

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Board Meeting
April 20, 2017
WK Kellogg Foundation, 1 Michigan Avenue, Battle Creek, MI
6:30 p.m.

PRESENT - BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

Present – Administration

Kimberly M. Carter – Superintendent

MINUTES

LaJune Montgomery Tabron had opening welcome remarks. The original signature of W.K. Kellogg... School bells rang for WKK @ School #3. As a boy he had trouble reading and it wasn't until age 20, he learned he was near sighted. "Health happiness, well being of children": W.K. Kellogg's words of wisdom. I thank you for your courage, support, to gather to meet together this evening. W.K. Kellogg emphasized educational growth. Education offers opportunity for the community to prosper.

Tim Everett: Superintendent of Pennfield Schools offered a welcome to everyone. All four boards took the call to order.

Karen Evans made a motion to approve the agenda. Kyra Wallace seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

BC Vision has fostered lots of collaboration between four superintendents, board members, teachers, parents, students, community members, and interested non-profits. Strengthening a collaborative relationship among all four districts is a step we are taking on tonight.

Co-facilitators: Jorge Zeballos, Steven Chang, and Hugh Vasquez

Highlights from Leading Equity Institute in Chicago, IL

Abby Green – Pennfield

- Hearing from educators across the country
- Learning about inequity in schools – it's not our fault

Kathleen Moore – Lakeview

- Meeting the B.C. region superintendents and board members – we have more in common than differences
- It takes courage to change your beliefs

Lisa Hubbard – Harper Creek

- Lots of honesty between members
- Thankful to participate with BC region leaders
- Impactful, meaningful
- We love serving our communities
- Continuing our beginnings from the weekend and bringing it back to BC region

Art McClenney – Battle Creek

- At first, I found it difficult but I wanted to support my superintendent
- It went well with sharing my thoughts and it got to be emotional
- The city of BC brought us united
- Life changing, enjoyed it greatly
- Conversation on explicit biases, implicit biases

Equity vs. Equality

(Diagram of the outfield fence of a baseball game)

One part of the fence shows equality. The other part of the fence shows equity. Equity is giving what they **need** to gain access (e.g. the view of the baseball game.)

What examples do you see in education where students are given the boxes they need (equity)

- Different textbooks, 2017 version vs. 2012 version
- Reading buddies who really need a buddy listening to them read
- On-line learning
- Beginning early childhood supports in the county
- BCAMSC

Michigan has 4th grade achievement gaps in reading and math by ethnic groups (2015).

Equity: promoting just and fair inclusion, and creating conditions in which everyone can participate, prosper and reach their full potential.

Harper Creek Superintendent Rob Ridgeway – a focus on training school board members in equity.

Which students are struggling?

Which students are succeeding?

Making sure to do away with blaming, shaming that would keep us from achieving results.

Guiding Questions:

- What does it mean to be college and career ready in Battle Creek?
- How do community members perceive schools and educational opportunities in the region?
- What resources, supports, and other school and community inputs shape college and career readiness for BC region students?

Race and Socioeconomic Status

It is important to look at both the impact of racialization and poverty when examining achievement gaps.

All students will benefit depending on different needs that are addressed.

Some racial achievement gaps persisted after controlling for SE status.

Diversity and Segregation Typify the BC region

BC SOC – all resident students transferred out 34.9

HC SOC – 9.0

LV SOC – 7.5

Pennfield SOC – 7.7

More than 1/3 of children living in BCPS live @ or below the poverty line.

Time to get bold, time to do something differently in order to help our (BC region) students be successful.

8:17

Four Superintendents

All students will be successful. Equity-Focused Schools Carry All Students to High Levels – an article shared by Supt. Dave Peterson.

Dave Peterson: We truly have to own the term equity. Our vision is to keep a smiling four-year-old happy and smiling and that student graduates as an 18 year old who is still smiling.

Kim Carter: I have hope. ALL means ALL. Our response is a BOTH AND. We leave here to find a collective response to bring the answers to our families and the BC region.

Tim: We have a tough task to keep the positive energy going.

Rob: We have all vulnerable students. WE want to ensure success for all. It's critically important to the BC region to have four outstanding school districts for Battle Creek to thrive.

Public Comment

Chris Sargent (United Way) – A community supports you. Keeping it simple means it's personal.

Deb Evans – This is our problem. Encourage solutions be mindful of your identities. It will be historical when it succeeds.

Elizabeth Linsley – I'm so excited. For 15 years, I have been waiting for this to happen and to engage in this process. I'm beyond excited. Please listen, learn, have conversations.

Lynn Ward Gray – I'm with you. Be authentic. I'm offering my support. We can be a world light.

Bob Ward – I support you all.

Laura Williams – If you go fast, you go alone.

Rose ...– Teachers get equity training as well. Also, the teachers need to have support of doing equity, too.

Meeting adjourned 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by Gloria Wilkerson

Catherine LaValley, Board Secretary