

**BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Regular Meeting**

**February 8, 2016**

**3 West Van Buren, 3<sup>Rd</sup> Floor Administration Building**

**Fifteen minutes after Special Meeting Ends**

**PRESENT - BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Todd Stagner

Kellie Thomas

Karen Evans

Catherine LaValley

Nathan Grajek

Rose Miller

**ABSENT** – Art McClenney

**Present – Administration**

Kim Parker-DeVauld – Interim Superintendent

Chad Osborn – Director, Facilities and Operations

Marilyn Wieschowski – Executive Director, Finance

Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services

Chandra Youngblood – Coordinator, Early Childhood Education

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by President Stagner at 6:32p.m. All board members were present except Art McClenney. Approximately 21 citizens and staff were in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Rose Miller made a motion to accept the agenda as presented.

The motion was supported by Karen Evans.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**BCPS HERO**

Our BCPS Heroes for February are Lucy Lower at the elementary level and Dianne Smith at the secondary level. Lucy was selected by students and staff for giving her time and effort in organizing an all-city choir and doing many programs outside of her daily work schedule. She has a special gift in working with all students.

Dianne Smith was nominated by 15 of her students as well as some staff members. She gives her whole heart to this district. Mrs. Smith goes out of her way to make the working experience for her paraprofessionals as pleasant as possible. Her students love her because she

helps them become successful; she helps them when they are upset and shows them how to care about other people's feelings.

*Congratulations to our February BCPS Heroes!!*

### **ARTIST OF THE MONTH**

The artist for the month of February is Rebecca Maui. She is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Springfield Middle School. Every project and every art project that comes her way, she masters with maturity and sensitivity. The piece that was chosen for tonight is inspired by a mystical place in the universe taken by telescope. Rebecca received a framed copy of her art work. She has art on display at the BC Art Center.

*Congratulations Rebecca!*

### **BOARD POLICY REPORT**

Stephen Sestina presented the changes that the Thrun Law Firm and the committee have recommended.

- Section 6000-Negotiations. Section 6001 – Goal and Objections, no recommendations made to make any changes or additions.
- Section 6050, Recognition of Bargaining Units, the recommendation was to eliminate the word “Employees” and insert the word “Employment”. Also we struck “Battle Creek Transportation Association” because we no longer have buses. We struck “Facilities and Operations Association” and replaced it with “Educational Support Personnel Association.” Then under “Battle Creek Paraprofessionals Association” we removed the “s” from Paraprofessionals, so that it would read “Battle Creek Paraprofessional Association”.
- Section 6100 – Board Negotiating Agents, the recommendation was to add the words “or attorney” as a BCPS spokes person.
- Section 6150 – Superintendent’s Role in Negotiations, there were no recommended changes.
- Section 6200 – Confidentiality of Negotiations Information, no recommended changes.
- Section 6400 – Contract Ratification – there were no recommended changes.

These are our recommendations.

### **FINANCE AND PHYSICAL RESOURCES REPORT**

Rose Miller presented the F&P Resources Report. We looked at Hunter-Prell and replacing 6” of sewer at NWMS. Having worked with them before, this is our best bid and having worked with them before. Control Net was the next one. Since we were already working with them and did not want to get several different companies, the committee decided to go with Control Net. We haven’t had any problems with them, so we decided to go with them to replace the Heat Exchanger at NWMS.

### **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE**

Catherine LaValley presented the Student Achievement Committee Report. The committee met on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Perry, principal at the Battle Creek Area Math and Science Center, discussed a new position that he is looking to post called the Computer Science and Physics Teacher. This position would start in August 2016. It would follow the BCEA Teacher salary schedule. The math and science center is rapidly growing and it’s important that this teacher be available to teach an AP Computer Science course.

We also had a presentation of the M-STEP results by Theresa Yeck. It's very important to know that this coming school year, every school district in Michigan will take the online version. It's pretty remarkable that BCPS took it online – most of our students. This took a lot of coordination and organization. It is exciting that our Battle Creek students were able to perform on those computers for a very difficult test. The scores should only be used to compare ourselves to ourselves, not across the district. The 3rd graders will be taking the MSTEP. The ELA portion for 3rd graders will be given to them in April 2016. The test is very complex and it is one of those things that we are asking students to do a lot on this MSTEP. Our next meeting is March 7, 8:30 a.m.

### **BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE**

Kellie Thomas presented the Board Policy Committee Report. The committee has been reviewing three official policies and we just finished reviewing Section 3000 this week which is all about our finances. In what we are doing, we take the original policy; send to the attorneys, they make recommendations and comments, ask us questions. We review each section of the policy, take into account their changes to see if they fit or not, we follow their direction. They give us the new sections in the law to where it applies. In the board packet, you have seen the changes for an official copy. Once we receive them back from the attorney, those will be the updated policies we will adopt.

### **STUDENT REINSTATEMENT**

A motion was made by Nathan Grajek to approve reinstatement of the student as presented in the board packet.

The motion was supported by Karen Evans.

**Motion passed 6 - 0**

### **CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Minutes from January 11, 2016, Special and Regular board meetings
- B. Bills for Month of January 2016
- C. Personnel Changes and Recognition of Retirees

A motion was made by Nathan Grajek to approve the consent agenda items as presented. The motion was supported by Catherine LaValley.

**Motion passed 6-0**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Band Field Trip – Kim Parker-DeVauld presented a trip request by the 2016 Disney trip by the Bearcat Marching Band. Their objective is that students will experience professional level performance at a major stadium theme park. They will represent Battle Creek Central High School and the State of Michigan for this event. There will be approximately 25 high school bands in this event from across the nation. The band is seeking to travel to Orlando, Florida, where they will be staying from Saturday, April 2 – Friday, April 8. I see this as an awesome opportunity for the students and the band and I am seeking approval from the Board of Education.

A motion was made by Kellie Thomas to approve the 2016 Bearcat Marching Band trip to Orlando, Florida.

The motion was supported by Catherine LaValley.

Discussion – Kellie Thomas stated that the trip is still on however is has been moved by a day because of performance times and overnight travel. They will now be leaving Sunday morning and returning on Saturday (April 3 – April 9). Everything is just shifted by one day.

**Motion passed 6-0**

- B. Board Assignments – Dr. Stagner just wanted to state clarification on his part that should have been realigned is that Ms. Evans will be at the Math and Science Center and Mrs. LaValley will be at LaMora Park.

A motion was made by Karen Evans to approve the board assignment as presented. The motion was supported by Kellie Thomas.

**Motion passed 6-0**

- C. PA269 Resolution - Dr. Stagner read the Resolution (presented in the board packet). He stated that as a side note to this resolution, but of course we will still vote to send this in, the Gag order was lifted on February 5, 2016, by Judge John O'Meara. So for the next election, this won't be on the ballot but at least we can send our statement as a board.

The board decided that a roll call vote was needed to respond to PA 269 Resolution.

Karen Evans: Yes  
Kellie Thomas: Yes  
Catherine LaValley: Yes  
Nathan Grajek: Yes  
Rose Miller: Yes  
Todd Stagner: Yes

**Motion passed 6-0**

- D. Sale of Southwestern – Kim Parker-DeVauld presented information on the purchase of Southwestern, Nathan with Summit Building Services, LLC, was the representative. They are a local builder from Battle Creek. Father, true owner of the company, was a graduate of Battle Creek Central. They have other rental properties in the area. He drives by the area quite often and thinks that it is such a shame to have that property vacant. Initially, we just wanted to see what we can do with it and obviously having some type of living facility. Our main goal would be to do market rate apartments. But we would not rule out a senior living facility – depends on the feasibility study and what our architects have to say. Without an agreement, we have not done a lot.

There was much discussion around the sale of Southwestern.

Kim Parker-DeVauld stated after re-reading the contract that Summit Building Services, LLC is actually seeking approval to purchase the property. However, the ultimate purchase of the property won't go through until the zoning is complete. So the building will not change ownership until it has been rezoned, and then we will release ownership.

Karen Evans made a motion to approve the sale of Southwestern.  
Nathan Grajek supported the motion.

### **Discussion**

Catherine LaValley raised concern about waiting for the results of the strategic planning process that is currently in place, and just where this would fit into our plan. There may be a benefit in us waiting. In a month's time, we are going to have a lot of information coming into us, and I think we could be smart in making our decision on this as soon as we know what the strategic plan has brought forth. If we sell the property, those proceeds of the sale would go into the building and site fund and not the general fund. She just wanted the public to know that the proceeds do not go to our general fund. She wanted more time to brainstorm, as the purchasers, about what would happen to that property. I think it would benefit us all.

Rose Miller agreed with Catherine LaValley to give ourselves more time. We still do not know if it will be zoned. This is exciting, but we are not really sure what we are getting in to as well. I know we have Chad (Director of Facilities), but do we need to have our attorney look at this too?

Karen Evans asked if we were to postpone vote, will we need to bring this before the next F&P meeting, the next board meeting. They cannot move forward with the feasibility study until we make this first approval. Are we just postponing the vote for a month?

Dr. Stagner said once we have our strategic plan, we look at what we have and how we are going to move forward, we will look around and see where our students are coming from. This will help us make the proper decision.

Dr. Stagner asked for a roll call vote on approving to sale Southwestern.

Karen Evans: Yes  
Kellie Thomas: Yes  
Catherine LaValley: No  
Nathan Grajek: Yes  
Rose Miller: No  
Todd Stagner: Yes

**Motion passed 4-2**

- E. Ratification Resolution for Bond Refinancing – Marilyn Wieschowski presented the documentation for the Ratification. We dropped two points from an A1 to an A3. That means we are at the bottom of the A's for our rating and the next step is to drop into the B status. This means that this is the last rating to be included on the investment list. Every 12 months we are evaluated for another bond rating. What is really positive, that even though we dropped to an A3, 5/3 thought that we could end up

having lower interest rates to get the bonds sold and it sold within 2 ½ hours – all of them. That saved us about \$130,000.

Moody said that we were dropped by 2 points because of on-going structure imbalance, we have not right sized, declining enrollment, and elevated pension liabilities.

We received a letter from the State today saying that we are on a stress list and we have to justify to the state why we haven't moved forward. We have 12 months to turn this around. We don't want to go to a B-AA. That's the last step before we are taken off the investors list.

Kellie Thomas made a motion to ratify the bond for refinancing.  
Catherine LaValley supported that motion.

Dr. Stagner asked for a roll call vote on approving the ratification resolution for bond refinancing pricing.

Karen Evans: Yes  
Kellie Thomas: Yes  
Catherine LaValley: Yes  
Nathan Grajek: Yes  
Rose Miller: Yes  
Todd Stagner: Yes

**Motion passed 6-0**

- F. Boiler and Sewer Improvements at NWMS – Chad Osborn discussed the quotes – one for Hunter Prell for the sanitary sewer replacement at Northwestern. The current line between the sanitary tank and road is breaking down, scaling up and it causing the sanitary line to back up. We received two quotes. This was the lowest one, and we were planning to have the line replaced over spring break. The second quote is for Northwestern as well. It is for the heat exchanger, operating the hot water boiler. We are going to change it out so that it is on our current Control Net system to help monitor it. This is why we are going with Control Net.

Karen Evans – so the cost of Control Net is \$13, 300 and \$16,800 for the sewer line?

Yes.

We need two motions for each bid.

Karen Evans made a motion to approve the bid from Hunter Prell in the amount of \$16,800 to replace the sanitary sewer lines at NWMS.

Rose Miller supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

Karen Evans made a motion to approve the bid from Control Net in the amount of \$13,300 to replace the heat exchanger at NWMS.

Catherine LaValley supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

### **SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Kim Parker-DeVault celebrated the staff of BCPS. We recently went through a Michigan Department of Education audit of our services and support for students using our Title 1 funds and whether or not we were getting results for funds. Kim read a letter she received from the auditor that spoke to how hard our staff is working to improve the outcomes for kids.

She also celebrated, welcomed and invited the board and community to BCCHS theater department will be presenting two one act plays. I am hoping that you would be able to participate on Wednesday, February 10 at 7:30 p.m. They have two one-act plays that will run about 90 minutes each for a donation of \$5.

She announced that BCPS has 1695 elementary students that will be participating in the Gilmore Family Concert. This was funded through the Gilmore. What a wonderful opportunity for our students to participate.

We have a shout out and celebration going to our middle school swim team. They performed above and beyond at Saturday's MISCA state meet. Congratulations to both the boys and the girls swim teams.

This past weekend the forensics team sent four students to the National qualifier tournament at the Holland High School.

**Congratulations to all of our students!!**

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Karen Evans – Complimented the flyer that is circulating about Battle Creek Public Schools. She said that it is very well done. She reiterated the Michigan Art Education Association Region 4 annual art exhibit at the Art Center. She also talked about the Hall of Fame dinner, April 16. The board has done a full page ad, in past years, which is \$90 about \$13 for each board member.

Catherine LaValley – She received a phone call from a former teacher – Bruce Medaugh. He is in charge of the Star Program at the National Guard. He is inviting the board to represent the school and the board at a recognition ceremony on this Wednesday at 1:15 p.m. and Thursday at 12:45 p.m. She has the information for anyone who is interested in attending.

Nathan Grajek – Complimented the Community Conversation at the Burma Center.

Dr. Stagner – Asked the board and the community to support the arts. Also, the community conversations will be on February 16 – NWMS, February 22, at Springfield and on the 23rd at BCCHS.

Meeting adjourned by Dr. Todd Stagner at 8:08 p.m.

Submitted by, *Gloria O. Wiskerson*