

MINUTES OF BOARD WORKSHOP HELD FEBRUARY 12, 2014

The Board of Directors of the Greenville Area School District met for the Board Workshop on Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., in the Lecture Hall of the Greenville High School. The following members were present: Charles Demarest, John Forbes, Laura Leskovac, Steve Lewis, Mary Reames, Richard Rossi, Howard Scott and President Dennis Webber.

Present: Mark Ferrara, Superintendent
Michele A. Orahod, Board Secretary
Connie S. Timashenka, K-12 Special Education & Curriculum Director
Brian S. Bronson, K-6 Elementary Principal
Dr. Mark D. Hogue, Principal Grades 7-8-9
Brian S. Tokar, Principal Grades 10-11-12
Jodi Hibbard, Technology Coordinator

Staff present: One (1)

Visitors: None

Press: One (1)

1. Donna Rae, Mathematics Consultant, discussed her analysis of the math program and the progress that has been made to improve certain areas. One initiative that she worked with is the utilization of Study Island software to address student deficiencies. Further review of the articulation may suggest that consideration be given to administering the CDT diagnostic exam in preparation for the Keystone Exam Algebra 1 assessment.
2. Announced a presentation by CFM (Christian Fitness Ministries) on the Backpack program is scheduled for Monday, February 17, 2014.
3. Mr. Rossi presented a proposed date for the High School Prom on May 3, 2014 at Tiffany's Banquet Center, Brookfield, OH.
4. Mr. Forbes gave an overview of items discussed and the recommendations from the Athletics Committee meeting held on February 12.
 - o Received updated Spring Track Coaches List
 - o Reviewed 2014-2015 Football Schedules
 - o Discussed Wrestling and Basketball Banquets – Thiel College
 - o Memorandum of Understanding Supplemental Wage Schedules in Appendix B (schedules for the track coaches) of the Agreement between GEA and GASD
 - o Heard updates on the progress of the track resurfacing project and completed tennis shed
 - o Progress to secure an agreement with the Borough for the baseball field continues.
 - o Continue to pursue cooperatives with Living Word for girls' golf, bowling and equestrian events.
 - o Fee Waiver – PIAA Wrestling sections
5. Mr. Demarest reviewed the Budget Committee agenda from February 10.
 - o Reviewed the 2014-15 Governor's Budget
 - o Delinquent Real Estate Tax
 - o Discussed January 2014 Valuation
 - o Received expenditure detail for membership/dues
 - o Discussed Debt Service Schedules
 - o Received the 2014-15 Transportation Index

Mr. Rossi commented that perhaps the district should evaluate the benefits of the NSBA membership and take a hiatus for 2014-15.

6. Mrs. Reames offered her thoughts on the 2014-15 Governor's Budget and expressed disappointment in the \$4,000 increase to Special Education funding. The bulk of the increase for the Ready to Learn Grant will have many restrictions and will not allow the districts much flexibility to help fund operating expenses such as mandated retirement contributions. Information on the Spring Legislative Roundup will be distributed when it is released. Mr. Demarest announced he would participate in the live webcast of PDE Chief Dumaresq Budget Presentation on Thursday, February 13.
7. Mr. Webber reported the Mercer County Career Center has 479 students currently enrolled. He distributed the proposed 2014-15 budget which includes a 3.74% increase in operating expenses. A draft reconciliation of refunds due the home districts is forthcoming now that the audit has been finalized. GASD's share is estimated at approximately \$250,000 resulting from the close out of renovation accounts.
8. Distributed Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV annual convention schedule for April 23, 2014 in Grove City. Board members are encouraged to attend to endorse Mr. Rossi's nomination to the MIU Board. Mr. Rossi discussed new policies on fraud and remediation programs for Keystones available through the IU.
9. Mrs. Reames announced the Policy Committee meeting scheduled for January 29 was cancelled due to the school closings.
10. Announced Snow/Inclement Weather Make-up Day from 02/05/14.

Closed - January 6, 2014	Make-up Day - January 20, 2014
Closed - January 29, 2014	Make-up Day - February 17, 2014
Closed - January 29, 2014	Make-up Day - March 14, 2014
Closed - February 5, 2014	Make-up Day - April 22, 2014
11. Discussed Rental/Lease Agreement for Hempfield Twp Home.
12. Discussed contract extension of Donna Rae, Math Consultant.
13. Mr. Ferrara informed the members that (4) applications have been received for the board vacancy. Mr. Lewis expressed his desire to release the names of the candidates to allow the members more time for their personal reflection. Mr. Webber explained that the procedure to interview and elect the new member at the same meeting was consistent with the solicitor's recommendation. By doing so, the board would avoid potential violations of the Sunshine Law.
14. Further progress on Addendum 4 - Agreement for Security Services is on hold until the legal review by Attorney Breth is received.
15. Received the Backpack Program Partner's Agreement.
16. Recommended Draft #1 2014-2015 Proposed School Calendar.
17. Considered Use of Facilities Request.
 - o Hempfield Fire Department
18. Received request for Exoneration of Temporary and Permanent Occupational/Per Capita Taxes.
 - o Sugar Grove Township

TOPICS REQUESTED BY BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Demarest inquired about how the goals and progress of the district's Comprehensive Plan are being measured. Mrs. Reames commented that while the process to develop a plan is mandated not to put undue emphasis on the document itself. Mr. Bronson added that the goals within the Plan that target engagement, attendance and performance are reported in the weekly reports. Mr. Demarest's account of the 1981 Hyatt Regency collapse brings to mind that change is okay as long as everyone is on board and buys into the changes.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Distributed January Board Meeting Minutes, Board & Administrator Publication for School Board Members, Financial Reports, East Elementary Newsletter.

Mr. Bronson announced that the Greenville Education Association has graciously agreed to pay the entrance fee for the Spelling Bee (Grades 4-6) which will take place at Commodore Perry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Webber announced the April Regular Meeting will be moved to Monday, April 21, 2014. This is a date change from the previously adopted schedule.

Mrs. Reames announced that a welcome reception for the Superintendent and Dr. Hogue is scheduled for Monday, February 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the High School cafeteria.

A Special Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Lecture Hall to discuss building reconfigurations and security upgrades. The meeting is open to the public.

HEARING OF VISITORS

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:56 p.m. the board adjourned to Executive Session to discuss personnel.

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.


Michele A. Orahood
Business Manager