussed the LaMora Park Ceiling & Lights recommendation. The cost is \$358,670.00 with the funding source being the Sinking Fund.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2021.

#### Ann J Kellogg Auditorium HVAC as well as Roof Top Unit

Charles Lipsey discussed the Ann J Kellogg Auditorium HVAC as well as Roof Top Unit recommendation. The cost is \$356,256.00 with the funding source being the Sinking Fund.

There was discussion about a coil that was replaced in the current unit, which cost \$74,000.00. Charles discussed this results from the unit being old and parts being difficult to replace. The current recommendation is for a modern unit which will provide air and heat.

It was noted the work will be done this Summer with the plan for it to be completed prior to the start of the 2021-2022 School Year.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2021.

#### Site Work at Fremont, Central and LaMora Park

Charles Lipsey discussed the Site Work at Fremont, Central and LaMora Park recommendation. The cost is \$306,585.00 with the funding source being the Sinking Fund.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2021.

#### Facilities Building Roof

Charles Lipsey discussed the Facilities Building Roof recommendation. The cost is \$225,374.00 with the funding source being the Sinking Fund.

Superintendent Carter provided clarification that the Facilities projects on the Agenda this evening were previously approved as part of the Sinking Fund Expenditure Plan and are not new. We are moving them forward and now providing a cost.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2021.

#### Middle School Social Studies Curriculum Resource Adoption

Christian Manley discussed the Middle School Social Studies Curriculum Resource Adoption recommendation and the process for curriculum updates. The cost is \$83,559.00 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2021.

#### K-5 Music Curriculum Resource Adoption

Christian Manley discussed the K-5 Music Curriculum Resource Adoption recommendation. The cost is \$31,850.00 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2021.

#### Foundations of Engineering Curriculum Resource Adoption

Christian Manley discussed the Foundation of Engineering Curriculum Resource Adoption recommendation. The cost is \$5,000.00 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2021.

### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Health I&II and Healthcare Occupations I&II Curriculum Resource Adoption

Christian Manley discussed the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Health I&II and Healthcare Occupations I&II Curriculum Resource Adoption recommendation. The cost is \$13,450.00 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2021.

### IT Ethics and the Law Curriculum Resource Adoption

Christian Manley discussed the IT Ethics and the Law Curriculum Resource Adoption recommendation. The cost is \$8,140.00 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2021.

### Kindergarten Backpacks

Dr. Chandra Youngblood discussed the Kindergarten Backpacks recommendation. The cost is \$15,196.00 with the funding source being the ESSER Grant.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2021.

### Microsoft Active Directory Migration

Mitch Fowler discussed the Microsoft Active Directory Migration recommendation. The cost is up to \$96,079.50 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

It was noted the Calhoun ISD does not support Novell, due to it being an antiquated program.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2021.

### Chromebook Cases

Mitch Fowler discussed the Chromebook Cases recommendation. The cost is up to \$50,490.00 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

There was discussion about the need for a plan to maintain inventory to keep our devices protected and for replacing them as the need arises.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2021.

### Revised Funding Building Switch Allocation

Mitch Fowler discussed the Revised Funding Building Switch Allocation recommendation. The cost is \$31,316.10 with the funding source being the ESSER Grant. This cost is due to the Administration and Facilities Building not covered by ERate Funds because they are not instructional sites.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2021.

### Staff Chromebooks

Mitch Fowler discussed the Staff Chromebooks recommendation. The cost is up to \$91,625.00 with the funding source being the 21H Grant.

This recommendation would provide for teachers to have Chromebooks so they become familiar with the devices and can better assist students.

The Staff Chromebooks would be purchased from a REMC program to ensure low pricing.

Chromebook cases are not needed because staff will be able to use the laptop backpacks they currently have for transporting the Chromebooks.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2021.

### BCCHS Calculators

Wes Seeley discussed the BCCHS Calculators recommendation. The cost is \$29,694.00 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

These calculators are needed for State testing.

It was noted WK Prepare used Title I funds a few years ago to purchase calculators and no further requests for calculators has been re from WK Prep received from them since.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2021.

### TrueSuccess Renewal

Wes Seeley discussed the TrueSuccess Renewal recommendation. The cost is \$61,192.46 with the funding source being the ESSER Grant.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2021.



### Administrative Appointment

Superintendent Kim Carter discussed the Administrative Appointment recommendation regarding Patricia McCann being appointed as Chief Human Resources Officer, effective June 7, 2021.

Superintendent Carter reported the District is going through a transition in Human Resources. She extended her gratitude to Mrs. Cheryl Johnson for her help in implementing and putting into place important Human Resources practices. Mrs. Johnson is now handing the baton to Patricia McCann, who is currently serving as the Human Resources Manager.

Patricia McCann commented she is excited to assume this new position. She has enjoyed working with Superintendent Carter and her Team this past year and a half and she is happy to build on what Cheryl Johnson has laid out in the past 2 years.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

President Catherine LaValley read the public comments aloud, noting that public comments are not answered during the board meeting and that someone from the staff will be in touch with the individuals..

Jeffrey Cotton  
872 Michigan Ave W  
269-719-7846

I do not think our children can reach their full potential under the threat of being arrested or shot by a school officer. Considering today's climate, we must create a more safe & mentally healthy alternative for our children.

Toni Ardis  
3085 Michigan Ave W  
269-986-5760

Why does the Board or District not publicly acknowledge retirees of the District? I have seen other districts announce them and publish articles in news media. BCPS does not announce them and they are hid in the Consent Agenda at Board meetings. These employees who have dedicated their lives to our students deserve some public recognition.

Anthony Pennock  
125 Surby Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49015  
269-578-3435

As the President of the Battle Creek Education Association, I would like to urge the BCPS School Board to approve the BCPS/BCEA Joint Statement on SB218. We know that sports and activities are crucial to the identity and social development of all students. Discrimination anywhere, is discrimination everywhere. We hope you will stand with the BCEA Board of Directors who unanimously approved this joint statement and we look forward to standing alongside you against this discriminatory and harmful bill.

Kim Jankowski  
338 N. 32nd St., Springfield, Mi 49037  
269-317-3368

I am extremely disappointed that conversation and questioning is getting cut short at this work session. Wasn't exploration of topics an important point when the work session was implemented? So that you could have members FULLY informed before the actual meeting? When not allowed to ask all questions you open up the possibility of having to delay a vote if the information isn't available at the next meeting. Sometimes information has to be acquired and shared later. If the agenda is long then you either look at shortening it or if that's not possible then the board meeting should go as long as necessary to fully address every topic.

Trustee Art McClenney departed the meeting at 8:14pm for an appointment.

It was noted there was still a quorum of the Board for voting on tonight's action items.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Resolution Appointing a Member of District Library Board of Trustees**

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the Resolution Appointing Kathleen Baker as a Member of District Library Board of Trustees.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 4 – 0.**

#### **Administrative Appointment**

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the Administrative Appointment regarding Patricia McCann.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 4 – 0.**

#### **BCPS/BCEA Joint Statement on SB 218**

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the BCPS/BCEA Joint Statement on SB 218.

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby supported the Motion.

President Catherine LaValley inquired if the BCPS Board President and BCEA President should each sign the Joint Statement. Superintendent Carter responded that both organizations' logos are included at the top of the Joint Statement and she felt it would send a powerful message to legislators if each individual Board Member signed the letter and sent it on.

Patti Worden, Executive Assistant, will send the Joint Statement to each Board Member.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 4 – 0.**

### **SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Superintendent Kim Carter shared more success for the BCCHS Business Development Team. Megan Wright earned 2nd Place out of 24 teams and was awarded a \$1,000.00 scholarship to Davenport. Xavier Garcia tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. Superintendent Carter congratulated the entire BCCHS Business Development Team on another successful year and doing amazing things.

Superintendent Carter shared Chartwells Food Truck is scheduled to visit BCCHS on Friday, May 14th, during all Lunch Periods and she invited the Board Members to attend. Street Tacos, Chicken Tinga or Beef Carne Asada will be offered and all meals are served with a Vegetable, Fruit and Milk. Superintendent Carter will check on the lunch prices and advise the Board.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby expressed her desire to take the opportunity during Board Member Comments to discuss the Student Representative item since she is the Trustee that introduced it be considered.

Trustee Slaby felt it was important to share her thoughts on this matter before it comes back to the Board for a vote in two (2) weeks.

Within the language about the duties of the Student Representatives, although she realizes the Student Representatives cannot vote or make a Motion, she is strongly in favor of allowing the Student Representatives to introduce or support Motions. She indicated this is legal and possible and she is in favor of making sure the students are able to exercise that ability in order to make them intrical to this process and give them the ability to understand how things work. She noted it is important to understand the mechanisms of Robert's Rules of Order.

Trustee Slaby would like the Board Policy Committee to take a look at this and reconsider their position before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of the Student Representative policy on May 24, 2021.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright reminded his fellow Board Members that Work Sessions are designed to have lengthy discussions to avoid having them during Regular Meetings. He doesn't think having lengthy discussions is wrong and thinks the Board needs to revisit and think about this.

President Catherine LaValley noted last week was Teacher Appreciation Week throughout the State of Michigan. She congratulated and thanked all BCPS Teachers for their efforts in teaching our Bearcats. She noted it was the toughest year imaginable for everyone. She wanted the staff to know this Board President believes in them and is proud of each and everyone's efforts to do the right thing.

President LaValley shared that a very special lady, Maude Bristol-Perry, was recently honored with a street being named after her, i.e. Honorary Mayor Maude Bristol-Perry Avenue. Her legacy will be her longtime work with Battle Creek kids. She is a former Mayor, former County Supervisor and she continues to be a daycare business owner today. She values childrens' early education development. President LaValley congratulated Maude Bristol-Perry and hopes she had fun on Mother's Day weekend and also at her Birthday celebration.

President LaValley commented that she realizes tonight was a Work Session, but with lots of items for discussion needing to take place, it was one of those things where, as the Board President, it is her job to move the meeting along. It was not her intent to rush anyone from being able to speak out.

President LaValley discussed the training she has taken for serving as Board President and the training for serving as a Board Parliamentarian. She is proud to be diving into this responsibility and noted it is good training for running better School Board Meetings. She noted Ms. Jankowski's public comment about this matter and indicated it is good meeting practice for Board Meetings to be at or under three (3) hours.

President LaValley encouraged the Board Policy Committee meeting to relook at Trustee Slasby's desire to make the policy regarding Student Representatives better, noting the Board will be discussing this matter again in 2 weeks at the Regular Meeting. President LaValley commented this is a unique opportunity for our Board to make sure they hear student voices and to have two Student Representatives rather than just one is even more amazing.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Submitted by  
Patti Worden

Patty Poole-Gray  
Board Secretary