

**BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Work Session**

**May 9, 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 (Arrived at 5:50pm)

Art McClenney

Nathan Grajek (Arrived at 5:46pm)

**Present – Administration**

Kim Carter – Superintendent

Mitch Fowler – Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Jeff English – Senior Executive Director, Business Operations

Rhonda Potts - Executive Director

Robin Beyer, Acting HR Director

Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services

Nathan Hunt, Communications Manager

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

**Absent**

Dr. Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education

Dr. Anita Harvey, Director, District Transformation

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

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by President LaValley at 5:31pm. Catherine LaValley, Kyra Wallace, Patty Poole-Gray, Charlie Fulbright and Art McClenney were present.

President Catherine LaValley advised Trustee Nathan Grajek will be arriving late.

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

President Catherine LaValley read aloud our Mission Statement.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 5 – 0.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

## **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### GVSU Report

Superintendent Kim Carter introduced our GVSU partners, Dr. Jean Nagelkerk and Dr. Kevin Holohan, who discussed the GVSU Program and shared an Updated Presentation.

Trustee Nathan Grajek arrived at 5:46pm.

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby arrived at 5:50pm.

President Catherine LaValley announced the full Board was now present.

### Resolution Opposing “Let MI Kids Learn” Voucher Initiatives

President Catherine LaValley discussed the Resolution.

Superintendent Carter shared this Voucher redirects money from public schools for private education and takes initiatives from the students who need them the most.

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

### Design Services for SMS Furniture

Mitch Fowler discussed the recommendation for the Design Services for Springfield Middle School Furniture. It was recommended the Board approve a Contract with t2designs as the design partners in the amount of \$17,618.00 with the WKKF Grant as the Funding Source.

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

## **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 1, items 1a through 1i.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Administrative Appointment for Assistant Superintendent

Superintendent Carter discussed the recommendation of Dr. Amira Mogaji as the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

Motion by Trustee Art McClenney to approve the appointment of Dr. Amira Mogaji as the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

Vice President Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

**Motion passed 5 – 2.**

### Bi-Lingual Student Summer Kits

Motion by Treasurer Charlie Fulbright to approve the Bi-Lingual Student Summer Kits in the amount of \$41,850.00 with the Funding Source being the Section 41 Grant.

Vice President Kyra Wallace supported the Motion.

**Motion passed 7 – 0.**

## **SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Superintendent Kim Carter shared the following comments:

- She thanked Trustee Jacqueline Slaby, Treasurer Charlie Fulbright and Secretary Patty Poole-Gray for attending the Post-Franklin Playground Dedication last week. This beautiful new playground was made possible through a generous donation from the Byelich & Francisco Families.

- She attended Decision Day at BCCHS Career Academies and each of the 2022 Graduates declared their post-secondary plans. The event included a keynote address from BCCHS Grad and current Howard University Student Sanye Sichinga and a panel discussion with recent Graduates currently attending several colleges throughout Michigan and the country. A special processional by the BCCHS Marching Band led the student body to the WK Kellogg Auditorium for this event.
- She apologized for being unable to attend this event due to an injury, but congratulated Ms. Samples class at BCCHS for completing and printing their own children's books. She noted it warms her heart to see the work of incredible teachers like Ms. Samples, which empowered students to think, dream big and share their love of reading. She thanked all who participated in making this project a success.
- She offered a Huge Congratulations to the Class of 2022 for their upcoming Graduations from BCCHS, WK Prep and the Adult Ed program.
- She shared there are a number of ceremonies and celebrations coming up at our Middle and Elementary Schools throughout the District as we close out the School Year. She encouraged everyone to keep an eye on each school's Facebook page for more details and we will be getting information out as well.
- Another celebration, this past week she attended the BCCHS Spring Concert where she was afforded the opportunity to hear the Orchestra, Choir and Band. It was Amazing.

She invited the Community to join her this Thursday at 6:30pm in the WK Kellogg Auditorium for the BCPS District Music Showcase which will feature performances from 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, NWMS, SMS and BCCHS.

- She shared the District is adopting a new Secondary Spanish Curriculum Resource to provide a foundation for the continuing development of a rigorous and engaging curriculum in our Spanish courses. The resources will be available for in-person review at the BCPS Administration Building, outside of Office 318 (on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor), between May 16<sup>th</sup> and May 25<sup>th</sup> or by visiting our website at [battlecreekpublicschools.org/news](http://battlecreekpublicschools.org/news).

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Trustee Jacqueline Slaby gave a shout out to the Women's Tennis Team who played in the All-City Tournament and the Band who participated in the All-Honors Band. She encouraged listeners to attend these types of events, as well as other upcoming events, to support our students and provide equal representation for athletics and other types of activities.

Vice President Kyra Wallace commented that she hoped the BCPS Staff felt appreciated last week for Staff Appreciation Week. She indicated she was able to briefly visit each of the schools she is assigned to.

Trustee Art McClenney shared the following comments:

- He was able to sit in on a Student Council Meeting and we have some amazing young men and women involved. He discussed the students are waiting for an answer about a volunteer project and asked Trustee Slaby for clarification.

Trustee Slaby reported the students are wanting to get stones painted in front of BCCHS where we have landscaping.

Superintendent Carter indicated we will plan to discuss this project at the Facilities Committee Meeting on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>.

- He gave a shout out to his daughter, Lilly, a Wayne State University Graduate next year who spoke on Decision Day, as well as the other BCCHS Graduates who spoke that day. He said they all did a really good job and were encouraging about college. That excited him because he wants our Graduates to go out and then come back to BCPS.
- He wasn't able to get into BCCHS and WK Prep, the buildings he is assigned to, for Staff Appreciation Week, but he did send donuts and he received thank you emails from the Staff.
- He reminded future Graduates that the Sheriff's Department is hiring. These are good paying jobs with benefits. All that is needed is a High School Diploma. Interested individuals can email him and he will get back to them. Trustee McClenney's email can be found on the Board Page of the BCPS Website.

Treasurer Charlie Fulbright commented that he appreciated his fellow Board Members and the conversation at tonight's meeting, noting he was going to vote a certain way at the start of the New Business topic but because of the conversation that took place, he learned double the information and that really helped him in his decision making.

President Catherine LaValley shared the following:

- She asked if any Board Members would be interested in attending the MASB Spring School Law Virtual Training with Brad Banasik this Thursday from 8:30am to 12:00noon, adding that if no one was interested, she would plan to attend.

Trustee Art McClenney said he will try to attend.

President LaValley will send him the information.


- She enjoyed seeing many smiles and happy faces at Valley View and LaMora Park, the buildings she is assigned to, when she delivered Staff Appreciation Gifts last week. LaMora Park Staff received individual succulent plants with Blue & Gold Ribbons from Plumeria Florist Shop. Valley View Staff received 90 yellow carnations from Horrocks with bright Blue Ribbons. Both buildings received chocolate.
- She attended three virtual Design User Group Meetings for the NWMS Bond Work. Topics discussed were Music Rooms, Dance Rooms and the Auditorium. Parent and Bus Drop Offs were also discussed. She had to leave early from one of the meetings when the New Playground was discussed so she will catch a taping about that discussion. She shared the tapings of the Design Team work are beautiful and viewers can see the discussion that takes place.
- She appreciated that Superintendent Carter talked about Decision Day. She too attended and was pleased that several colleges were represented and all BCCHS Graduates talked about their college experiences. She was impressed that they all shared it is okay to ask for help. It was a well done Decision Day followed by a nice Senior Reception.
- She attended The Jungle Book Play this past Saturday at Fremont International Academy in collaboration with WhatADo Theatre. It was a delightful play with lots of dancing, singing and great action. It was a well-attended event. She was pleased with the mat for the Fremont Gym floor, noting it didn't show dirt or scuff marks and protected the floor from the folding chairs. The Fremont Gym floor will be replaced for the 2022-2023 School Year.
- She appreciated Superintendent Carter mentioning the BCCHS Music Concert this Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. She too is planning to attend.
- She attended a very special Award Ceremony this past Saturday morning at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum where Shayla Ardis received the Congressional Medal of Merit from Congressman Peter Meijer. High School Seniors are recommended by participating High Schools in Congressman Meijer's 3<sup>rd</sup> District. This Award has been given out for the last 30 years. President LaValley read aloud the Recommendation from Ms. Felder as to why Shayla was chosen for this Award.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

President LaValley adjourned the meeting at 7:31pm.

Submitted by  
Patti Worden

Minutes Approved: June 27, 2022

  
Patty Poole-Gray  
Board Secretary