

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
December 14, 2020

Meeting held electronically pursuant to Executive Order 2020-15
Zoom identification number Meeting ID: 868 6339 1938
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT – BOARD OF EDUCATION

Karen Evans
Catherine LaValley
Kyra Wallace
Charlie Fulbright
Jackie Slaby
Patty Poole-Gray
Art McClenney

Present – Administration

Kim Carter – Superintendent
Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education
Deborah Nuzzi, Director, Secondary Education
Anita Harvey – Director, District Transformation
Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services
Mitch Fowler – Director, School Data Systems & Innovations
Nathan Hunt – Communications Manager
Laura Ash – Executive Director
Cheryl Johnson – Chief Executive Officer, Human Resources
Wes Seeley – Director of Grant, Federal Programs and Adult Education
Charles Lipsey – Director, Facilities and Operations

Absent – Administration

Jeff English – Executive Director

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Evans at 5:34p.m. Karen Evans, Catherine LaValley, Kyra Wallace, Patty Poole-Gray, Art McClenney, Charlie Fulbright and Jackie Slaby were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the Agenda as written.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 - 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Superintendent Kim Carter read the following:

Good evening BCPS families,

We are so excited that you are joining us tonight for our virtual Board of Education meeting. While the last ten months have been difficult as we have all continued to learn and adjust to new norms, we have seen some good come from this as well. One positive result we can celebrate is that our school board meetings have been better attended recently than ever before since we've begun holding them virtually and streaming them live on Facebook. While we are thrilled to see so many newly engaged families and community members tuning in, we must also acknowledge that, amid this exciting change, we have not adjusted quickly enough to allow for equitable access for our families who do not speak English as their first language.

According to our district Equity Imperative, "Because we see the value in and respect all cultures in our community, we will disrupt the inequities that exist within our system." At times, living by our Equity Imperative means learning where we still have room to grow and continuing to improve. So we would like to thank those who have pushed for improved language access for our BCPS board meetings and other virtual community events. Tonight we wanted to update you to let you know that, while we do not have a solution in place yet tonight, we hear you and we are currently working with various community members and organizations to solidify the details of a plan to be able to bring improved language accessibility to these events in the near future.

President Karen Evans read the Public Comments aloud.

Rebeca

Cuándo hagan sus en vivos en Facebook, podrán poner traductor para saber de que están hablando, yo tengo hijos en las escuelas públicas y también quiero saber qué pasa con las escuelas del distrito

When they do their live on Facebook, they can put a translator to know what they are talking about, I have children in public schools and I also want to know what happens with the district schools

Elisangela Diaz-Andrade

63 Everett Ave, Battle Creek MI 49037

We need Spanish translated but please someone who knows very well Spanish

269-419-4977

Maria Rojas

Español

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the Consent Agenda items.

- A. Trust Fund/Comerica (Written only)
- B. Minutes of the Work Session on November 9, 2020, Special Meeting on November 18, 2020 and Regular Meeting on November 23, 2020
- C. Bills for the Month of November 2020
- D. Personnel Changes and Recognition of Retirees
- E. Membership Report
- F. Finance Report

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

NEWSELA Social Studies Supplemental Virtual Support

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi discussed the NEWSELA digital literacy resource for our 6-12 students. It provides high literacy articles, current events and amazing articles for students to read. It was first used during the COVID shutdown and we were able to identify some digital gaps in our 6-12 content this resource could provide.

Dr. Nuzzi reported the full suite allows teachers to assign articles directly aligned to students' lexile reading level and assess students' understanding.

Dr. Nuzzi reported that Michigan just recently adopted Social Studies standards. We haven't had the opportunity to write curriculum and this is on the docket to do that with teachers in the Summer of 2021. It is important that we have an online resource to use with our students until then and NEWSELA provides that.

Dr. Nuzzi indicated we can purchase NEWSELA for our 6-12 Social Studies teachers for one year at a cost of \$14,400.00. This resource would be used for Springfield Middle School, Northwestern Middle School, BC STEM and Battle Creek Central High School and because we are purchasing the program for that many schools, we would receive a free subscription for WK Kellogg Preparatory High School. The funding for this purchase would come from the WK Kellogg Grant Funds.

Vice President Catherine LaValley thanked Dr. Nuzzi for this information and inquired if the cost is for each building or one subscription. Dr. Nuzzi advised the cost is for the totality of the subscriptions for all buildings with 6-12 students.

Trustee Jackie Slaby asked when we first used the program, in the first shutdown, were we able to vet the content to make sure it doesn't have inappropriate content like the Virtual Academy did. Dr. Nuzzi said we have not been able to vet every single piece of content, noting there are hundreds of thousands, but we have checked with many people and NEWSLA comes highly recommended. We have not found any issues around it.

Trustee Slaby asked what the process to vet looks like. Dr. Nuzzi advised we look at the script, check with other Districts, check the website where other Districts post their experience; we gather as much information as we can. There is not a specific process, but we look to see if there is anything we find that is not acceptable. Dr. Nuzzi advised NEWSLA has been around for quite sometime and she has personally used it in the past.

Trustee Slaby said she appreciates that information and asked when teacher assigns articles or materials to the class, are they reviewing the material to confirm it is appropriate content before sending it out. Dr. Nuzzi said it is our expectation that when teachers assign anything to students, they have checked it out before. That is our expectation and responsibility. She indicated we can review that again with our teachers.

Trustee Slaby said with a one-year license to NEWSLA, is the plan this would only be used for one year until we can review our Social Studies curriculum. Dr. Nuzzi said that is correct, it would be used to fill a gap identified for right now. Trustee Slaby asked if new curriculum would include community input and feedback and Dr. Nuzzi indicated it would.

Region 6 Candidate Nomination

Trustee Jackie Slaby discussed an open seat on the Michigan Association of School Board (MASB) Board of Directors to help advocate on behalf of Districts and families to the Michigan State Legislature regarding legislation related to school and students and also leverage MASB for School Board trainings.

Trustee Slaby believes the MASB Board of Directors has 22 positions filled by School Board Members across the State. Our region has 1-2 seats open and she interested in running for one of the open seats to represent BCPS because she believes in the work we are doing as strong leaders of equitable education and she feels it is important to have someone on the MASB Board to lead in those efforts.

Trustee Slaby asked if Vice President Catherine LaValley wanted to add anything.

Vice President Catherine LaValley said she has always been interested in having someone on our Board be involved in the MASB Board of Directors for Region 6. She said it is exciting to have a candidate we all know who is interested in being nominated.

President Karen Evans asked if there were any other candidates running. It was mentioned that Kathleen Moore may be, it was unknown if her term is up this year or if she is running again. Vice President Catherine LaValley believes she is the Presidential elect for MASB.

Secretary Kyra Wallace asked Trustee Slaby what the term limit for the MASB Board of Directors is. Trustee Slaby said 1-2 years.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright inquired about the next step. Trustee Slaby said the BCPS Board has to vote to nominate her a candidate for MASB consideration and then after that, she can start to campaign for the election to be sometime in March or the Spring. This is not supposed to use any funds from the District to support or fund her campaign, she is only seeking nomination, and once considered, if nominated, she has to hit the ground running on the campaign.

Vice President Catherine LaValley added the nomination is due in January and the new responsibilities come with great pride and leadership. Trustee Jackie Slaby stated again she really believes in equitable leaders and she would really like to work with various school districts to listen to their concerns about inequities facing their District and advocate on behalf of the Districts to the State Legislature. Trustee Slaby said she wanted to make it clear to the community if she were to run and win a seat on the MASB Board of Directors, she will still be serving on the BCPS Board of Education and would hold both positions.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright reported he did a quick lookup about the MASB Board of Directors and the terms are for 3-years, Region 6 has 1 seat available and the nominations are due by Wednesday, January 13th.

District-wide Professional Development Advisory Board

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi discussed there are new provisions requiring all public schools to choose individuals to serve on a Professional Development Advisory Committee. This new Advisory Board shall recommend at least 8 hours of annual professional development. The Advisory Committee must be composed of teachers employed by the district who represent a variety of grades and subject matter specializations, including special education, non-teaching staff, parents and administrators. The majority membership shall be composed of teaching staff.

The Advisory Committee list as provided in the Board Packet is as follows:

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi, Facilitator

Teaching Staff Members

Mr. Anthony Pennock, BCEA Union President and Special Education Teacher
Mrs. Catherine Bieberich, EL Teacher
Mrs. Kelly Blanchard, Elementary Teacher
Mrs. Dianne Smith, MS Special Education Teacher
Mr. Christopher Momcilovich, HS Band Director and Music Department Lead

Administrative Staff Members

Mrs. Deborah Linden, Elementary
Mrs. TaShaune Harden, Middle School
Mrs. Toni McClenney, High School

Non-teaching Staff Members

Mrs. Melissa Butler, CIS Coordinator (Verona)
Mrs. Sui Thluai, Burmese-American Liaison

Parent Members

Mrs. Brenda Thomas, Springfield Middle School
Ms. Rane Trammell, STEM Innovation Center – Virtual Academy

Dr. Nuzzi reported this is still a committee in the formation and advised there were a couple of people who said they wanted to be involved but had to step down for other reasons.

Two additional members to the Advisory Board are:

Zach Flora, Elementary Resilience Coach
Mrs. Christine Solar, Valley View Parent

Dr. Nuzzi will send an updated list of those on the Advisory Board once everyone has been seated.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked how often the Advisory Board will meet. Dr. Nuzzi said it is not yet in the log, but they plan to meet 4 times per year and then if they need to more than that, they will add more meetings. They had their first meeting last week and it was really excellent and she appreciated the voice of all those in different roles.

Secretary Kyra Wallace asked how many more roles need to be filled. Dr. Nuzzi said the majority of the roles have been filled but we need 3 additional teachers.

Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan (Reconfirmation)

Superintendent Kim Carter presented the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan as follows:

- Public Act 149, Section 98a

Statute

Sec. 98a(1)(c) Thirty days after the approval of the plan under subsection (2), and every 30 days thereafter, the district must, at a meeting of the board or board of directors, as applicable, of the district, reconfirm how instruction is going to be delivered during the 2020-2021 school year. Public comment must be solicited from the parents or legal guardians of the pupils enrolled in the district during a meeting described in this subdivision.

- Reconfirmation Meetings
 - Held every 30 days with school board after approval of the Extended Plan by ISD
 - Purpose is to reconfirm how instruction is going to be delivered during the 20/21 school year
 - Solicit public comment on how instruction is going to be delivered
 - Publicly announce weekly 2-way interaction rates at the meeting and post to transparency reporting link

- 2-Way Interaction Reporting Data – November

Superintendent Carter reported we had 93% interaction the week of 10/28-11/3 and 71% interaction the week of 11/25-12/01. She advised we are working with our community partners, Bearcat Coaches, and CIS to engage students on a regular basis, noting our goal for interaction is 100%.

- In-person Learning Challenges

- While county health officials have shared with us that our efforts to mitigate spread in our schools have been successful this year, we have felt the effects of community spread operationally.
- The high number of students and staff who have needed to quarantine away from school and work due to exposure in the community was placing significant strain on school operations.
- Since the start of the school year, more than 250 staff members have had to miss anywhere from 2 to 14+ days due to quarantine requirements and/or other COVID-related situations such as awaiting test results.
- Since moving to district-wide remote learning on November 23rd, community spread has continued to impact our school community, with 12 additional cases, 5 of which may have led to elementary classroom and staff quarantines if we were in-person at this time.

- Emergency Order Extension

- In a new Emergency Order under the Michigan Public Health Code (MCL 333.2253), MDHHS Director Robert Gordon extended the order limiting gatherings in the State of Michigan until Sunday, December 20 at 11:59 PM.
- According to the extended order, until December 20:
 - In-person instruction for 9-12 graders is suspended with the exception of special education (to age 26), English language learners or CTE programs that cannot be done virtually
 - K-12 athletics (practice and competition) and extra-curricular activities are suspended
 - PreK-8 in-person instruction is permitted at the discretion of the local district and health department

- Buildings may be used for basic services such as:
 - Food distribution
 - Internet facilitation for students
 - Health care/mental health services
 - Child care
 - CTE if programs cannot be offered virtually
- GSRP and early childhood education is still permitted
- Slowing the Spread for a Return to In-Person Learning
 - As with the previous three-week order, we've been told that data will continuously be evaluated, so these restrictions may continue longer or may not.
 - Gov. Whitmer shared that reopening will be based on three metrics:
 - Percentage of hospital beds with COVID patients
 - Number of COVID-19 cases
 - The positivity rate
 - With improvements in those numbers in context, MDHHS will reopen some sectors of the economy, with in-person learning at high schools as a priority.
 - As we work to slow the spread of COVID-19, we ask that members of our community continue to do their part to help out by wearing masks, washing hands thoroughly and frequently, avoiding crowds, and following social distancing guidelines.
- Recommendations

In response to continued community spread of COVID-19 in Calhoun County, we recommend keeping all grade levels pre-K-12 and Adult Education in remote instruction at this time with exceptions as follows:

- We recommend small group EL and IEP instruction continue with an in-person option, following proper health and safety measures.
- GED/HiSET and TABE testing for Adult Education students continue with an in-person option, following proper health and safety measures.
- All in-person activities for athletics and extracurriculars for all grade levels are postponed as identified under the current Emergency Order from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Recommendations for a return to in-person instruction are:

- Grades Pre-K–5 and Adult Education return to in-person instruction on Monday, Jan. 18.
- Grades 6–12 to move to a hybrid model of in-person instruction on Monday, Jan. 25.
- Timing is guided by the semester schedule and CCPHD recommendation of a two-week lag time after holiday breaks. We will continue to review the feasibility of these return dates with the School Board during recertification every 30 days.
- Virtual Academy will continue being offered as an option for families. To help us prepare for a safe and smooth return to school buildings, families will be contacted during the weeks leading up to transition back to in-person instruction to select the preferred learning setting for their students. (i.e. switching from virtual to in-person or vice versa).

Superintendent Carter shared the local Superintendents have a weekly meeting with the Calhoun County Health Department and the numbers are declining, but we are not yet where we want to be.

President Karen Evans asked if there was any discussion.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked about the Great Start Program and wanted to confirm they are not going to be able to meet, due to the County recommendations, until January 18th. Superintendent Carter confirmed that was correct.

Trustee Jackie Slaby discussed we know the importance of providing in-person learning due to parents having to work and not being able to find childcare. With the decline of the interaction rate, have we looked at working with our community groups and other organizations to help provide supports to our families. Superintendent Carter advised we are working with our Bearcat Coaches, our community and sub-groups are being brought together. We are meeting with faith based organizations and other grassroots organizations to determine how they can support us in increasing engagement.

Trustee Slaby asked if we know the breakdown in the interaction rate as far as Elementary versus High School, English-speaking households versus non-English-speaking households. Superintendent Carter indicated she would have to lean on Mitch Fowler to look at the school and racial ethnicity issues, but she believes our lowest engagement is at the Secondary level, although we have had issues in a couple of the Elementary buildings. Mitch Fowler reported at this point, he has quickly available information at the building levels. He noted we have only been in remote learning for a couple of weeks at the Elementary level so the rates are quite high. Mitch indicated it wouldn't take much work to break the information down further, we just need to put out a timeline for data analysis.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan (Reconfirmation)

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan as presented.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

Annual Fire Inspection RFP

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the Annual Fire Inspection RFP in the amount of \$12,767.00 using funds from the General Fund.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

President Karen Evans asked if there was any discussion.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked to confirm this is a 3-year agreement. Charles Lipsey confirmed that was correct.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

WK Kellogg Auditorium Lighting Controls

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the WK Kellogg Auditorium Lighting Controls in the amount of \$178,996.73 using funds from the WK Kellogg Foundation Grant.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

President Karen Evans asked if there was any discussion.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked if the equipment was covered under a 1-year warranty and Laura Ash confirmed that was correct.

Vice President Catherine LaValley inquired how many bids were received. Laura Ash advised 35 bids were sent to local vendors and 5 were received back.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

NEWSELA Social Studies Supplemental Virtual Support

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the NEWSELA Social Studies Supplemental Virtual Support in the amount of \$14,400.00 using funds from the WK Kellogg Foundation Grant.

Treasurer Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

District-wide Professional Development Advisory Board Approval

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the District-wide Professional Development Advisory Board as presented.

Secretary Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

President Karen Evans asked if there was any discussion.

Trustee Jackie Slaby inquired if there was a Special Education Teacher on the Advisory Board. Vice President Catherine LaValley indicated there was one named in the document provided in the Board Packet.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

Middle School Bond Renovation Project Approval

Superintendent Kim Carter made the following recommendation regarding the Middle School Bond Renovation Project:

- As we continue to make progress towards our overall goal to provide every BCPS student with an excellent education, community feedback and enrollment data has revealed an urgent need to transform the middle school experience for students while also providing students with improved facilities in which to learn. Our community has called for change in our middle schools, and they have been right to do so. Academic results and the student experience have fallen short of the excellence we strive to achieve — and as a district, we are committed to doing better for all of our students and families.

The decision to transform our middle school student experience was informed by a recognition that the last few years of efforts toward meaningful improvement have not had a significant enough impact on the challenges that our schools continue to face. We are acutely aware that piecemeal work is not our path toward a future of academic excellence. Surveys, focus groups and other discussions with current BCPS families as well as others who have chosen other districts over the past three years have informed our realization that in the absence of significant change, our overall district transformation is placed at risk. Simply put, our ability to disrupt the patterns of out migration occurring at the middle school level begins with the transformation of Northwestern Middle School and investment in improved facilities at Springfield middle. A large body of research over the past century has consistently found that school facilities impact teaching and learning in profound ways and further confirm that the benefits of such investments often surpass the initial fiscal costs.

There are many initiatives in process throughout the city of Battle Creek and it is important to understand that regardless of how these initiatives progress, BCPS will continue to strive for change and improved outcomes for our students and families. I want to be clear that the important work of transforming our middle school experiences which lies ahead of us is not tied to any particular community initiative; those decisions will be made by, with and from the community. However, we know that the success of our community is directly tied to the success of our schools and we want to see both flourish. Regardless of the path our community chooses, we believe that we have the responsibility to create an improved experience for the students we serve. It is important to note that we see our proposed transformation at the middle school level is the next vital step in our district's transformation, not the final step — we know there will still be work to do and we look forward to what the future holds for this district as we continue on our path to success.

And so in light of these understandings, the Battle Creek Public Schools administrative team recommends that The Board of Education authorize the execution of a bond transaction in 2021 to include facilities improvements for Springfield Middle School and Northwestern Middle School and the redesign of NWMS into a K-8 Visual and Performing Arts academy.

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to approve the Administrative Team start the process for the Middle School Transformation / Bond Renovation Project.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

President Karen Evans asked if there was any discussion.

Vice President Catherine LaValley asked that Superintendent Carter send the Memorandum she read to the Board. Superintendent Carter indicated she would.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6 – 1

Region 6 Candidate Approval

Motion by Vice President Catherine LaValley to nominate Trustee Jacqueline Slaby for the open position on the Region 6 Michigan Association of School Board (MASB) Board of Directors.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

President Karen Evans asked if there was any discussion.

Trustee Art McClenney inquired if this position requires the nominee be a Board Member. Trustee Jackie Slaby said it does and that it is a 3-year term. Trustee Charlie Fulbright confirmed that. Trustee McClenney asked when Trustee Slaby's Board term is up and she said 2 more years. It was clarified that Trustee Slaby would not be running against her Lakeview counterpart, the seat Trustee Slaby seeks is an open seat.

Vice President Catherine LaValley discussed the Legislative Advocacy position for the BCPS School Board and inquired if Trustee Slaby were successful in being elected to the Region 6 position, would she still be willing to be the Legislative Advocate for our Board. Trustee Slaby indicated she is open to serving.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright commented he has been taking a lot of CBA classes through the MASB and he is excited that one of our own wants to try and be on their Board of Directors, he is super excited for Trustee Slaby.

Secretary Kyra Wallace asked to go back for a moment to clarify that, even if Trustee Slaby doesn't win the Region 6 seat, that she is still willing to service as the Legislative Advocate for our Board. Trustee Slaby indicated yes, she would consider that.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 6 – 0

DISCUSSION

Board Retirement Acknowledgement

Superintendent Kim Carter began by saying on behalf of the staff, students and community at large, she wanted to thank President Karen Evans for the years of service she have given BCPS. We are so grateful for the immeasurable work she has done over the last 15 years cannot thank her enough. Superintendent Carter shared President Evans' dedication is essential to the work we do and we would not have made it this far without her; her positive energy, hope and advocacy will be missed but she knows President Evans will not be far away. Superintendent Carter thanked President Evans again for being selfless and for having made a priceless impact. She noted that volunteers don't ask for a reward, so she hopes President Evans knows she has our sincerest appreciation.

Superintendent Carter said as a token of our appreciation and for President Evans being a BCPS Hero, she wanted to virtually present her with an MASB Certificate which read:

Certificate of Achievement

This Certificate is presented to President Karen Evans for Completion of 15 Years of Dedicated Service on the BCPS Board of Education (2005-2020) and 2 terms as BCPS Board President (2011-2013 and 2018-2020).

Completion Date – December 31, 2020

Signed by the MASB President and Executive Director

Superintendent Carter said on behalf of the BCPS Board of Education and BCPS Administration, she wanted to present President Karen Evans with a beautiful clock to sit on her mantle and remember us. Superintendent Carter read the inscription on the clock:

*With appreciation for your dedicated service and commitment
to all of the children at Battle Creek Public Schools*

*Karen Evans
Board of Education
2005 – 2020*

*President
2011 – 2013
2018 – 2020*

Superintendent Carter reported we had a video to share. The video created by Trustee Charlie Fulbright titled “Thank You for Being a Friend” with photos of President Karen Evans over the years and the title song was played. And video to show.

President Karen Evans thanked everyone, indicating this was very very sweet, and said she would like to give a couple words of advice:

Back in 2005 when she decided to run for the first time, she reached out to her lifelong family friend, Dr. Sally Turner, who was on Board when she (President Evans) was in school. She asked Dr. Turner for advice and the advice she was given was to take advantage of the training. This is something she has done for the last 15 years and she worked up to the top Presidential level, which she just finished. President Evans said training is essential and reported the MASB classes change, so don't be afraid to take them and repeat them. She shared that she has never taken a class that she did not come out of without a wealth of knowledge.

President Evans shared the other thing we do a pretty good job at is always, always, always and always keep students first when making decisions. She said every decision should be for the students. She also advised to listen to hear, not just listen to be heard, noting we don't do this real good all the time; a lot of people listen to come up with something to say. She recommended listening to what Superintendent Carter and her Executive Team say, they have a wealth of knowledge and they put a ton of work into the monthly recommendations to the Board. She reminded the Board to stay at the balcony view, their job is not to get down into the weeds, they don't get paid to do that, their job is to do governance work and they are a team of 8 people, 7 Board Members plus the Superintendent, who are meant to be a Team and not 8 individuals.

President Evans closed by saying that is all the advice she has and thank you very much for everything.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Carter indicated we had one more presentation for President Karen Evans.

Amy Cherry from the Outdoor Education Center (OEC) and Screech the owl thanked President Evans for her support of the OEC all these years, which has been instrumental for OEC and all BCPS students. Amy shared that she appreciated President Evans support and coming out to talk walk with her and getting through lots of different things. She told President Evans we are not done with her yet, she will have lots of time on her hands now.

President Karen Evans thanked Amy Cherry and Screech and said she really appreciates her and the new coffee cup she received to keep her energized.

Superintendent Kim Carter thanked President Evans and all BCPS staff who have worked tirelessly through a pandemic to provide students with the best education. She noted everyone has been so resilient, reflective and flexible and has responded to change in ways not expected. She is honored to work with a District where everyone sees the need for change and engages in a way to make it happen.

Superintendent Carter thanked the Board of Education and said she looks forward to a great New Year.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Secretary Kyra Wallace wished Happy Holidays to everyone.

Trustee Art McClenney told President Karen Evans it has been great being on the Board with her; he has grown since first coming on the Board and has enjoyed attending convention classes with her and their phone conversations. Trustee McClenney told President Evans their phone conversations are not over so she can still expect to hear from him for advice; he really enjoyed having Karen as President and really appreciated when she helped him when he served as President.

Trustee McClenney wished Happy Holidays to the staff and everyone and said to be safe.

Trustee Jackie Slaby shared she reached out to Lisa Hubbard from Harper Creek about the combined District meetings are going to be revamped in the New Year. She and Secretary Kyra Wallace represent BCPS in these meetings.

Trustee Slaby inquired how we are conducting teacher evaluations that are due to begin and she asked for an email to the Board from Superintendent Carter explaining how that will roll out. Trustee Slaby wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Vice President Catherine LaValley wished President Karen Evans the very best. She commented President Evans was an Amazing President, which she knows is not an easy job. Trustee LaValley said she has learned to be a better Board Member by President Evans' example and her attendance at the MASB classes. She has admired President Evans' ability to be organized and help the Board with advice; it was a joy to be a Trustee at her side. We will keep her busy with the Bond Committee.

Trustee Charlie Fulbright said he forgot to mention during the talk about the Bond that he loves the Arts. When he first heard about the plans for NWMS, he was ecstatic about it because he grew up in the Performing Arts; sports were not his thing and he thinks Art is a great way to promote healthy relationships, creativity, emotions and social growth. He thinks the Arts are often overlooked and neglected and this proposal has him hopeful.

Trustee Fulbright welcomed all emails and feedback from the community with input and he stated that all Board Members emails are on the BCPS website and the community shouldn't hesitate to email the Board anytime.

Trustee Fulbright shared with President Karen Evans that when he was appointed to the Board 2 years ago, he had no clue what he was getting into. She helped him, met with him and assisted with his many questions and shaped him for who he is today; she showed him the importance of the MASB classes and it stinks that he only got 2 years with her. Trustee Fulbright said he still considers himself a newbie and he looks to her as someone to strive to be. Trustee Fulbright thanked President Evans for all she's done.

President Evans said for her final time, meeting adjourned. She thanked everyone for their time and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Submitted by
Patti Worden

Kyra Wallace
Board Secretary