

BATTLE CREEK BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
January 12, 2015
Board Room – Miller Stone Building

PRESENT - BOARD OF EDUCATION

Todd Stagner
Art McClenney
Scott Cubberly
Kellie Thomas
Karen Evans
Catherine LaValley
Nathan Grajek

Present – Administration

Dr. Linda Hicks – Superintendent

Stephen Sestina – Director of Human Resources

Kim Parker-DeVauld – Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Monique Wells – Director of Student Services

Marilyn Wieschowski – Executive Director of Financial Services

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Todd Stagner at 6:30 p.m. All board members were present. Approximately six citizens were in attendance including school personnel.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Karen Evans made a motion to accept the Agenda as is. The motion was supported by Catherine LaValley.

Motion approved 7 – 0

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Scott Cubberly made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as is. The motion was supported by Karen Evans.

Motion approved 7 – 0

NEW BUSINESS

RFP for Legal Services

Dr. Hicks discussed the RFP for Legal Services. Scott Cubberly asked about how the district would get the word out and Dr. Hicks stated that they would use the district website and the Battle Creek Enquirer same as with other RFPs.

Karen Evans made a motion to accept the RFP for Legal Services as is. The motion was supported by Kellie Thomas.

Motion approved 7 – 0

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING BUSINESS

Appointment of Board Officers

Todd Stagner as President
Art McClenney as Vice President
Scott Cubberly as Secretary
Kellie Thomas as Treasurer.

Catherine LaValley made a motion to approve the appointment of Board Officers. The motion was supported by Karen Evans.

Motion approved 7 – 0

Board of Education Committee Assignments

Student Achievement – Scott Cubberly, Karen Evans & Catherine LaValley
Alternate – Todd Stagner
Finance and Physical Resource Committee – Kellie Thomas, Art McClenney & Catherine LaValley
Alternate – Todd Stagner
Board of Education Foundation – Karen Evans and Scott Cubberly
Board Policy Committee – Karen Evans, Art McClenney, Nathan Grajek
Calhoun Area School Board Members Association – Art McClenney & Nathan Grajek
Carson Scholars Committee – Karen Evans *Alternate – Todd Stagner*
Promise Zone Advisory Board – Karen Evans
Student Reinstatement Committee – Kellie Thomas, Nathan Grajek
Alternate – Todd Stagner

Karen Evans stated that in the past there have been three members and one alternate on the Student Reinstatement Committee. Nathan Grajek asked why three were needed. Kellie Thomas explained that there can be quite a few reinstatements so they rotate board members to lighten the load. Catherine LaValley volunteered to join the Student Reinstatement Committee.

Art McClenney made a motion to approve the appointment of committee members. The motion was supported by Catherine LaValley.

Motion approved 7 – 0

School Assignments

Todd Stagner – Battle Creek Central & Coburn
Art McClenney - Northwestern & Urbandale
Scott Cubberly - Fremont & Verona
Kellie Thomas - Dudley & Post Franklin
Karen Evans – LaMora Park & Outdoor Education Center
Catherine LaValley – Battle Creek Area Math and Science Center & Valley View
Nathan Grajek – Ann J Kellogg & Springfield Middle School

Scott Cubberly made a motion to approve the school assignments. The motion was supported by Kellie Thomas.

Motion approved 7 – 0

Board Governance

- The Board utilizes the Robert Rules of Orders for their meetings.
- Norms
 - Norms are posted on the table at all meetings. Catherine LaValley commented that she appreciates the norms being posted but would like to have a discussion regarding Norm #3- Setting an ending time for meetings. Scott Cubberly suggested that #3 be eliminated from the Norms since an end time has never been set. Nathan Grajek moved that Norm #3 be replaced and read, “Be respectful of everyone’s time.” Catherine LaValley supported the motion for discussion. Karen Evans would like to make sure that everyone feels comfortable discussing things for as long as needed. Art McClenney questioned why changing something that has not been an issue. He was concerned that people may have differing definitions of the terms “being respectful of time.” Dr. Hicks cautioned against having something stated that is not actually being done. Nathan Grajek stated that he stands by his suggestion because he would like for words to count.

Nathan Grajek made a motion to change the wording in Norm #3 to “Be respectful of everyone’s time”. The motion was supported by Catherine LaValley.

Motion was not approved 2-5

Scott Cubberly made a motion to strike #3 from the Norms. The motion was supported by Kellie Thomas.

Motion approved 7-0

Board Meeting Calendar

The Board Meetings will continue to be on the third Monday of the month. The new calendar extended the previous calendar from July to December of 2015. There will be a retreat on Saturday, January 31, 2015 at Miller Stone from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Kellie Thomas made motion to approve the Board Meeting Calendar, motion was supported by Catherine LaValley.

Motion approved 7-0

Consideration to Approve the Legal Name of Battle Creek Public Schools

Dr. Hicks explained to the board that it is unclear what the actual legal name of the district is. At one point it was known as the School District of the City of Battle Creek. They have looked into when a name change to Battle Creek Public Schools took place but were unable to find any documentation. The district attorney from Thrun advised the district to approve the legal name of the district as Battle Creek Public Schools. Scott Cubberly asked about the millage and ballots; will the change affect the millage voting. Dr. Hicks explained that the legal name issue is slowing down a particular grant process. Karen Evans believes one name is best and Battle Creek Public Schools should be the legal name. Art McClenney suggested possibly some legal change during the merging of Springfield Schools and Battle Creek Public. Dr. Hicks stated that there may have been but they have been unable to locate any documentation and even the Calhoun Intermediate School District had searched. Art McClenney questioned the district lawyer about the possibility of any negative impact to the name change. The lawyer said that he checked with the financial representative at their office who has worked with the district in the past and there is no impact.

Scott Cubberly made a motion that the district be hereby recognized and called Battle Creek Public Schools. The motion was supported by Catherine LaValley.

Motion approved 7-0

Public Comments

Karolyn Ferguson spoke about the Hall of Fame Ceremony at Battle Creek Central Commons.

Superintendent Comments

Dr. Linda Hicks reported:

- Gave a copy of the weekly report that Gwenn Dangerfield gives to her staff. She gave kudos to the thoroughness of the information contained on her weekly notes.
- Commended Stacy Helmboldt and her staff for their efforts toward having the boot installed at Coburn Elementary. The staff went on a mission to find resources and were able through an "Adopt-A-Door" fundraising effort to cover the expense of the equipment and installation.
- Commended Sarah Scott for her collaboration with the Burma Center as noted in the Battle Creek Enquirer.
- Spoke of the incredible article in the newspaper regarding BC Central graduate Jackee Aaron Moss.
- Commended Ka-Leah Ryan that scored 40 points in a basketball game against Pennfield. She has broken the school record.
- Bills for the month of December 2014 had some questions by a board member. The response to those questions was given in writing to the entire board.

Board Member Comments

Karen Evans-Karen stated that she would like to see more attendance from the district at the NPC meetings. She asked the board if they would like to donate funds to put an ad into the Hall of Fame program booklet.

Catherine LaValley-Catherine stated that she really enjoyed the Christmas programs. She also stated that she is looking forward to the Follies.

Scott Cubberly-Scott welcomed and thanked new and returning board members.

Art McClenney-Art stated that he attended the CASMBA meeting with Nathan Grajek.

Todd Stagner-Todd commented on how great the Follies was this year.

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting was went into closed session at 7:42 p.m. pursuant to subsection 8 (e) of the Open Meeting Act to Discuss Attorney Client Privileged Information.

OPEN SESSION

The board approved Case number 011215-1.

Art McClenney made a motion to approve Case Number 011215-1. The motion was supported by Catherine LaValley.

Motion approved 7-0

The board approved Case Number 011215-2.

Scott Cubberly made a motion to approve Case Number 011215-2. The motion was supported by Catherine LaValley.

Motion approved 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.