

Greenville Area School District
Work Session Meeting, October 14, 2020

MINUTES OF BOARD WORK SESSION HELD OCTOBER 14, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Greenville Area School District met for the Board Work Session on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 6:36 p.m., in the Lecture Hall of Greenville High School. The following members were present: Daniel Eppley, John Forbes, Laura Leskovac, Steve Lewis, Richard Powers, Mary Reames, Richard Rossi, Howard Scott and Board President Dennis Webber.

Others present:

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

Staff present:

One (1)

Visitors:

One (1)

News media present:

One (1)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Tokar presented on behalf of the Pennsylvania School Board Association a certificate of appreciation and recognition of ongoing school service to Board President Dennis Webber.

Mr. Tokar acknowledged a series of executive session meetings have been held as result of the COVID-19 pandemic in conference call settings on April 6, 2020 and April 13, 2020, in zoom meeting settings on April 20, 2020, May 4, 2020, May 11, 2020, May 18, 2020, May 26, 2020, June 9, 2020, July 14, 2020 and July 29, 2020, and finally in-person on September 3, 2020. Mr. Tokar noted that no board action were taken in these meetings.

Mr. Tokar discussed at length the 2020/2021 school year as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, Mr. Tokar discussed the recommendation for the 2nd nine weeks instructional model resulting from family surveys and staff input. Mr. Tokar emphasized the associated effects on the delivery of instruction as a result of COVID-19 incidents the District could face by changing the current instructional model.

Mr. Tokar reviewed the Board Minutes from the September meetings, Financial Reports and Bills for Payment.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

Activities Committee had no report by Mrs. Leskovac.

Athletic Committee report by Mr. Forbes from the October 7th meeting.

- Reviewed information and discussion items from the meeting including the conclusion of fall sports.
- Presented recommended action items including 2020/2021 winter coaches, 2020/2021 winter sports schedules and associated transportation proposals.

Budget Committee report by Mr. Scott from the October 13th meeting.

- Reviewed information and discussion items from the meeting including an update on the status of the financial audit currently being conducted, data within the financial reports, 2022 PDE budget timeline for events, 2021 per capita & occupational tax collections, and an update on the status of the auction of East Elementary.

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- Presented recommended action items including service agreements for 2021 Family Center Incredible Years and Parents as Teachers programs, subgrant contracts for IDEA sections 611 and 619, permission to bid for 2021 copier services, 2020 per capita & occupational tax exonerations presented by the tax collectors, and the purchase of additional elementary classroom desks and chairs.
- Mr. Webber discussed the projected 2020/2021 cyber and charter tuition costs for the currently enrolled students.

Legislative Committee report by Mrs. Reames.

- Noted that contact with the office of Senator Brooks was recently made to begin the process of rescheduling the legislative meeting that was cancelled last year as a result of COVID-19.

Mercer County Career Center report by Mr. Webber.

- Discussed current programs as well as updated everyone on the status of various physical plant items at the Center.

Midwestern Intermediate Unit report by Mr. Rossi from the September 23rd meeting

- Discussed various facility related items that were reviewed as well as updating everyone on the status of MIU IV operated classrooms.

Negotiations Committee report from Mr. Webber.

- Acknowledged that the committee will begin meeting monthly to discuss upcoming contract negotiations.

Policy Committee report by Mrs. Reames from the September 23rd meeting.

- Reviewed recommended policy revisions and additions related to policies 111, 203, 209, 314, 414, 514, 331, 431, 531, 332, 432, 532, 334, 434, 534, 340, 440, 540, 705, 803, 816, 904, and 907.
- Noted that the committee will be reviewing the policy related to class sizes lower than ten at the committee's next meeting.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Webber and Mr. Tokar reviewed in detail the additional recommended action items related to transferring the method of sale for the previously approved East Elementary auction on October 29, 2020 to an absolute auction, annual review of the parent and family engagement policy, and the 2020/2021 school calendar revision. Mr. Tokar noted that the volunteer list updates, staff resignations, substitute list additions, support employment, and temporary professional employment positions will be discussed in further detail during executive session at the conclusion of the meeting.

Mr. Webber and the Board as a whole discussed Mr. Tokar's recommendations for the delivery of instruction during the 2nd nine weeks of the 2020/2021 school year. Each member expressed their opinions on the pros and cons of continuing with the current model as well as minor adjustments the Administration may consider prior to making the plans final.

Mr. Tokar noted that the Administration will take into account all noted feedback and will communicate at the Regular meeting in public session the intended plans while emphasizing that any plan is subject to change as a result of a COVID-19 incident.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Mrs. Eva McCann of the Town of Greenville expressed her concern for the elementary school students in the event of a short-term closure and inquired as to how they will receive their education. Mr. Dieter responded in detail with their intended plans which center around distribution of pencil and paper packets.

TOPICS REQUESTED BY BOARD MEMBERS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM UPDATES

Mrs. Timashenka reported on the homeless and foster care conference that is currently ongoing in a virtual setting. Mrs. Timashenka complimented the MIU IV on their conducting of special education meetings as well as virtual professional development offerings. In conclusion, Mrs. Timashenka discussed the recent in-service day and various special education required trainings that were conducted.

Dr. Keeling discussed the recent in-service day and the ALICE intruder training and mental health related trainings that were conducted. Dr. Keeling also thanked Thiel College for their assistance in the live streaming of fall athletic events.

Mr. Karpinski acknowledged the success of fall sports despite the hurdles presented by the pandemic. Mr. Karpinski expressed his appreciation for the high participation numbers in fall sports.

Mr. Dieter informed everyone of the upcoming picture day plans for students as well as Halloween celebration alterations at the Elementary this year.

Mr. Stonebraker provided an update on the online live sessions being conducted by Elementary staff for those choosing the District sponsored online learning option as well as the supplemental packets now being distributed to those students.

Mrs. Leskovac announced a Mercer County initiative to get information out to student athletes through a "snack pack" to provide them with a variety of health related information.

Mr. Webber expressed his thanks to the Administrators, all staff, including janitorial staff, and anyone who had anything to do with the reopening plan. Mr. Webber thanked everyone for working as hard as they are related to safety and sanitization as everyone has been healthy up to this point. Additionally, Mr. Webber shared two unsolicited stories that were shared with him from community members regarding the District's reopening plans.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:30 p.m. the board adjourned to executive session to receive information related to personnel and legal matters.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.



Brandon Mirizio
Board Secretary