

**BATTLE CREEK BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Special Meeting**  
**April 30, 2014**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Board Room – School Administration Building**

**PRESENT - BOARD OF EDUCATION**

William Burton  
Todd Stagner  
Art McClenney  
Scott Cubberly  
Kellie Thomas  
Karen Evans

**Present – Administration**

Dr. Linda Hicks – Superintendent

Cheryl Johnson – Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Dianne Hatley – Personnel Manager

Dr. Jeffrey Greene – Resource Development Coordinator

Kim Parker-DeVauld – Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Tim Scott – Manager of Facilities & Operations

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by President Burton at 7:30 p.m. All board members were present except for Ms. Buckley. Approximately 14 citizens were in attendance including school personnel.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was unanimously approved with the following amendments: Move item number XIII to item number V.

Moved by Ms. Thomas, and supported by Ms. Evans to approve agenda as amended.

Motion approved 6 – 0

**CONSIDERATION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 8 (C) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT TO DISCUSS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

The board convened in closed session at 7:32p.m.

Moved by Mr. McClenney, and supported by Ms. Evans to convene in closed session.

Motion Approved 6 - 0

### **CONSIDERATION TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

The board reconvened in open session at 7:40p.m.

**Moved by Mr. Cubberly, supported by Ms. Evans to reconvene in open session.**

**Motion Approved 6 – 0**

### **CONSIDERATION TO RATIFY THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT (TA) BETWEEN THE BCEA (EDUCATION ASSOCIATION) AND THE DISTRICT**

The BCEA and the district reached an agreement through the current school year. The tentative agreement allows for the following financial changes:

- Step increases for all allowable teachers.
- \$300 off schedule for teachers at the top stop who do not receive a step increase.
- The entire group would be switching from their current \$200/\$400 deductible health care plan to a \$300/\$600 deductible health care plan effective June 1, 2014.

The net increase for the above changes for the current fiscal year is \$128,570 which is an additional cost out of the general fund balance. The initial increase for the current fiscal year is reduced based on the group changing health care. The net increase for the upcoming fiscal year is \$16,946, which is due to the health care plan being less expensive for the upcoming fiscal year.

**Moved by Ms. Thomas, supported by Ms. Evans to approve the ratification of the Tentative Agreement between the BCEA and the District.**

**Motion Approved 6 - 0**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments were made.

### **CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE FACILITY STUDY**

The Superintendent discussed the costs associated with the facility study and the need to have the study completed. The source of funding for this project would come out of the general fund balance. It was requested that the board approve the allocation of \$60K for the completion of the facility study. This amount budgeted does include the architect fees for the study.

**Moved by Mr. Cubberly, supported by Dr. Stagner to approve the completion of the facility study.**

**Motion Approved 6 – 0**

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE STRATEGIC PLANNING INITIATIVE**

The Superintendent discussed the costs associated with the Strategic Planning Initiative. There are several phases in the process. Phase one consists of meetings to gather information. Phase two is where the data will be compiled and in Phase three the district is hoping to implement a marketing specialist to help market the strategies that are devised during the initiative. Mr. Cubberly asked if Partners In Schools Innovation currently provides the district with internal and external work. Partners In Schools Innovation currently does not provide any external assistance. Mr. Burton asked where the funds would be taken from. It was stated that the funds would come out of the general fund balance. Mr. Burton stated that he appreciates the process and he is fully supportive of the initiative moving forward; however, he hopes that the district will consider finding someone within the Battle Creek Community. Mr. Burton feels that we need to pick someone from our community so they will feel a sense of ownership and provide dedication to the district.

**Moved by Mr. McClenney, and supported by Ms. Evans to approve the Strategic Planning Initiative.**

**Motion Approved 6 – 0**

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A NEW SIGN AT POST FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

In order to finalize the name change Post Franklin Elementary School is in need of new signage. There was a donation from the Battle Creek Community Foundation but it was not enough to cover the cost of the signage. The remaining balance to complete the project is \$29,855. The money will be taken from the building and site fund as well as the general fund balance as needed. Mr. Cubberly asked if the donation was coming from the Battle Creek Community Foundation's Post fund. It is unclear where exactly the Foundation pulled the funds from. Mr. McClenney asked if the sign illuminated and could possibly be bothersome to the local residents. Mr. Scott explained that the LED lighting will be adjusted to ensure that the surrounding businesses and residents will not be disturbed. There is also the option of lowering the wattage of the light bulbs if the need in the future should arise. Dr. Stagner asked when the sign project would be complete. Mr. Scott is expecting that this will be a project that is completed in the summer of 2014.

**Moved by Mr. McClenney, supported by Ms. Thomas to approve the purchase of new signage for Post Franklin Elementary School.**

**Motion Approved 6 – 0**

**DISCUSSION OF THE 2014-15 BUDGET**

Currently, there are several reductions that are proposed for the 2014-2015 year. The following is a list of those proposed reductions:

- Teaching staff reductions net unemployment (6) \$ 308,400
- All City Choir stipends and transportation reductions \$ 8,696
- Purchased services (Finance/Internal reductions) \$ 24,000
- Supplies and equipment (Finance/Internal reductions) \$ 24,000
- Exterior Maintenance (Maintenance Department reductions) \$ 24,000
- Purchased services (Maintenance Department reductions) \$ 24,000
- Fieldhouse use and staff reductions \$ 34,606
- Workers Compensation reductions (settlements in 2013-14) \$ 200,000
- W.K. Kellogg Auditorium revenue increases (pending) \$ 30,000
- Security reductions through RFP (pending) \$ 50,000
- Student Services reductions (pending) \$ 48,000
- Transportation outsourcing (pending) \$ 512,874

**Total reductions \$1,288,576**

Dr. Stagner asked if there would be two teachers from each level of school i.e.; elementary, middle, high school. Currently, the district is not ready to talk about the specifics. Those details are expected to be discussed at the May board meeting. Mr. McClenney asked if there will be actual teacher loss. There will be some adjustments and relocation of staff due to retirements and resignations.

### **DISCUSSION REGARDING SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION**

Previously the district was approached to join a consortium with the surrounding districts to provide Special Education transportation services. David Revore, attorney from Thrun Law Firm has assured the district that the proposed collaboration would be a different scenario than the previously proposed agreement. By agreeing to participate in this process the district is not agreeing to the end result. Each district will be given the opportunity to make that decision once the process is complete. With the shortage of funding and the rising costs in education this collaboration would allow the district the chance to maximize its resources to the fullest potential moving forward. Dr. Stagner stated that the previous contract was too open ended and if the contracts are similar he would not want to pursue. Mr. Cubberly stated that he was in support of starting conversations regarding the collaboration.

### **CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR TRANSPORTATION**

The district would like the board to reconsider the outsourcing of transportation. There are new projections that make the transition more appealing. Currently the best scenario lies with Dean Transportation. Dean Transportation will provide transportation services for the first year for \$2,111,566 where First Student came in at \$2,291,230. The district currently spends \$2,844,440. These amounts include the deductions for the internal and external program billings for transportation. The savings for the next five years is listed below:

<b>Savings year</b>	<b>Dean Transportation</b>	<b>First Student</b>
Year 1	\$512,874	\$333,210
Year 2	\$438,997	\$270,294
Year 3	\$354,894	\$205,939
Year 4	\$261,806	\$139,937
Year 5	\$165,481	\$72,417
<b>Total Cumulative Savings</b>	<b>\$1,734,052</b>	<b>\$1,021,796</b>

The Superintendent is recommending that Dean Transportation be awarded the transportation contract. Ms. Thomas asked who will own the buses. The buses the district currently own will continue to belong to the district. Dr. Stagner asked if the district will choose the buses that are sold. Currently, the district does not have intentions of selling buses. Mr. Cubberly asked what happened if we do purchase buses. The district will keep anything it purchases. Mr. Cubberly asked if there is a clause included in the contract that states if we have a loss in students that the amount owed could change. Currently, the contract is based on bus routes so if those routes are changed or reduced there is potential for savings. Mr. McClenney asked if there was an out clause in case the district decided that they would like to go back to sourcing the transportation department. Yes, the district would be eligible to manage the transportation department in the future. Ms. Thomas asked if our current bus drivers would be eligible to apply through Dean Transportation. Currently, Dean Transportation will give preference to our district drivers however; all things will be taken into consideration when they make their hiring decisions.

**Moved by Ms. Evans, supported by Mr. Cubberly to approve the outsourcing of transportation to Dean Transportation.**

**Motion Approved 6 – 0**

**CONSIDERATION TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 8 (a) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT TO CONSIDER THE EVALUATION OF AN EMPLOYEE AT THE REQUEST OF THE EMPLOYEE.**

The board convened in closed session at 8:23p.m.

**Moved by Ms. Evans, and supported by Mr. Cubberly to convene in closed session.**

**Motion approved 6 – 0**

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE MID YEAR EVALUATION OF THE SUPERINTENDNT OF SCHOOLS FOR THE 2013-14 SCHOOL YEAR**

The board approved the Mid Year Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools for the 2013-14 school year and this evaluation will be placed in the Superintendent’s personnel file.

**Moved by Dr. Stagner, and supported by Ms. Thomas to approve the Superintendent’s Mid Year Evaluation.**

**Motion Approved 6 – 0**

**SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

The Superintendent commented that Mr. Cape has placed a request with Calhoun Intermediate School District to have his property address placed within the Battle Creek Public Schools District. The board will be made aware of any updates regarding this matter

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

No comments were made.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.