

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Work Session

March 14, 2022

**Board Room at the Administration Building, 3 West Van Buren Street, Battle Creek, MI
5:30 p.m.**

PRESENT – BOARD OF EDUCATION

Catherine LaValley

Kyra Wallace

Patty Poole-Gray

Charlie Fulbright

Jacqueline Slaby

Art McClenney

Absent

Nathan Grajek

Present – Administration

Kim Carter – Superintendent

Mitch Fowler – Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Rhonda Potts - Executive Director

Dr. Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education

Dr. Anita Harvey, Director, District Transformation

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi – Director, Special Programming & Literacy Services

Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services

Robin Beyer, Acting HR Director

Nathan Hunt, Communications Manager

Wes Seeley – Director of Grant, Federal Programs and Adult Education

Absent

Jeff English – Senior Executive Director, Business Operations

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President LaValley at 5:30pm. Catherine LaValley, Kyra Wallace, Patty Poole-Gray, Charlie Fulbright, Jacqueline Slaby and Art McClenney were present.

President LaValley read the BCPS Mission Statement.

There was a Virtual Introduction of the Voces Interpreters for tonight's meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Agenda as presented.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Catherine LaValley discussed the Public Comments process noting the Board does not answer any questions asked tonight, but instead someone from Administration will get back to individuals.

Dynise Anderson

BCCHS Student speaking on behalf of the BCCHS Student Council.

Dynise shared there are 4 Student Council Members from each Grade level and these individuals were elected by the Student Body at BCCHS. She indicated she is super excited they are able to have Student Council this year since they couldn't last year.

Cameron Daniels

BCCHS Junior, also attending BCAMSC

228 Oriole Drive

Battle Creek

269-419-9066

Cameron discussed Noah Hollander not returning as the Head Principal at BCCHS. He thinks it might be due to Mr. Hollander supporting Twilight School. He said there was a consensus at Central about students who were hindering the learning for others and the students were identified by teachers as not being successful in the standard school setting. The students identified as not successful were notified a month in advance that they would be moved to Twilight School where they would have the opportunity for credit recovery and to get back on track to graduate.

Cameron talked about the majority of the students in the Twilight School being African-American males and the related demographics. Cameron shared that removing the students who were not successful in the standard school setting has resulted in the removal of distractions to other students and helped maintain a positive atmosphere. He commented he did not think Principal Hollander had any malicious intent with the Twilight School and was trying to get help for the unsuccessful students. He hopes the Board will reconsider Mr. Hollander's return next year.

Isaiah Willis

BCCHS Junior, also attending BCAMSC

154 East Van Buren

Battle Creek

269-263-9281

Isaiah shared that he was also present tonight to speak on behalf of Principal Hollander. Isaiah commented on how much Principal Hollander values student voice. Isaiah is on Student Advisory and Mr. Hollander works with them to create school activities during the day and after school. He added that students are greeted with a warm welcome every time they enter the building. He feels Mr. Hollander should stay in the position of Head Principal because he is more than just a Principal; he makes real connections with the students, he bonds with them and understands that every student has different needs and he is constantly thinking of different ways to improve the school.

Tristan Jackson
BCCHS Junior, also attending BCAMSC
835 West Michigan Avenue
Battle Creek
269-339-8883

Tristan thanked the Board for allowing him to talk this evening and said he wanted to talk about changes that Mr. Hollander has enforced. Many of the changes were to better the school environment and improve student behavior and truancy. He talked about students who are caught roaming the hallways having to go through a truancy check-in process and being put in suspension to help them become more successful. Mr. Hollander is present in the lunch room and address behavior issues and prevents altercations. He said Mr. Hollander is the best Principal in his opinion and has made him feel welcome at school and like family.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Juul Litigation Resolution & Agreement

Rhonda Potts discussed the Juul Litigation and the District having an opportunity to join a lawsuit regarding vaping.

Attorney Piotr Matusiak from Thrun Law Office and William Shinoff from Frantz Law Group discussed the background of the vaping litigation and the process involved. This is a mass action lawsuit and each school district will have their own case on file.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on March 23, 2022.

2022-2023 Calhoun ISD General Fund Budget

Rhonda Potts discussed the Calhoun ISD General Fund Budget.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on March 23, 2022.

Policy 3211 – Post-Issuance Tax Compliance

Monique Cheeks provided a 1st Reading of Policy 3211 – Post-Issuance Tax Compliance.

There will be a 2nd Reading and the Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on March 23, 2022.

Policy 3212 – Post-Issuance Disclosure Compliance

Monique Cheeks provided a 1st Reading of Policy 3212 – Post-Issuance Disclosure Compliance.

There will be a 2nd Reading and the Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on March 23, 2022.

E-Rate Network Electronics Upgrade

Mitch Fowler discussed the E-Rate Network Electronics Upgrade in the amount of \$240,685.47. \$189,358.06 will be covered by E-Rate leaving \$51,327.41 with the Funding Source of our General Fund.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on March 23, 2022.

Bookworm Vending Machines

Wes Seeley discussed the Bookworm Vending Machines in the amount of \$44,008.00 with the Funding Source being Building Title I Funds.

The Board will vote on this item at the Regular Meeting on March 23, 2022.

Communications Budget Increase

Nathan Hunt discussed the Communications Budget Increase in the amount of \$75,000.00 with the Funding Source of WKKF Grant.

There was discussion about the budget increase and the work being done by outside vendors we have partnered with. Superintendent Carter noted that Fenton assists the District with communications and Burrell provides branding assistance.

Nathan Hunt handles internal communications and external communications crisis work.

DISCUSSION

MASB Board of Education Governance Standards

President Catherine LaValley discussed the MASB Board of Education Governance Standards.

The Board reviewed and discussed Governance Standard number 2, items 2a through 2f.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Communications Budget Increase

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Communications Budget Increase in the amount of \$75,000.00 with the Funding Source being the WKKF Grant.

Trustee Art McClenney supported the Motion.

Motion passed 5 – 1.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Kim Carter congratulated the BCCHS Band for their participation and performance at MSBO. They performed 3 songs and received a Division II Rating, which is the second highest possible. She again congratulated the students on their performance and hopes they continue to grow.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee Art McClenney commented he was glad to see students at the Board Meeting tonight and loved seeing the young men come in and speak during Public Comments to express themselves. He indicated he would love to see students at Board Meetings, along with parents, to find out what is going on instead of guessing.

Trustee McClenney was also happy to see the Facebook Legacy Scholars advertisement about our BCPS students. He said it's an inspiration to those who are here and to get those who have left to return. He mentioned "Mr. Basketball" from 1992 who had twin boys and they along with others saying "Go Bearcats" even though they are not Bearcats. Trustee McClenney indicated it is important to him to see students from the past, the present and the future.

Vice President Kyra Wallace commented she wanted to piggy back on one of the points Trustee McClenney made about students coming and speaking in front of the Board. She, too, appreciated that and also appreciated that Trustee Jacqueline Slaby was working with one of the students and prepping her as an advisor about the Student Council. She said this was positive to see and more importantly seeing the students speak and having positive comments about a staff member. She added that typically when individuals come to speak to the Board, it is for complaints.

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby commented she was really excited to hear from all the students, especially about Student Council. She provided a quick shout out about a possible funding opportunity from \$100.00 to \$1,000.00 based around Global Youth Service Day. For more information, interested individuals can go to the State website, Michigan.gov, and search for Global Youth Service Day. Online applications are due by March 18th. The URL is: research.net/r/2022gysd. April 29th and May 1st are Global Youth Service Days.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright said he wanted to publically show appreciation about the second round of interviews for the Lakeview Superintendent position. He was able to sit in on the interviews and one of BCPS own was in the top 2 spots, Mr. Luke Perry. Trustee Fulbright commented that although it was selfish of him to say, he was glad Mr. Perry didn't get the position and we get to keep him. Trustee Fulbright shared that Mr. Perry did a really good job, he was really proud to listen in on the interview and Mr. Perry represented BCPS very well. He really shined and did BCPS well. Trustee Fulbright congratulated Mr. Perry on a job well done.

President LaValley shared the following:

- She also attended the final interview for the Lakeview Superintendent and was able to hear Mr. Perry speak. He did a remarkable job and really had a lot of things going for him.
- The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony is tomorrow night at 6:00pm at BCCHS.
- Kaijehl Williams finished a successful Wrestling Season on March 5th with a record of 49-7. President LaValley indicated she was proud of his efforts. He is a Junior and she knows he gained a lot of experience this Season and is able to do Wrestling next year.
- She attended a Bond Steering Committee Meeting this afternoon and there will be good news shared with the Board at the Regular Meeting on March 23rd.
- She treated the Valley View Staff with a meal for Parent/Teacher Conferences on March 3rd and March 10th. LaMora Park received chocolate and donuts from Rock & Roll Donuts.
- She attended the Grace Health Student Advisory Council Meeting on March 2nd. They are planning a Summer Health Carnival with the CIS Staff to be held in July and are eager to host this event. This will be the second one and they learned a lot from the first event.

The Grace Health Staff also talked about concerns about vaping. There is an individual from a substance abuse council who serves on the Committee and they spoke about vaping, noting it is not just in the Battle Creek Region. This individual is currently working with 12-year olds who have been vaping and trying to educate them about vaping and the risks. President LaValley noted it is really important to educate people about the dangers of vaping and share this information with students and the Community.

The Health Council is working on mental health referrals and will be doing HIV Testing at the BCCHS Health Center through February and March. Their next meeting will be in August or September. The Committee meets three times per year.

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby shared that Bruce Barney's Visitation is this Friday from 2-5pm at Farley-Estes with masks and social distancing. Donations can be made to BCPS Alumni, Battle Creek Community Foundation or the Humane Society.

ADJOURNMENT

President LaValley adjourned the meeting at 7:01pm.

Submitted by
Patti Worden

Minutes Approved: April 25, 2022


Patty Poole-Gray
Board Secretary