

Greenville Area School District  
Work Session Meeting, October 21, 2019

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**MINUTES OF BOARD WORK SESSION HELD OCTOBER 21, 2019**

The Board of Directors of the Greenville Area School District met for the Board Work Session on Monday, October 21, 2019 at 5:33 p.m., in the Lecture Hall of Greenville High School. The following members were present: Charlie Demarest, John Forbes, Laura Leskovac, Mary Reames, Steve Lewis, Howard Scott and Board President Dennis Webber. The following members were excused: Lisa Holm.

Others present:

Brian S. Tokar, Superintendent  
Brandon Mirizio, Board Secretary/Business Manager  
Matt Dieter, GES Principal  
Josh Stonebraker, GES Assistant Principal  
Dr. Jeffrey Keeling, GHS Principal  
Mark Karpinski, GHS Assistant Principal  
Connie Timashenka, K-12 Special Education Director

Staff present:

None (0)

Visitors:

Fifteen (15)

News media present:

One (1)

Mr. Webber noted that there will be a Work Session, break for Executive Session, and then return for a Voting Meeting.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Tokar had no presentations or extracurricular programs to be discussed.

Mr. Tokar:

- Wished Mr. Forbes and the soccer team good luck on their upcoming playoff match this evening.
- Reviewed the Board binders and explained the organization of information as it relates to the meeting.
- Discussed the Board Minutes from the September meetings, Financial Reports and Bills for Payment to be approved during the upcoming Voting Meeting.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS**

Activities Committee had no meeting to report by Mrs. Leskovac.

Athletic Committee report by Mr. Forbes for the meeting held on October 9, 2019.

- Discussed recommended action items including supplemental schedule updates for winter and spring sports, winter sports schedules, transportation bids, and boys' tennis equipment bids.
- Reviewed possible updates to coaches' handbooks that the Administration is currently working on.
- Updated the Board on the streaming and webcasting services related to athletic events that would be available the day after the event through various platforms.
- Generally discussed the combining of various sporting activities through cooperative agreements.

Budget Committee report by Mr. Demarest for the meeting held October 14, 2019.

- Discussed year to date revenues and expenditures for the 2019/20 year and discussed areas that are anticipated to exceed original budget figures.
- Reviewed comparison of data from the 2017/18 Annual Financial Report related to the state averages.

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- Updated on status of Financial Audit for the 2018/19 year, budgeted expenditures compared to tentative audited expenditures, and the potential of a fund transfer to the Capital Reserve Fund.
- Mr. Webber highlighted items that were removed from the 2018/19 budget that ultimately assist in the audited expenditures being more favorable than the original budgeted expenditures.
- Discussed 2020/21 base index of 2.6% which translates to a maximum increase of approximately two mills. The Board recommended to pass the resolution not to exceed the index at our November meeting.
- Reviewed District's procurement cards and discussed an increase in limit while adding a card for emergency repair and maintenance purchases.
- Reviewed the Medical Insurance Opt-Out list and the net financial effect both in the short and long term for the District.
- Mr. Webber discussed the potential \$100,000 transfer to Capital Fund that would be specifically dedicated for future capital projects. Additionally, discussed the budget committee's desire to set aside funds in this nature on an annual basis.
- Discussed recommended action items including plancon part J audit engagement letter, tax exonerations, equipment disposals, Anderson bus listing update, shared Amish transportation agreement with Reynolds SD, debt resolutions for the Mercer County Career Center debt refunding, and an IDEA grant agreements.
- Highlighted the work in progress related to five year financial projections that are being worked on.
- Mr. Webber thanked everyone within the District for the various cuts that were made on the 2018/19 school year budget.

Legislative Committee had no meeting to report by Mrs. Reames.

- Mr. Webber briefly mentioned the special education lack of funding with increasing enrollments, transportation, cyber/charter schools and their associated financial effect on our District. Highlighting that as a County we need to approach our representatives to ask what they are doing about these uncontrollable costs, specifically cyber/charter.
- Mrs. Reames discussed a legislative meeting years ago that all schools were invited to and suggests trying to reinstitute that amongst local schools for which Mr. Webber intends to address at the upcoming Career Center meeting.
- Mr. Rossi noted this discussion is happening among schools throughout the state and asked Mr. Tokar to discuss a current cyber/charter unique enrollment situation that will cost our District \$22,000 for the current year with the potential for additional years that we have no oversight or control over.
- Mr. Tokar emphasized the financial burden this situation causes and how that \$22,000 figure equates to staff budgetary cuts.

Mercer County Career Center report by Mr. Webber.

- Reviewed the debt refunding and that the project will cover a roofing project that all the schools will share the cost of over the life of the bond.
- Mr. Rossi reported that the Career Center Directors from various counties have been meeting regularly to discuss programs.

Midwestern Intermediate Unit report from Mr. Rossi.

- Reported from the PSBA annual conference that in the last two years there has been a turnover of 200 superintendents in the state. Additionally, within the same two year period universities and colleges in Pennsylvania issued 60% less teaching certificates.
- Discussed an upcoming Safety Seminar being sponsored by Representative Kelly at the Thiel College Passavant Center.

Negotiations Committee had no report from Mr. Webber aside from the contract being officially signed and executed.

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Policy Committee report by Mrs. Reames from the meeting held October 16, 2019.

- Reviewed the proposed changes that are being recommended for action items to policies including Nepotism, Title I Comparability of Services, Tobacco/Nicotine, Family and Medical Leave, and Parent Engagement attachment addendum.
- Discussed the committee's review of the policy related to service animals in schools.
- Mr. Demarest spoke on the difficulty of a nepotism policy as it relates to a community of our nature. Emphasizing the expectation of a Board Member to act on benefit of the entire community and not have their own individual benefits come into play and ultimately why he feels this is a very valuable policy.
- Mrs. Reames acknowledged our Board's efforts to air on the side of caution on how we vote related to anything involving family members.
- Mr. Webber discussed the history of the nepotism policy and thanked the committee for the proposed changes and likes the way it has been written.

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS**

Mr. Webber reviewed the additional action items as follows:

- Additional tax exonerations from Sugar Grove Township
- Transportation change request from Anderson Coach and Travel.
- Bus driver, substitute, and volunteer list additions which will be discussed in Executive Session.
- Two facility use requests from the Record-Argus for a forum related to the upcoming election and Vibe Dance Academy for rehearsals and performances.

**HEARING OF VISITORS**

None.

**TOPICS REQUESTED BY BOARD MEMBERS**

None.

**ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM UPDATES**

Mr. Webber asked the Thiel College students in attendance to introduce themselves and state where they are from.

Mr. Dieter discussed upcoming events including literacy night, grandparent's breakfast, and the Halloween parade.

Mr. Stonebraker reported on the structures contest the students participated in and subsequently competed against Slippery Rock School District.

Dr. Keeling highlighted Homecoming weekend events including the distinguished alumni assembly where Dave Furguson and Mike Walton from the class of 1969 were recognized. Academically, the High School had their first cognate leader meeting that focused on goal setting. Reviewed recent in-service activities where stop the bleed training that was conducted for all staff as well as well updates on staff required clearances. Acknowledged Jen Hawthorne for her coordination of Business Week and its success last week. Finally, reviewed the student participation in CHS courses with a total of 77 participating students which marked an increase over the previous year. New CHS signage to emphasize this opportunity was also reviewed.

Mr. Karpinski reviewed academic ISS program where students are identified in the 55-59% grade percentage with the goal of boosting their grades. Reviewed important dates related

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to upcoming soccer games, volleyball game, hosting of district soccer playoff games, junior high football game, intramural flag football championship, varsity football game, district cross country match, Halloween band parade, fall concert performance, and varsity football playoff game.

Mr. Tokar acknowledged Mr. Danch and the marching band's attendance at the recent boys' soccer game and the positive feedback received from the community members in attendance. Dr. Keeling added an update on the Elementary band program and the increase in attendance.

Mrs. Timashenka discussed the ongoing relationship with Thiel College and their student's participation in the classroom. Highlighted recent trainings her staff have attended related to de-escalation and de-escalation techniques and how they have presented on these trainings to Thiel Students. Reviewed upcoming on-site monitoring that will be occurring in November. Brought attention to the District website under student services section in special education where they have been trying to post various forms and interesting articles.

Mr. Webber asked that if we could see over the last five years how many students we are servicing and thinks it would be an interesting exercise for Board Members to see.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:41 p.m., the board adjourned to executive session to discuss personnel matters.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



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Brandon Mirizio  
Board Secretary