

BOARD MEETING RECAP

Thursday, July 16, 2020

These notes are provided as an unofficial recap of the Grant County Board of Education Meeting held Thursday, July 16, 2020, at the Grant County Board of Education office. They are not and should not be interpreted as the official minutes of the meeting.

The Grant County Board of Education was called to order for its regular monthly meeting by Lisa Smith at 6:15 p.m. on Thursday, July 16, 2020, with the following present (in person):

Present—Lisa Smith, Chairperson (District 3)

Present--Charlotte Schmidt, Vice-Chair (District 1)

Present—Lori Flerlage, Member (District 2)

Present—Gene Nelson, Member (District 4)

Present--Debbie Rogers, Member (District 5)

Also present: Supt Matt Morgan; Board Attorney Jim Crawford; Board Secretary Linda Justice

The Mission statement was read by Lisa Smith:

“The mission of the Grant County School Board is to join with community, parents, and staff to provide a safe, caring environment in a fiscally responsible manner. Our ultimate goal is to teach every child to “SUCCEED” at their highest potential through strategic policy decisions.”

Those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS: None

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS:

Dave Daldell and Bart Sturm with Performance Services presented their proposed building enhancements following a district-wide energy audit, together with a cost and savings analysis. Recommended actions include LED lighting (where it isn't); new electrical transformers and controls; replacement of HVAC system at DRE (to include air in the gym and cafeteria); various improvements to windows, walls, doors; clean and waste water management controls; etc. Cost for the entire proposal is at \$6 million. After discussion regarding potential avenues for funding and the respective pros and cons; current bond rates; cost vs savings; work schedule; and long-term projections following COVID-19; the Board voted to proceed with the project.

BOARD DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS:

(Unique business items will be listed in this recap first, with recurring/routine reports and business listed at the end.)

The Board approved continued membership with the Ohio Valley Educational Coop (OVEC) and the payment of the related membership dues.

The Board approved the requested maternity Leave for a SES staff member.

The Board approved the use of Capital Outlay funds to pay for General Operating Expenses in 2019-2020. This is a normal operating procedure; additionally, this action included an added expense code.

The Board approved a stipend for employees holding (and using for the district) state herbicide and pesticide certifications.

The Board approved the emergency certification of all substitute teachers for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board approved the provision of a stipend for National Board Certified Counselors (similar to that provided for National Board Certified Teachers).

The Board approved a contract with Herff Jones for the GCHS Yearbook.

The Board approved the GCYSC contract with Gary Rose. (Gary works as a contract employee providing youth services for the YSC.)

The Board approved continued KSBA membership and the payment of related dues.

The Board approved a MOU with Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority defining the placement of a full-time near-peer mentor / college coach for students at Grant County High School.

The Board approved a MOU with Learning Grove (formerly Children's Inc.) defining the after-school childcare services to be provided for DRE and MCE.

The Board approved a resolution prepared by Board Attorney Jim Crawford regarding COVID-19. (It is attached.) Mr. Crawford explained the purpose of the resolution which gives the Board and the district some flexibility and authority in implementing and enforcing the various components of COVID-19. Basically, it clarifies the expectation that staff, students, and families comply with the very fluid COVID-19 restrictions and protocols whether or not there has been a policy change/update specific to that behavior.

The Board approved the 2nd reading of updated KSBA policies. (A summary of the changes is attached.)

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

COVID-19 Update:

Mr. Morgan shared with each Board member a copy of the Back to school Communication #2 and reported that the schools were also creating videos to provide a visual of back-to-school expectations. The Board engaged in discussion regarding where students would eat; lunch schedules; how food would be provided for virtual families if needed; if extra custodians were needed; the availability of hand sanitizer on buses/classrooms; expectations and consequences for parents who send their students to school sick; location and supervision of sick/isolation rooms; guidance from KHSAA; KMEA's cancellation of marching band's competitive season; and more.

It was noted that due to contact tracing no bus passes would be allowed this year. Also, it will be necessary to sanitize buses between each run. (Sanitizing buses includes a wipe down of all touch points and fogging the interior.) It is likely that we will need to hire additional monitors.

Jennifer Wright reported that several pieces regarding the Virtual Academy were still being decided, including whether teachers would have in-person *and* virtual students or if one teacher would have only in-person while another had only virtual. Principals are working out various details including the availability of recorded lessons, class sizes, who will teach what, and more.

Mrs. Wright reported having had a very productive meeting with several staff members regarding the seamless continuation of instruction via NTI – including the introduction of new content – should in-person instruction be interrupted for an extended time. Feedback from the teachers included conversations on additional training on Google classroom, planning two weeks in advance, recorded lessons, how to perform formative assessments, and more. Technology will be an issue for many families so options are being explored that may help. Presently, Chrome books are on back order, but we are exploring the possibility of checking out existing devices. Mr. Morgan reported that we are having conversations with internet providers, United Way, and the R.C. Durr Foundation to help facilitate internet service to families who do not currently have service.

Mrs. Clay reported on Preschool and the screening protocols that have been recently developed to meet COVID-19 standards. She reported that Preschool will be in-person, but that we are working to serve IEP students virtually if parents are uncomfortable sending their child back to school. The Preschool program is still planned for half days, with no mid-day transportation.

IN OTHER NEWS:

Counselor Position: Mr. Morgan reported that thanks to the last legislative session, we had been provided \$43,000 for a mental health professional to supplement services already being provided. With this award, together with funds Mr. Frilling was willing to contribute from GCMS, we will be able to hire an additional counselor that would be primarily at GCMS. Motion and 2nd to create additional position. Motion carried.

Safety Grant: Mr. Morgan announced receive of a \$100k safety grant for enhancements of entrances, cameras, intercoms, locks, door coverings, etc. Mr. Shipp and Architect Ehmet Hayes will explore the best use of these funds.

Graduation: Mr. Morgan reported that the high school will announce on Monday their decision regarding an in-person graduation program.

Retirement of PIO: Mr. Morgan announced that Nancy Howe, the district's Public Information Officer for the past seventeen years plans to retire in early fall. He informed the Board that her position would be posted and the search for a replacement would be underway.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Gene Nelson reported on one of the courses he had taken via KSBA's summer leadership program.

MONTHLY RECURRING AND/OR ROUTINE BUSINESS / REPORTS:

Agenda for July, 2020, meeting of the Grant County Board of Education: Approved.

Minutes from previous meeting(s): Approved as presented.

Claims (Accounts Payable): Approved as presented.

Superintendent's Travel: Zero travel expense presented.

DPP Report: An amended calendar for 2020-2021 was presented and approved. (The new 2020-2021 calendar is attached.) Changes include a start date that is delayed by two weeks. Also, the PD and contract days were moved to the front of the calendar. This gives the district more time to prepare for our rather unusual COVID-19 start and provides additional time to determine how state guidance on the pandemic will evolve. Opening Day will still be August 10, however, there will be no district-wide gathering of all staff, as in years past. District office administrators will, instead, visit each respective school. Fall Break was reduced to 1 day. The new calendar will utilize the provisions of SB50 in which we can count instructional hours rather than instructional days/hours.

Financial Report: Forthcoming

Energy Report: None

Personnel Actions: Report to be sent to members following meeting.

FINAL ACTIONS:

The Board adjourned into Executive Session, then reconvened and adjourned regular meeting.