

BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
April 27, 2020

Meeting held electronically pursuant to Executive Order 2020-15
Zoom identification number Meeting ID: 928 4223 6918
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT – BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

Present – Administration

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

MINUTES

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Catherine LaValley made a motion to approve the agenda as written.

Kyra Wallace supported the motion.

Motion passed 7 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Catherine LaValley made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda Items:

- A. Trust Fund/Comerica (Written only)
- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting on March 2, 2020, Work Session on March 9, 2020 and Regular Meeting on March 18, 2020
- C. Bills for the Month of March 2020
- D. Personnel Changes and Recognition of Retirees
- E. Membership Report
- F. Finance Report

Charlie Fulbright supported the motion.

Roll Call Vote.

Motion passed 7 – 0

NEW BUSINESS

Zing Customer Service Proposal

Motion by Charlie Fulbright to approve the Zing Customer Service Proposal in the amount of \$15,580.00 with the WKKF Grant Funds as the Funding Source.

Catherine LaValley supported the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

2020-2021 BCPS Police Officer Liaison Agreement

Motion by Patty Poole-Gray to approve the BCPS Police Officer Liaison Agreement in the amount of \$93,500.00 with the General Fund as the Funding Source.

Catherine LaValley supported the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

LETRS Professional Development

Superintendent Carter reported there was new information to point out to the Board about the LETRS Professional Development.

Dr. Deborah Nuzzi discussed it is not a substantial change, but there has been an increase in the number of teachers who have asked to participate in the LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading & Spelling) Professional Development. Dr. Nuzzi shared that the increase in participation results in an additional \$8,000.00 from the original amount requested and the increase can be funded using Regional Assistance Grant Funds.

Catherine LaValley inquired about the number of teachers to be trained and Dr. Nuzzi reported up to 102 people will be trained in full.

Motion by Catherine LaValley to approve the LETRS Professional Development in the amount of \$43,040.44 with District Title Funds II & IV and \$8,000.00 from the Regional Assistance Grant (RAG) as the Funding Source.

Charlie Fulbright supported the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

K-3 Summer Take-Home Reading Packs

Motion by Kyra Wallace to approve the K-3 Summer Take-Home Reading Packs in the amount of \$16,000.00 with Early Childhood Literacy as the Funding Source.

Patty Poole-Gray supported the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

Continuity of Learning Book Packs

Motion by Kyra Wallace to approve the Continuity of Learning Book Packs in the amount of \$90,000.00 with the WKKF Grant and 21(h) Funds as the Funding Sources.

Catherine LaValley supported the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

Cereal City Science Outreach Software Upgrade

Motion by Patty Poole-Gray to approve the Cereal City Science Outreach Software Upgrade in the amount of \$64,500.00 with Cereal City Science Funds as the Funding Source.

Kyra Wallace supported the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

Outdoor Education Center Swim Docks

Motion by Catherine LaValley to approve the Outdoor Education Center Swim Docks in the amount of \$16,300.00 with Barry Community Foundation and Battle Creek Community Foundation Funds as the Funding Source.

Kyra Wallace supported the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

2020-2021 Calhoun ISD General Fund Budget

Motion by Charlie Fulbright to approve the 2020-2021 Calhoun ISD General Fund Budget as presented.

Catherine LaValley supported the motion.

Catherine LaValley commented it is remarkable the approval of the Calhoun ISD Budget is being done very early.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

Northwestern Middle School Roof

Motion by Patty Poole-Gray to approve the Northwestern Middle School Roof repairs in the amount of \$762,791.00 with Sinking Funds as the Funding Source.

Kyra Wallace supported the motion.

Catherine LaValley mentioned she is hopeful that restrictions will be lifted soon for construction enabling the work on this project to begin.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

5 Year Lease Lit Fiber Contract with CTS

Motion by Kyra Wallace to approve the 5 Year Lit Fiber Contract with CTS in the amount of \$57,600.00 with the General Fund as the Funding Source.

Patty Poole-Gray supported the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

Structured Cabling Contract with Soltech Technologies

Motion by Charlie Fulbright to approve the Structured Cabling Contract with Soltech Technologies in the amount of \$5,628.14 with the General Fund as the Funding Source.

Kyra Wallace supported the motion.

Catherine LaValley inquired if E-Rate funds would still be used to source part of this project and Mitch Fowler confirmed they would.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

Head End Switch Contract with Delta Technologies

Motion by Kyra Wallace to approve the Head End Switch Contract with Delta Technologies in the amount of \$14,211.12 with the General Fund as the Funding Source.

Charlie Fulbright supported the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion passed 7 – 0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments were submitted online via Facebook Live.

President Evans read each of the comments aloud.

The following comments were received:

Skyler
Battle Creek

Is there any current information regarding if and how students will be able to enroll for summer school for Battle Creek Central High school (Virtually or in person in June if Covid restriction is lifted by then)?

Tashawna Cummings
424 South Hills Dr

You all are doing very well with keeping us families in the loop and we appreciate you all. I am in the Lakeview district but very glad that I am remaining in BCPS. As an alumni I can say that I am proud to call myself a BEARCAT! C/O 2006. Thank you.

Terrin Boe
51 Heather Ridge

I have had some parents ask about keeping or purchasing the chrome books for their students. Is this a possibility? Thank you!

Michelle Gregoire
202 South Ave

Hi, I'm a driver for BCPS, and we were all wondering if we were still going to get paid. I appreciate that you've paid us for four weeks, and I'm extremely grateful! But a lot of us would like to know if that will continue until what would have been until the end of the year. It's very hard to get through UIA right now for many of us... thank you for your time!

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Carter thanked those who joined us on Facebook Live and for their support.

Superintendent Carter commented she wanted to celebrate all staff members who are essential workers, showing up on a day-to-day basis to distribute meals and technology to make sure all students have access to food and technology. She reported that we have served over 190,000 meals since March 13th and she so appreciate these Teams and all the other employees. Also the Cereal City Science staff and Technology Department and all administrators who showed up to distribute over 1,300 Chromebooks to our families. She reported we are still distributing Chromebooks to students and recommended the community check our website and Facebook page.

Superintendent Carter noted that we have support for English Language learners or those who feel like their needs are not being met. We have assigned EL teachers to each building and also have tutors assigned to each building. They also have office hours to support families. This information is available on our website and the link will be in the Facebook comments section. There is also assistance for those needing help with technology.

Superintendent Carter advised for those needing meal access or devices, please check the website first. Families can also call 269-245-6129 to reach our Family and Community Engagement Coordinator who will connect them to resources. There are also contact numbers on our website for those needing assistance in Burmese or Spanish. The District is considering pinning this information at the top of website for access to families. She also noted that anyone needing assistance who can't find the information they seek, can call the Superintendent's Office and leave a message as we are checking voicemail every day.

Superintendent Carter shared that there are lots of things happening right now, but Great Things continue to happen at BCPS, ranging from online Art lessons to letters from teachers to students. She noted she is so proud of the BCPS Team and thanks each and every one for their efforts.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Charlie Fulbright inquired about the K-3 Summer Reading Pack, noting when this matter was brought to the Board for consideration a vendor was to be determined. Charlie asked if we were using the same vendor as last year. Dr. Chandra Youngblood reported the District is using the same vendor as last year, the vendor is going to ship books directly to homes.

Charlie asked about the Continuity of Learning Book Packs and the funding source "and/or 21(h)". Superintendent Carter explained it would be a combination of both the WKKF Grant and 21(h) funds. Wes Seeley commented he recently learned we have enough funds in 21h to fully pay for the Continuity of Learning Book Packs and we will not need to use WKKF Grant Funds. Superintendent Carter notified the Board that Scholastic was chosen as the vendor for these books.

Charlie finished with "Great Things are Happening at Battle Creek Public Schools".

Jackie Slaby shared that Moses received funding from United Way and was able to create a COVID-19 Fund for the Latino community to support the needs of families. There are eligibility requirements to be met, some of which include to receive assistance you must be living within Battle Creek or surrounding area, specifically in the zip codes of 49014, 49015, 49016, 49017, 49018, 49037, 49020, 49051, 49052, with an income below 150% poverty level. Those seeking assistance can call 269-841-4111. Information is posted in English and Spanish.

Catherine LaValley commented she is thankful and grateful for the fantastic, dedicated staff, whether it be the essential workers getting food out, Technology team distributing devices, those keeping our buildings secure, to the front line workers helping the County to fight this terrible disease. She appreciates all these efforts and is glad they've been able to keep so many people healthy.

Catherine LaValley reminded everyone to make sure and complete the 9-Question Census Questionnaire, noting it only takes a short time and will do great things for the State of Michigan for the next 10 years.

President Evans thanked the amazing staff, administration, teaching staff, and the food service team out there every day making sure our families are fed, she so appreciates that. She also appreciate the Facebook videos and loves it.

President Evans noted that as part of the point of business the State of Michigan has determined there will be no evaluations for the teaching staff or Superintendent. There are two meetings scheduled (May 18th and 15th) for Superintendent Carter's Evaluation and both of those meetings can be taken off the schedule.

Board Members finished with comments for everyone to Be Safe and thanked everyone for their efforts.

Meeting adjourned – 6:03 p.m.

Submitted by
Patti Worden

Kyra Wallace
Board Secretary