

**BATTLE CREEK BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
February 20, 2012
5:30 p.m.
Board Room – School Administration Building**

PRESENT - BOARD OF EDUCATION

Karen Evans
William Burton
Susan Buckley
Todd Stagner
Steve Hoelscher
Art McClenney
Scott Cubberly

Present – Administration

Dr. Linda Hicks – Superintendent
Dr. Jeffrey Greene – Resource Development Coordinator
Deborah Gregory – Executive Director of Financial Services
Robert Harberts – Interim Director of Human Resources
Dianne Hatley – Interim Executive Director of Human Resources
Tim Scott – Assistant Director of Facilities & Operations
Donna Straight – Special Education Supervisor

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Evans at 5:30 p.m. All board members were present. Approximately 50 citizens were in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

Motion approved 7 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were made.

2011-12 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Deborah Gregory, Executive Director of Financial Services, presented 2011-2012 budget amendments for approval. Revisions for the General, Math/Science Center, and Building & Site Funds were presented. As of June 20, 2012, the estimated balance for the general fund is \$10.6 million, \$2.9 million for the Math/Science Center, and \$3.2 million for the Building & Site fund.

2012-2013 BUDGET REDUCTIONS DISCUSSION

Deborah Gregory, Executive Director of Financial Services, introduced the 2012-2013 budget reductions for discussion. Potential reductions included, but was not limited to:

- 13 elementary teachers
- 1 elementary principal
- 6.5 middle school teachers
- 2 middle school clerical staff
- 6.5 high school teachers
- 1 high school clerical staff
- Alternative Education Program
- 2 Maintenance Staff

Should the board make the reductions identified during discussion, a total of \$2,933,862 in savings would be realized. Items contributing to the shortfall include lost of students, increases from Lansing, salary steps, health, and retirement. Additional options include freezing steps, initiating a hard cap, and cancelling In Lieu.

Superintendent Hicks reiterated her desire to have a balanced budget beginning the 2012-2013 school year. Although the many changes will affect many in the district, this is the time to right size our spending and staffing as the district moves forward. Board members encouraged those in attendance to contact our legislators to increase funding for public education.

VACANT PROPERTIES

Superintendent Hicks presented vacant properties for discussion. Following discussion, these recommendations were supported by board members:

- Math/Science Center: sell the property
- Central Field House: continued use of the facility along with allowing community partnerships with KCC and others
- W.K. Kellogg Middle School: community meetings to be held to discuss potential uses

- Franklin Elementary: project currently underway includes additional classrooms, technology, and air-conditioning
- Washington Elementary: keep building intact making upgrades as needed for future use and pursue leasing option
- Wilson Elementary: demolish the building and save on future upkeep and utility costs. Board members request that the district work with the city to perhaps place a park in the neighborhood.
- Southwestern Middle School: keep the property, repair the roof, and look into leasing the building for profit.
- South Hill Academy: sell building “as is”

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ziegler, community member, urged board members to keep up the good work on their decisions about vacant property. He expressed that the board's decision to keep Southwestern intact builds trust in the community.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Hicks commented on:

- Verona & Franklin – approximately 50 students sent persuasive essays regarding fieldtrips and cafeterias as a writing assignment.
- Futures Room – A ribbon cutting was held on February 2 for the Futures Room at Central High School. The room is staffed by community, military, universities, and staff to inspire and communicate with students.
- College Going Culture – during spirit week community members will be asked to display their college spirit. This coincides with the 10th anniversary of the Carson Scholars.
- Party in the Park – Maranda's Party in the Park is coming to Battle Creek on July 19.
- Congratulations – current enrollment is up by 80 additional students

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

William Burton congratulated Superintendent Hicks and the district on its increased enrollment as the results of the special education audit.

Art McClenney applauded Urbandale Elementary on their black history month event.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.