

MINUTES OF BOARD WORK SESSION HELD AUGUST 12, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Greenville Area School District met for the Board Work Session on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., in the Lecture Hall of the Greenville High School. The following members were present: Daniel Eppley, John Forbes (*arrived at 6:22 p.m.*), 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: None (0)
Visitors: Eight (8)
News media present: One (1)

Mr. Webber indicated that the meeting will be conducted under the state guidelines for event capacity.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Tokar reviewed extracurricular programs regarding voluntary practices that are ongoing and the anticipated PIAA updates forthcoming on August 21, 2020.

Mr. Tokar distributed a recent article in the Valley Voices magazine that highlighted a GHS teacher, Mr. Matt Gehly for his work on wildlife photography.

Mr. Tokar discussed the Board Minutes from the June meetings, Financial Reports and Bills for Payment to be approved.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

Activities Committee had no report by Mrs. Leskovac.

Athletic Committee report by Mr. Scott for the meeting held August 5th.

- Informational and discussion items during the meeting included athletic trainer update, sports specific procedures/policies, football face shields, athletic event filming, and also the viewing of athletic events.
- Recommended action items the committee proposes are the hire of the head varsity boys' basketball coach, updates to the fall coaches list, and the renewal of the Life Force Ambulance Standby Agreement.

Budget Committee report by Mr. Scott for the meeting held on August 10th.

- Informational and discussion items during the meeting included a detailed review of financial data year to date, grant reviews related to school safety and Cares Act funds, 2020/2021 aid ratio figures, private tax sale notifications, Independent Fiscal Office COVID-19 local revenue impact report, future planning related to our transportation contract, and also the exploration of an auctioneer for the East Elementary property.
- Recommended action items the committee proposes are cooperative purchasing services agreement, Greenville Elementary School Resource Officer agreement, school pupil transportation agreement, day student education agreement, milk & bread bid awards, food service pricing, and various purchases related to grant funds.

Legislative Committee had no report by Mrs. Reames.

Mercer County Career Center report by Mr. Webber.

- Noted the acceptance of a retirement and the Center's plans to reopen at the start of school year.

Midwestern Intermediate Unit report by Mr. Rossi.

- Noted the acceptance of the MIU IV health and safety reopening plan.

Negotiations Committee had no report from Mr. Webber.

Policy Committee report by Mrs. Reames from the meeting held on August 3rd.

- Recommended action items the committee proposes are primarily related to the Title IX legal changes and reviewed each policy revision proposed in detail.
- Mrs. Reames also discussed the future possibility of consolidating board policies related to personnel from three sections into one.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Tokar reviewed in detail the 2020/2021 Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan as well as the 2020/2021 Instructional Time Template related to the first nine weeks of the 2020/2021 school year.

Mrs. Leskovac made various inquiries about the 9-12 online learning options for which Dr. Keeling explained the overall plan in detail.

Mrs. Reames asked for clarity on the student lunches during this hybrid learning model for which Mr. Tokar explained the meal distribution plans that have been put in place.

Mr. Webber confirmed to guests in attendance that the plan to be approved tonight will be to allow students to attend school in person in a hybrid model under the current guidelines. Mr. Webber noted that this plan may change at any given moment due to the pandemic and current guidelines. Mr. Tokar noted that the plan will be submitted to the Department of Education.

Mr. Webber and Mr. Tokar reviewed in the 2020/2021 Instructional Time Template as well as the 2020/2021 Organizational Chart.

Dr. Keeling discussed the 2020/2021 High School Student & Faculty Handbook Revisions as well as the 2020/2021 High School Course of Studies.

Mr. Tokar and Mr. Webber reviewed the Verizon Wireless limited distant learning agreement. Additionally, the 2020/2021 Bus routes, vehicle & bus driver lists, and personnel related items were noted to be discussed in Executive Session.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Bretton Walberg asked of the ability for online learning students to attend in person at the High School level if social distancing is maintained. Mr. Tokar referred to the reopening plan and stated that 9-12 students would be in the building on Fridays only.

Suzie Hartsell inquired about possible connectivity issues for distance learning students. Mr. Tokar expressed the District's goal to support those families on a case-by-case basis as communicated to the District through our infrastructure in place.

Dave Silvestri asked about the protocol for a positive case within the school. Mr. Tokar noted our response is related to current guidelines and communications with the

Department of Health on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Tokar added that the District would do their best to ensure continuity of education for students and flexibility with attendance if they are required to quarantine. Mr. Tokar detailed the screening process the District has in place for students as they enter the building and throughout the school day.

Bretton Walberg inquired about the face shields that the District would be providing. Mr. Tokar discussed the state facial covering guidance as it relates to District plans.

Mr. Lewis expressed his view of both the Board and District staff's desire to take care of the students of the District and the difficulty of addressing the issues related to the pandemic as they continue to evolve. Mr. Tokar added that this a trying situation and the District has had all hands on deck to be flexible and reactive to work within a framework that the District is provided. Mr. Webber highlighted the maintenance and custodial staff and the amazing job they have done related to the sanitization protocol.

Mr. Tokar added that the District will continue to provide communications from the school offices to address specific building level procedures noting they may be subject to change based on current guidance.

Mrs. Leskovic expressed she is not supporting and will not be voting yes for the Reopening Health and Safety Plan. Mrs. Leskovic stated to District Administrators and fellow Board Members that this decision is no disrespect to them and the work that has collectively been done since March. Mrs. Leskovic noted that her decision is based on community feedback, lack of numbers to justify the decision, the risks of student's mental health concerns, and the ability for parents and families to make that choice of sending their student to school.

Mr. Eppley added his view on the unknowns of the virus as it relates to the District reopening plan while acknowledging the mental health concerns.

TOPICS REQUESTED BY BOARD MEMBERS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM UPDATES

Dr. Keeling discussed plans to distribute student schedules Friday while also thanking teachers who conducted in-house training on Google Classroom, those being Ken Stitt, Amy Hollobaugh, Ron Myers, and Martha Hubbard.

Mr. Karpinski noted the preparations in place for 5th and 6th students attending the High School building and detailed plans for locker spacing and usage. Mr. Karpinski highlighted safety protocols for athletic and activity volunteer practices as well as high participation numbers.

Mr. Tokar discussed the ongoing discussions related to plans for student orientations that will be communicated prior to the beginning of school. Mrs. Leskovic expressed her concerns with the 5th and 6th grade students attending the High School and asked specifically for more guidance and orientations related to their transition.

Mr. Dieter reviewed recent teacher trainings, building preparations that have been put into place and their planning for any future school closings. Mr. Dieter discussed the adjustments of class sizes to properly adhere to social distancing guidelines at the Elementary building.

Mr. Stonebraker acknowledged his appreciation for being back in the building and highlighted planned social distancing and class sizes. Mr. Stonebraker expressed the positive feedback he has received related to the District reopening plans.

Mr. Webber clarified the implications of students and families electing to enroll in the District sponsored online option versus an outside cyber school.

Mrs. Timashenka thanked District staff for their work related to the special education department over the previous months and expressed her appreciation for being back at the District.

Mr. Tokar provided an update on recent lead water testing that was completed at the District and communicated all results were well within the allowable thresholds.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:28 p.m. the board adjourned to executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.



Brandon Mirizio
Board Secretary