

BATTLE CREEK BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting
June 16, 2014
5:30 p.m.
Board Room – School Administration Building

PRESENT - BOARD OF EDUCATION

William Burton
Susan Buckley
Todd Stagner
Art McClenney (arrived at 5:37p.m.)
Scott Cubberly
Kellie Thomas
Karen Evans

Present – Administration

Dr. Linda Hicks – Superintendent
Deborah Gregory – Executive Director of Financial Services
Dianne Hatley – Personnel Manager
Kim Parker-DeVauld – Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Dr. Jeff Greene – Resource Development Coordinator
Tim Scott – Manager of Facilities & Operations

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Burton at 5:30 p.m. All board members were present except for Mr. McClenney. Approximately 12 citizens were in attendance including school personnel.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

Moved by Ms. Buckley, and supported by Ms. Thomas to approve agenda as presented.

Motion approved 6 – 0

BUILDING AND SITE FUNDING UPDATE FOR SUMMER PROJECTS

The Manager of Facilities and Operations discussed the completion of some major projects that are planned for the summer. Currently, the Facilities and Operations department is working on the 5 year plan. This plan was discussed at the Financial and Physical Resource Committee meeting. Administrators from each building were contacted and there were a few items added to the plan. The following is a list of the current projects being completed:

- Phase 1 at Battle Creek Central High School has been completed. They are currently working on Phase 2 and it is expected to be complete this year.
- Entry doors will be replaced at the following schools: McQuiston front entry doors, Northwestern Middle School pool area, and Dudley Elementary main entrance doors.
- The installation of key fobs in two buildings (Fremont Elementary and Urbandale Elementary).
- Replacement of Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) floors throughout the district

The total for all projects is \$606,275.00 using \$584,778 from the Building and Site Fund and \$21,497 from the General Fund.

It was discussed that key fobs will allow remote entry into Fremont and Urbandale Elementary Schools 24/7 for administrators/employees as well as allow the district to maintain record of who enters. It will also allow the district to limit the use of the buildings, and is an added security component when employees leave the district or lose building keys. Ms. Buckley is concerned that employees may loan these key fobs to others. The Facilities and Operations Manager stated that the key fobs are actually safer than keys and that they can be disabled in a matter of seconds. He also stated that each administrator will be responsible for the distribution of the key fobs to their building staff and that each staff member will have individualized access that can be limited per the building administrators' discretion.

Ms. Thomas asked if there were any plans to update the Football Stadium. It was stated that the school buildings would be maintained first but that there is plan to do some spot painting at the stadium including the bathrooms.

2013-2014 BUDGET APPROPRIATION AMENDMENTS

The 2013-14 Budget Appropriation Amendments were discussed. These amendments are for revenue and expenditures for the 2014-15 fiscal year. The total available to appropriate from the General fund is \$62,395,041. The total expenditures for: instruction, support services, community services and outgoing transfers \$54,347,110. This leaves an anticipated fund balance of \$8,047,931. It was noted that the General fund covered the cost of the 21st Century program for the final three weeks of the school year. Ms. Buckley asked why this was not known at the beginning of the year. It was stated that things had changed with government funding throughout the course of the school year causing the shortfall.

The total amount available to appropriate from the Battle Creek Mathematics and Science Center is \$7,034,995. The total expenditures for: instruction, support services and transfers for 2014-15 is \$4,187,208 will be appropriated from the Mathematics and Science Center fund. This leaves an anticipated fund balance of \$2,897,787.

The total amount available to appropriate from the Food Service fund is \$4,466,855. The total expenditures for: salaries, services, supplies and transfers \$3,619,230 will be appropriated

from the Food Services fund. This leaves an anticipated fund balance of \$847,625. It was noted that Food Services is using less of their fund balance and are creating revenues that are higher than their expenditures.

The total amount available to appropriate from the Building and Site fund is \$2,977,877. There were 2.46 million in expenditures at year end because of the district roof projects. It is expected to be under a million next year. \$667,000 will be appropriated for capital outlay and other projects. This leaves an anticipated fund balance of \$1,961,916.

DISCUSSION OF THE 2014-15 BUDGET PROJECTIONS

It was discussed that there is a total shortfall of \$42,629. Ms. Buckley asked if it included the Governor's changes to funding. It was stated that yes it does include the changes based on what is projected that the Governor will sign. Retirement is currently the only gray area but it looks like the State will reimburse for those increases in rate changes. All line items for the Ninth Grade Academy were removed from the budget except for the principal position due to grant funding being exhausted.

The Mathematics and Science Center used \$252,261 in funds for the 2013-14 fiscal year. They are expected to use \$59,209 of the fund balance for the 2014-15 fiscal year. The reduction in use over 2013-14 is attributable to anticipated kit sales.

Food Services spent \$110,846 of their fund balance in 2013-14. There will be an increase of \$148,937 to their fund balance. The district needs to look into purchasing more equipment in November with these additional funds as the State will spend the money for the district if the district does not spend the money.

2014 MILEAGE LEVY

The Debt Levy for 2014 is 4.60 mills. This is a decrease of .25 mills. This means that a property tax value of \$100,000 will show a reduction of \$25 and a property tax value of \$50,000 will show a reduction of \$12.50 per year.

DISCUSSION OF THE 2014-15 TECHNOLOGY PLAN

Battle Creek Public Schools has integrated technology standards into its curriculum and instructional programs and practices that ensure all students will become successful, contributing citizens in a global society. The primary objective of Battle Creek Public Schools, during the course of this plan, is to have a curriculum map that outlines the scope and the sequence for all grades. There are long term goals that are affiliated with the Technology plan such as:

- To maintain a leadership position in instructional technology and learning with technology tools in collaboration with consortium districts for professional development.

- To develop teachers through focused professional development as individual school technology leaders who can support technology-rich lessons and units of instruction that will improve student learning and academic achievement.
- To embed technology into all subject areas through focused professional development programs and activities with the curriculum coordinator.
- To provide technologically-enhanced learning experiences for students that will develop higher-order thinking and technological literacy skills.
- To provide individualized instruction in, and anytime/anywhere access to, technology resources for all district stakeholders.
- To improve communication among teachers, students, parents, administration, and support staff with technology.
- To maximize the use of the data warehouse, DataDirector, when obtaining student achievement information and when making sound instructional decisions.

The Technology Plan also includes the following objectives:

- At least 80% of students in grades 1-8 will reach proficiency or achieve the normative performance level in reading, mathematics, science, and social studies as measured by state assessments and/or standardized instruments.
- 80% of students graduating from Battle Creek Central High School will achieve the ACT college-readiness criterion score of 18 in English, 21 in reading and 22 in mathematics.
- Students will achieve the following benchmarks:
 - 80% of students in each of the grades 3, 5, 7 and 9 will reach the Physical Fitness criteria established by the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition.

The following are the strategies to reach these goals:

- A targeted group of teachers at BCPS will receive PD on "21things4Teachers"
- Technology integration strategies will be embedded within all professional development sessions conducted in the core curricular areas
- Laptops for all teachers

Mr. Burton asked what the current time frame would be for the plan. It was stated that the three year goals would be started in the 2014-15 school year.

DISCUSSION OF CURRICULUM MATERIALS ADOPTION

Battle Creek Public Schools has not invested in core reading program materials in more than 7 years. A review of the current achievement levels and root causes assessed by Partners in School Innovation revealed that K-5 classrooms lacked a comprehensive reading program and adequate materials to support reading instruction. It is being requested that the board approve the Houghton Mifflin Journeys Reading Program as the approved materials for K-5 reading instruction beginning in the 2014-15 school year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

The Superintendent commented on the following:

- The end of the year celebrations were plentiful and she took great joy in attending those celebrations.
- The last 3 days of school the district was worried about student attendance. The Superintendent was proud to announce that during the final 3 days of school there was 89% attendance on the first day 87% percent on the second day and 82% on the last day. The Superintendent wanted to thank all parents and administrators for helping to ensure that happened.
- Lamora Park Elementary participated in the Triple C Trot again this year and they raised \$771.00. The students got to choose where the money was donated and this year it was decided that \$193.60 would go to Paws to the Rescue, \$164.86 would be given to the family of a Fremont first grader that was diagnosed with cancer and \$412.74 would be given to a Middle School student that previously attended Lamora Park Elementary who was also diagnosed with cancer. The Superintendent noted what an excellent opportunity it was for our students to give back to the community.
- Please review the wonderful article from the Battle Creek Enquirer on Sunday, June 1st regarding the district's staff wellness program. The article title "Fit for Life" is based on our staff members and the initiative that is spreading through the district.
- Congratulations to all that have signed up for Corporate Cup there was an increase in participants this year with 160 participants total compared to 80 last year.
- The Superintendent was very impressed with the Shopper News and the joy they portrayed with the graduation articles they did for Battle Creek Central. She felt it was the best graduation she has attended since she started with the district.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.