

## RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS

The Groveport Madison School District Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
February 8, 2023

The Board of Education of the Groveport Madison School District Board met in a regular session on Wednesday, February 8, 2023. The meeting was held at Groveport Madison District Service Center located at 4400 Marketing Place, Suite B, Groveport, Ohio 43125.

### **Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order by President, LaToya Dowdell-Burger at 7:25 P.M.

### **Roll Call**

Responding to the roll call by Treasurer, Felicia Drummey, were LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Chris M. Snyder, Kathleen Walsh, and Seth Bower.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Led by Board President and recited by attendees.

### **Review of Belief Statement and Board Norms**

Recited by Board Vice President, Seth Bower.

### **Adoption of Meeting Agenda**

Motion by Libby Gray, seconded by Seth Bower that the Board of Education approve the agenda.

- *Kathleen Walsh requested that the Board of Education amend the agenda by removing the Program of Study from the Consent Agenda and add it to the Superintendent's Agenda as item (H7).*

### **23-509 Adoption of Meeting Agenda As Amended**

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, seconded by LaToya Dowdell-Burger that the Board of Education approve the agenda as amended.

Yes: Kathleen Walsh, LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Seth Bower, Chris M. Snyder, Libby Gray.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

### **23-510 Agenda**

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, seconded by Libby Gray that the Board of Education approve the agenda as amended.

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Chris M. Snyder, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

### **Public Participation**

- *John Keishner spoke on behalf of the American Legion regarding student participation in Girls and Boys State. Each year more than a thousand students participate to elect officials and establish a mock government, even meeting with the state Governor. Mr. Keishner also addressed concerns surrounding CRT in the curriculum.*
- *Harold MacHarrie addressed the Board of Education regarding safety concerns, offering to donate toward the purchase of metal detectors and suggested remedies to curb student violence.*
- *Elizabeth Simcox addressed concerns regarding meeting the needs of hearing-impaired individuals and providing closed-captioning services during the Board of Education meetings. She suggested that all meetings being broadcast all videos maintained on YouTube include closed caption options.*
- *Jocelyn Houck addressed the Board of Education regarding safety and security concerns.*
- *Kendall Ford addressed the Board of Education regarding Groveport Madison High School education performance.*
- *Brian Casserly addressed the Board of Education regarding security, CRT, and ranking of the school district.*

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### **Recognition**

#### **Groveport Madison High School Cheerleaders**

The Board of Education recognized the Groveport Madison high School Cheerleaders for placing first in the 2023 AmeriCheer Buckeye Cheer Open Nationals.

#### **Black History Month Recognition**

Superintendent James Grube cited the resolution to recognizing February as Black History Month.

#### **Presentation - Evolve**

Evolve presented the Board of Education with a metal detector demonstration. Board of Education members asked questions regarding the equipment and cost.

- *Cost per unit (single lane system) \$27,000, billed annually, in advance of services being provided. Groveport Madison High School has five primary access points.*
- *Estimated time for students to enter is 13 minutes for 400 students; 6 ½ minutes for 200 students.*
- *Superintendent, James Grube, Deputy Superintendent, Paul Smathers, and a representative from Evolve will perform an audit and assessment to determine specific district needs.*
- *Groveport Madison Board of Education will meet in a special session February 22, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. for the purpose of discussing only security. President Dowdell-Burger requested Evolve to meet with parents to address their concerns during this special meeting of the Board of Education.*
- *Mrs. Walsh requested that a survey also be developed for middle school students, parents, and staff.*
- *Mrs. Gray asked to meet with union leadership in regards to staff stipends related to security monitoring.*
- *Students, parents, and staff of Groveport Madison High School will receive a Safety Survey on February 10, 2023. The survey will remain open through March 1 or March 2, 2023. The results of this survey will be shared during the special meeting of the Groveport Madison Board of Education on February 22, 2023.*

### **Board Items**

#### **23-511 Addition to Agenda**

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, seconded by Seth Bower that the Board of Education amend the agenda item by adding the approval of Board of Education Goals as item (G2).

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Seth Bower, Libby Gray, Chris M. Snyder.

No: Kathleen Walsh.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

#### **23-512 Approve Board of Education 2023 Meeting Dates**

Motion by Seth Bower, seconded by Libby Gray that the Board of Education approve the 2023 Board of Education Meeting Dates. [Attachment](#)

- *Mrs. Walsh expressed concern about the meeting dates since they conflict with her work schedule. President Dowdell-Burger stated that members worked to make schedule adjustments to accommodate a change to proposed meeting dates, but were not able to do so.*

Yes: Seth Bower, Libby Gray, Chris M. Snyder, LaToya Dowdell-Burger.

No: Kathleen Walsh.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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### **23-513 Approve Board of Education Goals**

Motion by Libby Gray, seconded by Seth Bower that the Board of Education approve the goals established by the Groveport Madison Board of Education.

Yes: Libby Gray, Seth Bower, LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Chris M. Snyder.

No: Kathleen Walsh.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

### **Superintendent Agenda**

#### **Business Services Update**

Chris Reed, Director of Business Services provided the Board of Education an update on the ongoing projects of the district. [Attachment](#)

- *President Dowdell-Burger requested the security team be engaged for feedback on the My View application.*
- *Vice President Seth Bower requested a “How To” guide for the use of My View application.*

#### **Transportation Update**

Chris Reed, Director of Business Services and Terry Thomas, Community Bus Services, provided an update on student transportation. [Attachment](#)

- *Mr. Thomas advised the Board of Education of the struggle to maintain the flow of drivers due to attendance issues. The struggle is a result of driver trainers being used to drive routes and trainees filling bus monitor roles. Mr. Thomas confirmed there are currently five bus mechanics servicing our fleet.*
- *Mr. Thomas stated that February 15, 2023 is National Love the Bus Day.*

#### **Board Member Concern**

- *Mrs. Walsh raised point of order surrounding President Dowdell-Burger’s modification of the agenda to add item (G2) Approval of Board Goals out of order because the amended agenda had already been approved and the Board had moved on to other items.*
- *President Dowdell-Burger deemed board action appropriate and the meeting continued.*

#### **Human Resources Update**

Matt Cygnor, Human Resources Director provided an update on Human Resources. [Attachment](#)

- *Mrs. Gray requested the Board of Education to be provided with the number of student expulsions as well as the reason for the expulsion.*

### **23-514 Recess**

Motion by Seth Bower, seconded by Chris M. Snyder that the Board of Education adjourn at 9:36 P.M. for a five-minute recess.

Yes: Seth Bower, Chris M. Snyder, LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, Libby Gray.

### **Reconvene Open Session**

Groveport Madison School Board of Education reconvened open session at 9:49 P.M.

#### **Safe Route to School Discussion**

Chris Reed, Director of Business Services discussed Safe Route to School.

- *Mr. Reed thanked Mrs. Walsh for providing a contact at the Ohio Department of Education.*
- *Mrs. Walsh states that Safe Route has a lot of information about students walking to school bus stops.*

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### **23-515 Memorandum of Understanding**

Motion by Libby Gray, seconded by Seth Bower that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent recommendation to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding and Grievance Settlement Agreement between the Groveport Madison Board of Education and Groveport Madison Local Education Association regarding payment of a stipend after declining medical coverage. [Attachment](#)

Yes: Libby Gray, Seth Bower, Chris M. Snyder, Kathleen Walsh, LaToya Dowdell-Burger.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

### **23-516 Student Engagement and Community Service Seals Guidelines**

Motion by Libby Gray, seconded by Seth Bower to approve the Superintendent recommendation that the Groveport Madison Board of Education approve the revised Student Engagement and Community Service Diploma Seal Guidelines. [Attachment](#)

Yes: Libby Gray, Seth Bower, LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, Chris M. Snyder.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

### **23-517 Program of Study Changes**

Motion by Seth Bower, seconded by Libby Gray to approve the Superintendent recommendation that the Groveport Madison Board of Education approve the final changes and additions to the Groveport Madison High School Program of Studies. [Attachment](#)

- *Mrs. Walsh shared concerns regarding the omission of several course changes as well as concerns regarding the appropriateness of the book chosen for coursework.*
- *Mrs. Walsh motion to move this item to the February 22, 2023 meeting. The motion died for lack of a second.*
- *Mr. Bower shared that he read the book "Stamped" and does not find any CRT teaching in the book.*
- *Mrs. Clark advise that the course is an elective and after a student signs up they can still drop the course if desired.*
- *Mrs. Gray asked for confirmation that the change in valediction goes into effect with the Class of 2027. Mrs. Clark confirmed*

Yes: Seth Bower, Libby Gray, Chris M. Snyder, LaToya Dowdell-Burger.  
No: Kathleen Walsh.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

### **Treasurer Agenda**

#### **Monthly Financial Reports**

- *Presented by Felicia Drummey, Treasurer* [Attachment](#)

### **23-518 File Property Value Complaints**

Motion by Libby Gray, seconded by Seth Bower to approve the Treasurer recommendation that the Groveport Madison Board of Education approve the resolution which allows Rich & Gillis Law Group to file complaint(s) against the valuation of real property for tax year 2022. [Attachment](#)

Yes: Libby Gray, Seth Bower, Kathleen Walsh, LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Chris M. Snyder.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

### **House Bill 126 and Consider Declaratory Judgement Action**

Treasurer, Felicia Drummey dispensed with the discussion item as the attorney is moving forward without Groveport Madison Local Schools participation. [Attachment](#)

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### Consent Agenda

#### 23-519 Consent Agenda

Motion by Libby Gray, seconded by Seth Bower to approve the Superintendent recommendation that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda.

- Approve the minutes of the January 2023 Organizational, Regular, and Special Meeting [Attachment](#)
- Approve Certificated Personnel Items [Attachment](#)
- Approve Non-Certificated Personnel Items [Attachment](#)
- Approve Fund Transfers [Attachment](#)
- Approve Ohio High School Athletic Association membership for 2023-2024 [Attachment](#)
- Approve Cruiser Competitive Cheerleading Team Trip to Virginia Beach, Virginia [Attachment](#)
- Approve Payment-In-Lieu Transportation Reimbursement [Attachment](#)
- Approve Online Policy Manual Changes – Second Read [Attachment](#)

Yes: Libby Gray, Seth Bower, Chris M. Snyder, LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh.

### Board Items

#### Comments, Announcements, and Other Business

- Superintendent James Grube mentioned the community choir is February 25, 2023 shared an open invitation to this wonderful event.
- Superintendent Grube also invited Board members to attend State of the Schools, Tuesday, March 14, 2023.
- Superintendent Grube invited everyone to join him for Java with Jamie, February 17, 2023 at Tim Hortons.
- Treasurer, Felicia Drummey queried the Board to determine interest of scheduling a levy workshop. President Dowdell-Burger will coordinate the date and time for Board members, the Board attorney, and Mike Collins, OSBA Levy Strategist.
- President Dowdell-Burger thanked law enforcement and professed the Board's support.
- Mr. Snyder shared that he attended Asbury Elementary for the National Read-Aloud day and it was a great reminder of why members serve the Board.
- President Dowdell-Burger asked for the programs planned for Black History Month as she would like to attend any of the programs scheduled.
- Mr. Grube thanked Dr. Gordon and President Dowdell-Burger for the work that was put into "Empire More" day which was held at Groveport Madison High School on January 14, 2023 that created a lot of activities and positive experiences.
- February is the month of Love, President Dowdell-Burger and Vice President Seth Bower have a supply list and request donations to help show teachers love and provide needed items for them to finish the year strong.

#### 23-520 Executive Session

Motion by Libby Gray, second by Seth Bower to approve the Superintendent recommendation that the Board of Education enter executive session at 10:26 PM for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline or demotion of a public employee of the school district, and for the purpose of considering the sale or purchase of property at competitive bidding, since disclosure at this time would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to person(s) whose personal, private interests are adverse to the general public interest and to confer with an attorney for the board of education concerning disputes involving the board that are the subject of pending or imminent court action O.R.C. 121.22

Yes: Libby Gray, Seth Bower, Kathleen Walsh, LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Chris M Snyder.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

#### Reconvene Open Session

Groveport Madison School Board of Education reconvened open session at 11:17 P.M.

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**23-521 Adjournment**

Motion by Seth Bower, seconded by Libby Gray to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 P.M.

Yes: Seth Bower, Libby Gray, LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, Chris M. Snyder.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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President

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Treasurer