

MINUTES OF BOARD WORK SESSION HELD MAY 12, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Greenville Area School District met for the Board Work Session on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., in the Lecture Hall of Greenville High School. The following members were present: Daniel Eppley, John Forbes, Laura Leskovac, Steve Lewis, Mary Reames, Richard Rossi, Howard Scott and President Dennis Webber. The following member was excused: Richard Powers.

Others present: Brian S. Tokar, Superintendent
 Brandon Mirizio, Board Secretary/Business Manager
 Matthew Dieter, GES Principal
 Connie Timashenka, K-12 Special Education Director
 Joshua Stonebraker, GES Assistant Principal

Staff present: One (1)
Visitors: Three (3)
News media present: One (1)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Tokar announced that Monday evening at the Regular Board Meeting district employees will be recognized for a variety of years of service and will also acknowledge the Greenville Elementary School Top Trojan Teacher award for the 2020/2021 school year. Additionally, Mr. Tokar noted the GHS spring musical performances start tomorrow evening while also thanking all of those involved for their hard work.

Mr. Tokar discussed the challenges that schools face in their budgeting process both historically and into the future. Mr. Tokar specifically reviewed the current year challenges while also highlighting the positive impact of the infusion of Federal dollars into the District. Mr. Tokar noted as these processes continue to move along it is important that he share more specific thoughts and perspective on the District's potential uses for the funds. Mr. Tokar detailed the District will look to primarily do two things: First positively impact instruction that addresses any learning gaps or short falls while maintaining and enhancing the educational opportunities we currently offer and secondly comprehensively addressing any short and longer term issues that exist with our facilities that will aim to provide a safe and appropriate learning environment for our students and staff. Mr. Tokar explained there are a wide array of initiatives that are currently being implemented, planned and researched to address these areas such as Summer Learning Academy, Purchase of Curriculum Materials, Responsibly enhancing our technology infrastructure with the acquisition of Chromebooks and smart boards, investigating our building HVAC systems and select banks of exterior windows, and arguably and most importantly maintaining appropriate K-12 staffing levels to continue to provide excellent instruction and support services throughout the District.

Mr. Tokar noted that all of this planning centers on judiciously using our available funding while also being cognizant that these dollars will not be available for use beyond September 2024 and we do not want to create a situation where the District is financially unprepared for the time period after the use of the funds has expired.

Mr. Tokar presented the board minutes, financial reports and bills for payment.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

Activities Committee by Mrs. Leskovac.

- Noted the committee did not hold a meeting this month; however, presented the field trip request by the High School Spanish Club upcoming on May 27th.

Athletic Committee report by Mr. Forbes.

- Noted the committee did not hold a meeting this month; however, did recap the conclusion of spring sports.
- Presented recommended action item for the lease agreement with the Town of Greenville for Packard Field use.

Budget Committee report by Mr. Scott from the April 29th and May 11th meetings.

- Reviewed information and discussion items from the meetings including historical financial data and projections to show the effect of one-time federal stimulus monies and potential of flat state funding, data within the financial reports, State Property Tax Allocation monies, homestead/farmstead approved properties, and an update on the April electricity supply reverse auction.
- Presented recommended action items including 2021 sealcoating bid award, 2021/2022 intergovernmental agreement with the MIU IV for services, 2021/2022 building control systems service agreement, 2021/2022 boilers and burners service agreement, print services agreement for per capita and occupational taxes, letter of exclusivity for electricity supply pricing, 2021/2022 long term disability rates, and ESSER II purchases for smart boards, Chromebooks and cases.
- Discussed in detail the proposed 2021/2022 general fund budget with \$22,326,910 in revenues and \$22,636,284 in expenditures noting it includes approximately 1 million of ESSER federal relief monies as well as a proposed 1 millage increase. Mr. Scott discussed the recent declining property values as well as anticipating flat funding from the State noting that the proposed millage increase will allow the District to maintain similar levels of real estate revenues while also preparing for future years without federal funding relief.
- Mr. Webber noted the committee was 3-1 in support of the millage increase and stated that he was not in favor of the recommendation. Mr Webber discussed the District's use of approximately \$1 million of ESSER monies to support this budget and an additional \$5 million in federal relief to be spent by 2024 noting that these funds were awarded with the intent of assisting schools during this time period. Mr. Webber expressed his concern for raising millage is centered on the effect it has on businesses as well as his opinion the District does not need the additional revenue in 2022.

Legislative Committee report by Mrs. Reames.

- Highlighted a recent meeting held by local business officials including Mr. Mirizio with Senator Brooks that centered on a variety of fiscal concerns local Districts currently have.

Mercer County Career Center report by Mr. Webber.

- Discussed the conclusion of the year and the approach taken on the annual testing of students to better prepare them for future employment. Additionally, provided an update on the roof project at the Center.
- Mr. Tokar expressed his thanks for the staff at the Career Center and the challenging year they faced providing services to students.

Midwestern Intermediate Unit had no report by Mr. Rossi.

Negotiations Committee report by Mr. Webber.

- Updated everyone on the supervisory, administrative and Act 93 contracts for upcoming approval.

Policy Committee had report by Mrs. Reames from the March 17th meeting.

- Presented recommended action items including the second readings of policy #137.1 Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Webber and Mr. Tokar reviewed the additional recommended action items related to Gifted Support Education Plan, Equipment Disposals from the Technology Department, Board Appointments of Board Secretary and Treasurer as well as personnel related items to be discussed further in executive session including summer academy staffing, extended school year staffing, summer maintenance staffing, substitute list additions and FMLA requests.

HEARING OF VISITORS

None.

TOPICS REQUESTED BY BOARD MEMBERS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM UPDATES

Mr. Dieter discussed the District's one to one initiative whereas students in grades 2-12 would be assigned Chromebooks and students grades K-1 would be assigned Ipads. Mr. Dieter further discussed the tentative details on device distribution, cases, filtering software, insurance coverage options, initial costs and annual purchases required going forward.

Mr. Stonebraker reviewed the upcoming week will be field day and the variety of activities planned for students. Additionally, Mr. Stonebraker announced a planned emergency drill with students which will occur on May 19th.

Mrs. Timashenka provided an in-depth review of the extended school year plans for June and July and how identified learning loss is planned to be addressed. Mrs. Timashenka also provided an update on the ESL student assessments as well as the alternate assessment that will be conducted online.

Mr. Tokar acknowledged in detail the wide array of summer programs planned at the District including Success by Six, READ Program, Extended School Year, Summer Academy as well as various sport camps.

Mrs. Leskovic inquired about the 6th grade celebration that is set to occur as well as an outdoor Junior High Choir concert that is set to be held May 27th. Additionally, Mrs. Leskovic inquired about 7th and 8th grade award ceremonies for which Mr. Tokar noted the District will provide clarity on.

Mr. Reames inquired about the ADA playground and any feedback for which Mrs. Timashenka informed the Board the students love the new play pieces.

Mr. Rossi inquired about the summer plans for classroom space for next school year for which Mr. Tokar noted the District is doing their best to get things in order and plan accordingly while awaiting further guidance from the Department of Education and local health officials about expectations and requirements for next fall.

Mr. Webber noted a recommendation for the Regular Meeting for salary equalization adjustments to the Administrative and Support staff for the 2021/2022 school year as the budgeted local revenue loss due to the pandemic was not as negative as the Budget Committee had originally planned.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:34 p.m. the board adjourned to executive session to receive information related to personnel and safety matters.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Mirizio", is written above a horizontal line.

Brandon Mirizio
Board Secretary