

**BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**May 15, 2017**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Administration Building, 3 West Van Buren, Battle Creek, MI**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT - BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Art McClenney  
Karen Evans  
Nathan Grajek  
Catherine LaValley  
Kyra Wallace  
Eric Jankowski

**Absent**

Jacqueline Slaby

**Present – Administration**

Kimberly M. Carter – Superintendent  
Chad Osborn – Facilities & Operations Director  
Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education  
Deborah Nuzzi – Director, Secondary Education  
Lindsay Elizondo – Executive Director, Financial Services  
Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services  
Heather Hudson – Executive Director, Human Resources

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by President McClenney at 5:33 p.m. All board members were present except Jacqueline Slaby. Approximately 61 citizens and staff were in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Karen Evans made a motion to accept the agenda with the following corrections:

- Add under New Business items **S**. Consideration to approve the purchase of a Dish Machine and Dual Warmer; **T**. Consideration to approve the purchase of new cafeteria tables at NWMS; and **U**. Consideration to approve the replacement of Cooler and Freezer Doors at NWMS.

Catherine LaValley supported that motion and asked that item D under new business be removed. Chair would not accept that motion. Agenda remains.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Autumn Felder – Low teacher pay.
- Tyler Gilland – Low teacher pay.
- Joe Ratti – Asking for monetary support of Juan Warren, the BCCHS track athlete who has been recognized as number 1 in the state and has been invited to a track meet in North Carolina.
- Josh Harter – Low teacher pay.
- Brian Driscoe – Low teacher pay; questions spending.
- William Lapham – read letter from colleague regarding low teacher pay.

- Amy Cherry – Invited the board and community members out to the OEC for the Farm Open House this Saturday, May 20, from 9 a.m. – 12 noon.
- Rich Brenne – Low teacher pay.
- Karolyn Ferguson – Hall of Fame

### **ARTIST OF THE MONTH**

Brianna Robinson, 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Northwestern Middle School was selected as May’s Artist of the Month. Congratulations!

### **ADULT EDUCATION CELEBRATION**

Janell Absey read a letter to the board on her appreciation for the Adult Education classes. Congratulations for the awesome programs available to adults who would like to get their GED.

### **CASBMA EDUCATOR AWARD WINNER**

Superintendent Carter recognized and congratulated Mr. William Lapham for receiving the Calhoun Area School Board Members Association Educator of the Year Award.

### **BOARD POLICY REVIEW**

Monique Cheeks presented Section 1000 for approval.

Karen Evans made a motion to approve Board Policy 1000.  
Catherine LaValley supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

Monique Cheeks presented Section 6000 for approval.

Karen Evans made a motion to approve Board Policy 6000.  
Nathan Grajek supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

Monique Cheeks presented the second reading for Board Policy 2000. She highlighted the changes made.

Trustee LaValley had some concerns with some changes with Section 2110 where the committee removed the “teaching experience” from the superintendent’s qualifications. Mrs. Cheeks agreed to take her concerns back to the board policy committee for consideration.

Karen Evans made a motion to approve the second reading to Section 2000.  
Eric Jankowski supported that motion.

**Motion failed**

Monique Cheeks presented the second reading of Section 7000. She highlighted the changes made. Trustee LaValley wanted to know why the name was changed from Reproductive Health to Sexual Education in Section 7115. So that BCPS would use the same verbiage as the State of Michigan.

Karen Evans made a motion to accept the second reading of Board Policy 7000.  
Kyra Wallace supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6-0**

Monique Cheeks presented the first reading of Board Policy 5000.

Karen Evans made a motion for a five-minute recess.

Nathan Grajek supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

6:48 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 6:55 p.m.

## **REPORTS**

Finance and Physical Resources – Nathan Grajek reported that the committee discussed and approved the items that will be discussed later in the New Business section of the agenda.

Student Achievement – Catherine LaValley reported that the committee met on May 2. The committee reviewed information regarding the Renaissance Learning project. We have a program regarding Bearcat Reads. We looked at the possibility of renaming our Alternative Education building. We had a piano lab follow up to Jacqueline's question last month. We listened to our curriculum for the health reproductive program. The committee sent forth materials that they liked. I want to talk a little bit about my early try to have the health reproduction units to a separate meeting because of its importance. I know we need a curriculum. We have to do our due diligence in making sure that the controversial topics that are addressed are covered to the best of our ability. We need to make sure that we plan in the future for two public hearings. We had a survey in our packet addressed to the parents. I understand that it's not going to be approved tonight, but I wanted to delete this particular item from the agenda tonight. I would have liked to have a board meeting for this item only. The next SAC meeting will be June 6.

Board Policy – Karen Evans reported that the board policy committee has only three sections to go – 4000, 8000, and 9000. This committee will have one, maybe two more meetings before the next board meeting to review sections 2000 and 5000.

SIS Grant: School Sustainability Grant – Wes Seeley presented a report that the SIG Grant that Dudley STEM is under expires at the end of this school year. The state found additional funds for those schools that fell in Cohort III for sustainability grant for up to \$500,000. The funds would be used to maintain some of the staffing that we currently have, and on-going PD and teacher supports. There would be an after-school program. There would be supplies and materials to support STEM education and the pre-school program.

Northwestern Middle School Priority Plan – Dr. Deborah Nuzzi explained that NWMS was put on the priority list by the Michigan State Reform Office due to lack of achievement. We must choose one of several plans that have been outlined by the State. We identified that the best plan for NWMS was the turnaround school plan. This plan requires that the staff be displaced, but allows for 50% of that staff to be returned to the school. Superintendent Carter further explained the process. In the fall, we expect to see that NWMS will open with a new leader, new team, a new curriculum and a new theme.

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

President McClenney asked for a motion to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a. Minutes from April 17, 2017 Regular Board Meeting and April 20, 2017 Special Board Meeting
- b. Bills for Month of April 2017..... Lindsay Elizondo
- c. Personnel Changes and Recognition of Retirees .....Heather Hudson
- d. Financial Update ..... Lindsay Elizondo
- e. A.O. Jones Scholarship Recipients ..... Lindsay Elizondo

Catherine LaValley made a motion to accept the consent agenda items as presented.

Karen Evans supported that motion.

Eric Jankowski abstained from the vote.

**Motion passed 5 – 0**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Administrative Appointment – Superintendent Carter asked the board to appoint Dr. Anita Harvey to the position of Director of District Transformation.

Karen Evans made a motion to approve the administrative appointment of Dr. Anita Harvey to the position of Director of District Transformation.

Nathan Grajek supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6– 0**

- B. Superintendent Carter asked that the board approve the Superintendent to negotiate the sale of the Markham Avenue property.

Nathan Grajek made a motion for the board approved the Superintendent to negotiate the sale of the Markham Avenue property.

Catherine LaValley supported that motion.

Trustee Grajek asked questions regarding the parameter of the property.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- C. Dr. Deborah Nuzzi asked the board to approve the purchase of technology for Battle Creek Central High School. They are notebook computers with charging station, and headsets. Karen Evans made a motion for the board to approve the technology purchase of for Battle Creek Central High School in the amount of \$14,404 to be paid out of Title I funds.

Catherine LaValley supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- D. Dr. Deborah Nuzzi asked the board to approve to continue the process of scheduling a number of viewing opportunities for the community and the board to get feedback over a period of time to see if we could make changes and then bring that back to the board of the Elementary and Secondary Sex Education Curriculum. Everything that we've brought before you have come through by the State of Michigan and CISD. Each of you could have different versions.

Karen Evans made a motion to approve the continued process for Elementary and Secondary Sex Education Curriculum.

Kyra Wallace supported that motion.

Comments: Trustee LaValley raised concern with the public viewing/hearings before the curriculum has been adopted.

**Motion passed 5 – 1**

- E. Dr. Deborah Nuzzi presented the proposal to rename the Alternative High School per board policy. The names submitted were: WK Kellogg Promise Academy, WK Kellogg New Directions High School; and WK Kellogg Preparatory High School.

- F. Superintendent Carter asked the board to consider approving the sale of Fremont Elementary School. It was valued at \$63,000. We have an executed agreement for the sale in the amount of \$65,000.

Nathan Grajek made a motion to approve the sale of Fremont Elementary School in the amount of \$65,000.

Catherine LaValley supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- G. Superintendent Carter asked the board to consider approving the sale of Urbandale Elementary School. It was valued at \$48,000. We have an executed agreement for the sale in the amount of \$50,000.

Nathan Grajek made a motion to approve the sale of Urbandale Elementary School in the amount of \$50,000.

Karen Evans supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- H. Lindsay Elizondo presented the resolution for the ISD Budget to be adopted. The 85% reimbursement will still come to us.

Catherine LaValley made a motion to approve and adopt the Calhoun ISD resolution and budget for the upcoming year.

Karen Evans supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- I. Wes Seeley asked the board to approve the purchase of Leveled Reading Books for Post Franklin Elementary School. This amount will come from their Title I budget in the amount of \$10,159.

Karen Evans made a motion to approve the purchase of Leveled Reading Books for Post Franklin Elementary School, taken from their Title I funds, in the amount of \$10,159.

Kyra Wallace supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- J. Chad Osborn asked the board to approve the District Roofing Project in the amount of \$529,280 from the Building and Site Fund.

Nathan Grajek made a motion to approve the District Roofing Project in the amount of \$529,280 to come from the Building and Site Fund.

Eric Jankowski supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- K. Chad Osborn asked the board to approve the contracted Maintenance and Custodial Services in the amount of \$588,187.20 to GCA. This process will be completed through attrition. GCA will be given buildings as a way to monitor their progress.

Nathan Grajek made a motion to approve the contracted Maintenance and Custodial Services in the amount of \$588,187.20 to GCA.

Kyra Wallace supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- L. Superintendent Carted asked the board to approve the purchase of a two-year accelerated reading Renaissance Learning Contract in the amount of \$121,749 to be paid out of the WKKF Community Supports Grant.

Karen Evans made a motion to approve the Renaissance Learning Contract in the amount of \$121,749, paid out of the WKKF Community Supports Grant.

Nathan Grajek supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- M. Superintendent Carter asked the board to approve the contracted services of two administrators at NWMS. We are asking to place co-principals there for the remaining days of the school year in the amount of \$30,650, supported by the WKKF Community Grant.

Nathan Grajek made a motion to approve the services of two administrators at NWMS in the amount of \$30,650.

Trustee LaValley asked the superintendent to name the administrators.

Superintendent Carter announced the administrators as Ms. Brendel Hatley and Mrs. Yvonne Payton.

Karen Evans supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- N. President McClenney asked for a volunteer from the board to make a motion to approve the CISD Board of Education candidates – Allan Miller and Joanne Miller, not related.

Karen Evans made a motion to approve the CISD Board of Education Candidates.

Catherine LaValley supported this motion.

Trustee Evans stated that BCPS is the largest district, yet we do not have a representative.

Roll call vote is in order:

Nathan Grajek – Yes  
Catherine LaValley – Yes  
Karen Evans – Yes  
Kyra Wallace – Yes  
Eric Jankowski – Yes  
Art McClenney – Yes  
Motion passed 6 - 0

- O. Superintendent Carter asked the board to authorize the superintendent to execute a new contract for property and casualty and workers compensation insurance with Set Seg.

Nathan Grajek made a motion to allow the superintendent to execute a new contract for property and casualty and workers compensation insurance.

Catherine LaValley supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- P. Superintendent Carter asked the board to approve the purchase of new band uniforms for Battle Creek Central High School in an amount up to \$97,283 to be paid for by the WKKF grant. Superintendent Carter is still in conversation with the band boosters to see how they might assist to offset these expenses.

Catherine LaValley made a motion to approve the purchase on new band uniforms for Battle Creek Central High School, no to exceed \$97,283.

Karen Evans supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- Q. Superintendent Carter asked the board to approve the contract for Trauma Informed Practices training up to \$15,000 by Starr Commonwealth to be paid for by the WKKF grant.

Nathan Grajek made a motion to approve the contract for Trauma Informed Practices training up to \$15,000 by Starr Commonwealth.

Karen Evan supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- R. Dr. Deborah Nuzzi asked the board to consider amending the high school graduation requirements for Early/Middle College program by the following:

“It is understood that State School Aid Section 6(4)m requires that students must not be otherwise eligible for high school graduation to participate in a fifth year of high school and that section 3(f) of the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act and Section 3(g) of the Career and Technical Preparation Act require that students be enrolled in at least one (1) high school course required for graduation which must be a high school or dual enrollment math or math related course.”

Catherine LaValley made a motion to approve the amended high school graduation requirements for the Early/Middle College program.

Karen Evans made a motion to amend the motion so that it includes the following:

“It is understood that State School Aid Section 6(4)m requires that students must not be otherwise eligible for high school graduation to participate in a fifth year of high school and that section 3(f) of the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act and Section 3(g) of the Career and Technical Preparation Act require that students be enrolled in at least one (1) high school course required for graduation which must be a high school or dual enrollment math or math related course.”

Eric Jankowski supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- S. Superintendent Carter asked the board to approve the purchase of a dish machine and a dual warmer at the high school in the amount of \$40,187.55. This project is part of the Food Services Excess Fund Balance. The Plan has been approved by the MDE as it pertains to the Food Services spending of Excess Funds.

Karen Evans made a motion to approve the purchase of a dish machine and a dual warmer for the high school in the amount of \$40,187.55 to be paid from the Food Services excess fund balance.

Eric Jankowski supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- T. Superintendent Carter asked the board to approve the replacement of the cafeteria tables at Northwestern Middle School in the amount of \$37,944.45. This project is part of the Food Services Excess Fund Balance.

Karen Evans made a motion to approve the purchase of a dish machine and a dual warmer for the high school in the amount of \$37,944.45 to be paid from the Food Services excess fund balance.

Nathan Grajek supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- U. Superintendent Carter asked the board to approve the replacement of the cooler and freezer doors at Northwestern Middle School in the amount of \$13,300. This project is part of the Food Services Excess Fund Balance.

Karen Evans made a motion to approve the replacement of the cooler and freezer doors at Northwestern Middle School in the amount of \$13,300 to be paid from the Food Services excess fund balance.

Nathan Grajek supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

### **SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Superintendent Carter commented on the following:

- Thank you to the staff to help design a transformation plan for BCPS and the WK Kellogg Foundation for believing in BCPS and providing their generous donation. *Thank you!* Over the next few months we will be detailing and highlighting the plan including but not limited to a pre-school summer program that will allow us to have five days, five weeks of pre-school education in the summer for our incoming kindergarteners.
- We are continuing to work on our middle school transformation plan. We will also be looking at our early literacy plans and other community organizations to truly transform the district in a way to ensure that all students can achieve.
- We need to change our regular board meeting in June. We have a work session on June 15, 6 – 8:30. We will resume our regular meeting on June 19 at 5:30 p.m., and a special work session on June 20, at 5:30 p.m. Rod Green will be here for the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup>. You will receive confirmation.

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Karen Evans – Will be attending MASB’s “Changing the Perception of Your District” conference in Lansing. Saturday is OEC’s Farm Animal open house. I would like to encourage you all to attend.

Catherine LaValley – Commented on BCPS sports. Teams are improving; attended youth day for caring. It was a lot of fun. They did a fabulous job. Looking forward to honors night. I attended the spaghetti dinner for National Honor Society students. Thank for all the activities of Battle Creek Public Schools.

Nathan Grajek – Attended the MASB Legislative Conference in Lansing.

Eric Jankowski – Attended the Girls on the Run; we had a lot of representation; received a picture of our students at the Special Olympics; attended the OEC with 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

Kyra Wallace – Attended band concerts; the NWMS honor society program.

Art McClenney – Attended concert with Mr. Bucec – thanked him for his contribution; would like to nominate him for an Above and Beyond Award; our students were well behaved at the prom – dressed very appropriately; girls softball is doing well. I have been approached by many people now since we received the \$51M. That is not our job. Just refer them to the Superintendent.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Submitted by *Gloria O. Wilkerson*

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*Catherine LaValley, Board Secretary*