

**BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**March 22, 2021**

**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**

Catherine LaValley  
Kyra Wallace  
Charlie Fulbright  
Patty Poole-Gray  
Jacqueline Slaby  
Nathan Grajek (joined at 6:13pm)

Absent  
Art McClenney

**Present – Administration**

Kim Carter – Superintendent  
Dr. Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education  
Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services  
Mitch Fowler – Director, School Data Systems & Innovations  
Nathan Hunt – Communications Manager  
Cheryl Johnson – Chief Executive Officer, Human Resources  
Rhonda Potts – Executive Director, Business and Finance  
Wes Seeley – Director of Grant, Federal Programs and Adult Education  
Charles Lipsey – Director, Facilities and Operations

**Absent – Administration**

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi, Director, Secondary Education  
Dr. Anita Harvey – Director, District Transformation  
Jeff English – Executive Director

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by President LaValley at 5:36p.m. Catherine LaValley, Kyra Wallace, Charlie Fulbright, Patty Poole-Gray and Jacqueline Slaby were present.

### **REMOTE ATTENDANCE SCRIPT**

As required for compliance with the Open Meetings Act for conducting Electronic Board Meetings, each Board Member read aloud the Remote Attendance Script, as follows:

- *I, Catherine LaValley, am attending this March 22, 2021 Regular Board Meeting remotely.  
I am physically located in Bedford Township, City of Battle Creek, in the State of Michigan.  
I am able to have two-way communication for this Board Meeting.  
Please record this public announcement in the Meeting Minutes.*
  
- *I, Kyra Wallace, am attending this March 22, 2021 Regular Board Meeting remotely.  
I am physically located in the City of Battle Creek, in the State of Michigan.  
I am able to have two-way communication for this Board Meeting.  
Please record this public announcement in the Meeting Minutes.*
  
- *I, Patty Poole-Gray, am attending this March 22, 2021 Regular Board Meeting remotely.  
I am physically located in the City of Battle Creek, in the State of Michigan.  
I am able to have two-way communication for this Board Meeting.  
Please record this public announcement in the Meeting Minutes.*
  
- *I, Charlie Fulbright, am attending this March 22, 2021 Regular Board Meeting remotely.  
I am physically located in the City of Battle Creek, in the State of Michigan.  
I am able to have two-way communication for this Board Meeting.  
Please record this public announcement in the Meeting Minutes.*
  
- *I, Jacqueline Slaby, am attending this March 22, 2021 Regular Board Meeting remotely.  
I am physically located in the City of Battle Creek, in the State of Michigan.  
I am able to have two-way communication for this Board Meeting.  
Please record this public announcement in the Meeting Minutes.*

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the Agenda as written.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 5 - 0**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the Consent Agenda items.

- A. Trust Fund/Comerica (Written only)
- B. Minutes of the Regular Meeting on February 8, 2021 and Regular Meeting on February 22, 2021
- C. Bills for the Month of February 2021
- D. Personnel Changes and Recognition of Retirees
- E. Membership Report
- F. Finance Report

Vice President Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 5 – 0**

## **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### Legislative Advocacy Report

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby discussed the report she prepared which includes information on the following: Active & Upcoming Legislation Highlights, Bill Status Updates, Upcoming Legislative Events, Key Contacts & Resources.

Trustee Slaby discussed Senate Bill 0218 regarding transgender participation in sports. Trustee Slaby would like the Board to discuss this Bill and determine their position on it.

Trustee Slaby will seek clarification on the question of a non-transgender girls or boys playing a sport that is not specified as a girl or boys sport. She will also check on the MASB's position on this topic and report back to the Board on both of these matters.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright indicated he would like to see the Board discuss this topic and even vote on it so the District can send their position to Senator Bizon.

### Summer Programming Report

Superintendent Kim Carter discussed the presentation included in the Board Packet.

It was noted that transportation will be provided for Summer School and that Ann J Kellogg Elementary, Valley View and Post-Franklin Elementary all have air conditioning.

Nathan Grajek joined the meeting at 6:13pm and read the Remote Attendance Script.

- *I, Nathan Grajek, am attending this March 22, 2021 Regular Board Meeting remotely.  
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Please record this announcement in the Meeting Minutes.*

#### Extension of Employee Paid Leave Program

Cheryl Johnson discussed the recommendation included in the Board Packet asking that the Board approve an extension of the Employee Paid Leave Program until June 4, 2021 for COVID-19 related reasons.

#### Discuss Board Meeting Structure for April & May

President Catherine LaValley noted the order to go to in-person meetings is just around the corner and the Board needs to make sure they are prepared for how to handle meetings after March 31, 2021.

She noted several School Boards in our community have begun meeting in-person.

There was discussion about where our Board Meetings would be held since the current Board Room is too small for social distancing. When in-person meetings resume, they will be held in the Miller Stone Building.

There was discussion about air conditioning and ventilation at Miller Stone, handling the management of capacity, and that we will continue sharing Board Meetings on Facebook Live.

#### Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan (Reconfirmation)

Superintendent Kim Carter reported, as required by law, we are reconfirming our Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan for the month of April and she reviewed the presentation.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan (Reconfirmation)

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan (Reconfirmation) as presented.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

Innovative Programming Facilities Branding RFP

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Innovative Programming Facilities Branding RFP in the amount of up to \$60,000.00 for the 2020-2021 Grant Year and up to \$115,000.00 for the 2021-2022 Grant Year with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

There was discussion about having branding in Burmese and Braille.

Superintendent Carter clarified the difference between branding and artwork such as murals and advised that RFPs are sent out locally and nationally using a State approved process.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 4 – 2**

Hulu Digital Advertising

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Hulu Digital Advertising in the amount of \$24,000.00 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 5 – 1**

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

International Center for Leadership in Education – Year 4 Renewal of Rigorous Curriculum Design

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Year 4 Renewal of Rigorous Curriculum Design in the amount of \$40,500.00 with the funding source being the WKKF Grant.

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

E-Rate Building Switch

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the E-Rate Building Switch in the amount of \$441,505.80 with the funding source of the ESSER Grant (\$66,225.97) and 85% Federal E-Rate Funds (\$375,279.84).

Secretary Patty Poole-Gray supported the Motion.

President Catherine LaValley asked to confirm the District will be reimbursed for the 85% Federal E-Rate Funds amount. Mitch Fowler confirmed.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

High School Walk-In Cooler/Freezer

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the High School Walk-In Cooler/Freezer in the amount of \$68,239.61 with the funding source of the Food Service Excess Funds.

Vice President Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

ABM Contract Addendum

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the ABM Contract Addendum in the amount of \$96,521.14 with the funding source of the ESSER Grant Funds.

Vice President Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

Extension of Employee Paid Leave Program

Motion by Vice President Kyra Wallace to approve the Extension of Employee Paid Leave Program as recommended.

Trustee Nathan Grajek supported the Motion.

President Catherine LaValley confirmed the extension is through June 4, 2021.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

Board Meeting Structure for April & May

Motion by President Catherine LaValley to approve a Board Meeting Structure of conducting in-person meetings in May 2021 at Miller Stone following COVID guidelines set out by our County Health Department.

Vice President Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

There was discussion about the Board Meeting Structure for April 2021. It was noted that Calhoun County is still under a State of Emergency at this time and due to the uncertainty of the pandemic in April, President LaValley advised she made the Motion to give guidance to have the ability to come together for in-person face-to-face meetings in May.

There was discussion about the process of what happens in the event there is a new strain of the pandemic in May and the Board decides not to meet in-person; would the Board have to rescind the vote this evening or how would this be handled.

Superintendent Carter recommended the Board consider aligning this with the reconfirmation vote so we take it one month at a time. She indicated the need to put forth a recommendation for April, which the Board would need to vote on because we did not indicate a meeting plan for April.

Trustee Jaqueline Slaby moved to Amend the Current Motion be changed from May 2021 to April 2021 to meet in-person at Miller Stone following COVID guidelines.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

It was noted the Board must first vote on the Amendment to the Current Motion from May to April. The next vote would be to commence in-person meetings beginning in April 2021.

A Roll Call Vote on the Amendment was taken.

**Amendment passed 6 – 0**

President LaValley said the final Motion for approval is to meet in-person at Miller Stone following COVID guidelines for the month of April 2021.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion not passed 0 – 6**

## **SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Superintendent Kim Carter shared the following information:

- She announced the Business Department at BCCHS is sending a scholar to the DECA International Career Development Conference for the first time as a chapter! Fresh off a 2nd place finish at the WMU Sales Challenge, Alaysha Cannon has qualified for this prestigious and highly competitive event with a Top 6 finish at the DECA State Career Development Conference. Alaysha continues to represent the business department in the area of Professional Selling. Alaysha will compete against other state and international winners in April.

Other students who participated in the competition at this year's state conference and helped put BCCHS on the DECA map by making it to the state conference were Kelci Coy, Haylee Farleigh, April Duran, Brandon Perez-Martinez and Gavin McGee.

Congratulations to Alaysha, Kelci, Haylee, April, Brandon and Gavin for participating in this competition. Superintendent Carter commented she is so proud of our students and the educators who support them in this work.

- There is a Staff Town Hall (internal event) on Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30pm where we will share a website that has been developed by the Kellogg Foundation to tell the story of our journey. The website will launch publicly on March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- There will be a Town Hall (public event) about the Middle School Transformation and our request for a Bond initiative on Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:30pm. This event will be live on Facebook.
- Thank you to all the staff and students, we appreciate all the hard work that has been happening. Thank you to the Central Office Team who worked diligently to put together a robust Summer Learning Plan, she sees and appreciates all that you do.

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright thanked Trustee Jacqueline Slaby for the explanation of her No votes, noting he thought the Board could learn from that, and it would be a good practice for the Board to follow because it provides transparency to the community and fellow Board Members as to why a Board Member if voting no.

President Catherine LaValley shared the following:

- She attended the Student Advisory Health Committee Meeting for the Student Health Center on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was a big turnout for their second meeting of the year and it was very informative. This group meets 3 times per year. The Health Center is working hard to be available for students at staff at BCCHS.



- She has a meeting next Tuesday to meet with the new personnel for the Springfield Middle School Health Center. This will be their first meeting.
- She and Superintendent Carter will attend the Career Academies Council Meeting tomorrow morning. This will be a virtual meeting. These meetings are quarterly and provide updates on the Career Academies and the parent committees involved with them.
- She enjoyed a tour of the new BCCHS Health & Human Services Simulation Lab. There are 8 medical mannequins programmed to allow students to practice on assessing their medical issues and how to help patients.
- She enjoyed the LaMora Park and Post-Franklin Spring into Kindergarten presentations, which were well organized and provided important information. Both staffs are excited for their new Kindergarteners. Other site Spring into Kindergarten events will happen before Spring Break.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Catherine LaValley thanked everyone for joining us tonight.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:22pm.

Submitted by  
Patti Worden

Patty Poole-Gray  
Board Secretary