

**BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Board Work Session**

**August 26, 2017**

**Battle Creek Area Math and Science Center, 171 West Michigan Avenue, Battle Creek, MI**

**9:00 a.m.**

**PRESENT - BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Art McClenney

Karen Evans

Catherine LaValley

Nathan Grajek

Kyra Wallace

Eric Jankowski

Jacqueline Slaby

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by BCPS President McClenney at 9:09 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Karen Evans made a motion to approve the Joint School Boards Equity Learning Session agenda.

Kyra Wallace supported the motion.

**Motion passed 7 – 0**

Hugh Vasquez, Stephen Chang, National Equity Project and Jorge Zeballos, Emily Joy McGaughy, center for Diversity/Innovation were our facilitators.

Also present were three board members attending with Superintendent Everett, Pennfield Public Schools; three board members attending with Superintendent Ridgway, Harper Creek Public Schools; and five board members attending with Superintendent Prewitt, Lakeview High School.

All participants worked on a four-corner activity. We thought deeply on four types of students: smart/quick; creative/original; hard working/organized; deep thinker.

All types of listening occur. Constructivist listening is “I agree to listen to and embrace what is being said.”

“When you know your why, your what has more impact because you’re walking in or towards your purpose.” Comedian Michael Junior.

Scholarship Awards – when they first start, students are debt free. Communicate to our families that there is a lot of opportunities for future education, (vocations, internships, trades).

Skilled students – critical thinking skills development; resources center informing students/families to various opportunities; student retention to keep BC (region) growing; ask the question, “What will it take to keep students here?”

People skills; awareness of equity; self-care; love/passion for their life.

Each district’s board president partnered up and participated in a cross-district gallery walk.

Intersectionality: race, culture, gender, etc.

Belonging: topics to consider, share experiences of a belonging or othering

Othering:

“Students with a strong sense of belonging make for a strong social community and the achievement gap shrinks when students feel like they belong intellectually.” ~Franklin

Intentionally help our students feel like they belong. When there is too much cortisol activated, no learning or understanding can take place.

What are our next steps as a district to build our capacity and create the conditions for successful equity strategy and action?

What are my individual steps as a board member to further equity understanding?

How can we build momentum?

Equity Leadership Capacity Building

Do we have:

- Will – conscious, unconscious
- Knowledge – content, context
- Skill – technical, relational
- Capacity – physical, mental
- Empathy – compassion, self-awareness

Battle Creek Public School Board thoughts:

1. Our overall WHY is in place
2. We recognize that we need to communicate better to all groups.
3. We expect that student’s health care consent forms are in our three main languages, as well as sign language.
4. We need to use an equity lens: “Three different lgs.” Public comment form at board meeting, board agenda, board minutes on district website, etc. They need to be translated.
5. Hiring practices of Hispanic, Burmese staff; multi-language experts if available
6. Educate the community on what a school board does; brochures on BOE responsibilities and duties.

OUR Steps

1. We push MASB to offer equity classes to further our equity understandings.
2. We continue to show up (all board members) in upcoming equity joint learning sessions for all four boards.
3. School board candidate information night or what does a school board member do.

Momentum

1. We changed our meeting dates so we can attend other districts’ meetings.
2. We attend NPC meetings; get a schedule in place for coverage. Then report at our next BOE work session. Don’t forget Springfield, Bedford Township, Battle Creek City Commission meetings.
3. Check with Access Vision to film our meetings.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Emily J. McGaughy said she has two kids in the districts and she thanked everyone or attending today.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Submitted by:

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*Catherine LaValley, Board Secretary*