

Board of Education Regular Meeting (Wednesday, September 11, 2024)

Generated by Kimberly Grilli on Monday, September 16, 2024

Members present

LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM**A. Opening Items**

Procedural: 1. Pledge of Allegiance at 7 pm.

Discussion: 2. Five Principles of Cruiser PLC

Procedural: 3. Roll Call - All present.

Discussion: 4. Review of Belief Statement and Board Norms

B. Agenda Approval

Action 2024-315: 1. Motion to go into Executive Session. Board Member Kershner recommends that the Groveport Madison Board of Education adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official.

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by John Kershner

Final Resolution: Motion Fails

Yes: John Kershner, Kathleen Walsh

No: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Seth Bower, Libby Gray

Action 2024-316: 2. Motion to move item E.3 to M Innovation and Accountability Update

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by John Kershner

Final Resolution: Motion Fails

Yes: John Kershner, Kathleen Walsh

No: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Seth Bower, Libby Gray

Action 2024-317: 3. Motion to move E.3 to E.5

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Libby Gray

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2024-318: 4. Motion to add under F, Board Item 4. Transportation Committee for the purpose of developing a plan to bring transportation in-house for the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by John Kershner

Final Resolution: Motion Fails

Yes: John Kershner, Kathleen Walsh

No: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Seth Bower, Libby Gray

Action 2024-319: 5. Adoption of Meeting Agenda

Move that the Board of Education approve the agenda.

Motion by Libby Gray, second by Seth Bower.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower

No: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner

C. Call to Order**D. Public Participation**

Procedural, Information: 1. Ms. Cheryl Irving - Retired Teacher at GMHS, taught French, German and Spanish from 1983-2013. I applaud the school board for attempting to right the wrong of eliminating the French program. Four years of French has been restored. Thank you. Nobody here bears the full responsibility, but thank you for looking ahead and trying to rectify the situation. Linguistics is a key to learning and benefits students and ultimately our country in regards to technology, business, diplomacy, etc.

2. Mr. Dave Reynolds - Just wanted to follow up from the last Board meeting. Follow up on playgrounds - ORC 3301 3505 states that the code of health and safety standards of Ohio schools requires school buildings and premises and clean playgrounds be kept in safe and good repair. ORC 3313.77 Public use of school property - this code allows the public to use school playgrounds, fields, and other facilities outside of school hours, while not directly focused on safety, indirectly ties to ensuring the safety of

playgrounds. Playgrounds still need work. Yearly pipe flushing in schools. ORC 3745-81 and ORC 6109- Safe drinking act supposed to be done yearly in our buildings. Let me know where those are at. ORC 33013505 3701-54 Air quality checks also. Superintendent gets 2 raises in a year and travel expense.

Action 2024-320 3. Motion to extend time for Ms. Conwell for two extra minutes

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Seth Bower

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

4. Ms. Kimyata Conwell - I became interested and got involved with the district after my oldest son, who is now a senior, was involved in an altercation at the high school. I attended a board meeting and listened to all of the naysayers and negative comments. I got involved and remain involved. I'm on the safety committee and look forward to participating in the Parent Advisory Board. If you are not part of the solution then you are part of the problem. I am addressing Mr. Kershner and Ms. Walsh and why you are asking about my kids and me and why my kids go to this district. I feel like you are targeting my kids. My children have a right to an education. Mr. Kershner, I realize that my children do not fit your definition of diversity as you so offensively comment on Facebook. It seems to me that you're more interested in the community members that show division, confusion, and negativity rather than input and work that puts the children of this community at the forefront. It seems to me that you both have a problem with my involvement and are looking for a way for me to leave. I strive to do all things with decency. I'm baffled with how you have time to research where I lay my head at night, but you don't have time to pick up an agenda from this location once a month. We are here on McKinley-Vinto. My kids missed their first day of school and playing in first football scrimmage. Any further inquiries about me or my children will cause legal recourse from myself.

5. Ms. Nana Watson - NAACP President of Columbus branch. I am here to express our outrage at the blatant racism that exists on this board. We will not tolerate the behavior of elected officials who are supposed to represent the entire community but instead engage in divisive and harmful conduct. Board member Kershner, it is unacceptable for you to post a picture on Facebook comparing a black woman and a white woman in a boxing ring to a news story about three women accused of running an elder fight club. This comparison is not only inappropriate but perpetrates harmful, racial stereotypes. Ms. Walsh, your silence in response to a post captioned What about a fight night in Groveport featuring you verses President Berger is equally troubling, by not addressing or condemning such a post you have implicitly condoned it. Your lack of actions speaks volumes and suggests your agreement with this offensive content. This community along with the NAACP is appalled by this behavior. You are elected officials responsible for setting an example for the students in this district; a district that includes three thousand plus black students out of six thousand. Board member Kershner, your additional comment responding to Shannon Henry, Yes you nailed it, as long as diversity is one color. We are rocking it. It is further proof of the deep seated racism you hold. Does the rest of this board agree with such harmful ? If not, what are you planning to do to address the racism that exists within this school district? It is clear that you only see one color, your own. The NAACP demands the following - public apology from Board members Kershner and Walsh for their racist and inappropriate comments, mandatory diversity equity and inclusion training for all board members with a focus on anti-racism, a formal review of the board members conduct with consequences for those who continue to engage in behavior that perpetrates racism, a commitment to fostering inclusive environment for all students and families in this district regardless of race. We will not rest until meaningful steps are taken to eradicate racism from this board and ensure that our students are represented fairly and equitably. Shame on you for your actions. Parents and families in this district deserve better. Thank you so much for your time.

E. Recognitions and Presentations

Action 2024-321: 1. Recognize September 11 as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance

The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison School Board adopt a Resolution recognizing September 11 as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance.

Motion by Libby Gray, second by Seth Bower.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2024-322: 2. Recognize September 15, 2024 to October 15, 2024 as National Hispanic-Latino Heritage Month

The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education adopt a resolution recognizing September as National Hispanic-Latino Heritage Month

Motion by Libby Gray, second by Seth Bower.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Presentation, Report: 3. ADAMH Board Presentation in Recognition of September as Suicide Awareness Month - Ms. Gibbs spoke tonight about ADAMH. We are very pleased to be here. We provide pathways and help families in crisis. Mental health is concerning for everyone and affects everyone. Trend is not going the right direction. We support you with Concord counseling.

Presentation, Report: 4. Southeast Area Commission - have 5,600 units of housing in Groveport School District.

Discussion: 5. Innovation and Accountability Update - Mike Morbitzer talked about what we are hopefully going to do with 4500 building. Showed what other schools are doing with STEM and other project of studies. Went to Marysville Early College HS. Met with students at this Marysville school. Students work independently. Met with 8 teachers about how they love this setup. Students love it.

F. Board Items

Presentation, Report: 1. Safety Committee Update - Mr. Smathers, Kimyata presenting with Alise (former student). Talked about playground safety, football games and sporting events safety. We had conversations about playgrounds. Vandalism is happening a lot after hours at the playgrounds everywhere. Maintenance dept. talked and said things will be repaired as we get them. If we can fix it now we will fix it. Football games - Mr. Altman and Mr. Snyder talked about them and creating a family event and presence of admin and teachers are great. Evolve systems have been working well. Checking with students that should not belong here unless they are from the 2 school districts playing that night. Friday nights are fun and have family atmosphere. Alise was in marching band member and community member. Security is awesome and students feel safe and secure at games. We don't have fear in attending games. It is a great vibe now. Thanks to Mr. Altman and his team. He thinks from time school starts and gets out to football game. It is secure and safe.

Discussion, Report: 2. Student Advisory Committee Update - working with Dr. Green on getting dates for HS and MS. Have got a lot of applications to be on Student Advisory Committee. Last year's students are automatically invited to attend for this year. ES applications will be getting in soon. Still working on Parent Advisory Committees.

Discussion: 3. Educational Trust - Future goals of golf outing next June. Maybe also do a Halloween Masquerade Ball in 2025. 2024 - Golf outing raised \$12,500 for student debt. Now we have Universal Lunch and so we will do it for something else for June 2025 Golf Outing and other things. Maybe for 2025 Golf outing we can raise money for students and athletes with a meal or equipment.

G. Superintendent's Agenda

Presentation, Report: 1. Business Services Update - Playgrounds!!! I and our maintenance team have been doing playgrounds since our last meeting. We found vandalism and wear and tear and not safe equipment. Playground safety hazard inspections have been completed. Head custodians will do daily inspections (first thing in the morning). Looking for safety hazards, broken windows, vandalism. 2 employees on wait list to become Certified Playground Safety Inspectors. We are talking to our insurance company about a claim for vandalism. We are looking to add fences around the playgrounds. Post signage that playgrounds will be closed at dark will be done soon. Annual inspections will be done moving forward, will happen every summer. We have removed some pieces of equipment if it was deemed unsafe. We repaired what we could. The cost could be \$100,000 per site. Getting quotes now. Tech dept is looking at getting new enhanced cameras that face the playgrounds for security and if we identify the vandals, we will report them to the police. On some walking platforms that have some wear and tear we are fixing that and getting them safe for students and will pass inspection. That also goes for walking bridges. We are fixing where we can and keeping it safe.

Presentation, Report: 2. Diversity, Engagement and Human Capital Report - Hiring is slowing. Still looking for a couple nurses and some aides. Moving to Frontline Central for next year. Very excited about this. One system for recruiting and tracking into HR and into AESOP.

Presentation, Report: 3. GMLSD BOE Special Projects Report - Talking about grants. What we got last year and working on for 24-25 school year.

Presentation, Report: 4. GMS BOE Student Services Goals Update - Increase in need for translation services with immigrant students. We are adding Lexmark translation software. They are printers that can translate documents into other languages.

Action 2024-323: 5. Move to take a 5 minute recess at 10:18 pm.

Motion by John Kershner, second by Seth Bower

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2024-324, Discussion: 6. Board Policy Updates - Move to postpone for Oct 9th Board Meeting.

The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the second read of Board Policy KG-R Community Use of School Premises

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by John Kershner

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

No: Libby Gray

Action 2024-325, Discussion: 7. Approve Frontline Contract

The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Frontline Contract for Human Capital Department

Motion by Libby Gray, second by John Kershner.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2024-326, Discussion: 8. Approve New Job Description - Mentor

The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the new Job Description - Mentor

Motion by Libby Gray, second by Seth Bower.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner
No: Kathleen Walsh

Action 2024-327, Discussion: 9. Approve Program of Studies
The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Program of Studies.

Motion by Libby Gray, second by Seth Bower.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Action 2024-328, Discussion: 10. Approve Student Handbook
The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Student Handbook.

Motion by Libby Gray, second by Seth Bower.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner
No: Kathleen Walsh

Action 2024-329, Minutes: 11. Approve the minutes for the August 2024 Board Meetings
The Treasurer recommends the Groveport Madison Local Board of Education approve the minutes for the August 14, 2024 Regular and the August 26, 2024 Special Board Meetings

Motion by Libby Gray, second by Seth Bower.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower
No: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner

Action 2024-330 , Discussion: 12. Approve Certificated Personnel Items
Resolution: The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Certificated Personnel Items:

Motion by Libby Gray, second by Seth Bower.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower
No: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner

Action 2024-331, Discussion: 13. Approve Classified Personnel Items
Resolution: The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Classified Personnel Items:

Motion by Seth Bower, second by Libby Gray.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower
No: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner

Action 2024-332: 14. Approve Special Education Contracts
Resolution: The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Special Education contracts - NSS Outreach Ohio; Empower Behavioral Health & Intervention; St. Vincent Prep Academy and Reach Educational Services.

Motion by John Kershner, second by Libby Gray.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner

Action 2024-333: 15. Approve Payment-In-Lieu Transportation Reimbursement
The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve payment-in-lieu of transportation reimbursement. The Ohio law allows for public school districts to determine the impracticality of transporting resident students attending schools not located within the district after consideration of a number of factors. Upon that determination, the school district is permitted to offer payment-in-lieu of transportation to the parent/guardian. The Transportation Department has completed studies and residents in affected areas will be offered payment-in-lieu of for the 2023-2024 school year. The initial list of families being offered payment-in-lieu-of transportation is attached as Executive Content since it lists students' names.

Motion by Libby Gray, second by Seth Bower.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower
No: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner

Action 2024-334: 16. Approve High School Softball Overnight Trip - Myrtle Beach
Resolution: The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Groveport Madison High School Softball Trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina (April 13, 2025 - April 18, 2025).

Motion by John Kershner, second by Seth Bower.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner

Action 2024-335, Discussion: 17. Approve High School Band Trip - Wilmington, Ohio High School

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Groveport Madison High School Band Trip to Wilmington, Ohio High School (October 12, 2024).

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by John Kershner.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner

H. Treasurer's Agenda

Presentation, Report: 1. Treasurer's Reports

Action 2024-336, Discussion: 2. OFCC - Resolution of Acceptance in the OFCC program - Segment 2
(not specified)

Motion by Libby Gray, second by Seth Bower.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower

No: Kathleen Walsh, John Kershner

I. Comments, Announcements, and Other Business

Discussion, Information: 1. Supt - Comment on AV for this room. Presentation next month to the Board to upgrade sound and presentations in Board room. Supt - United Way is giving hygiene kits to our schools. Supt - National Safety conference. We need to move Nov board meeting to Nov 6th at 7 pm. All agreed to move the Board mtg. Latoya - Can we use Educational Trust for helping the Disney trip cost? Kathy - Ohio Capital Conference gets group rate. John - Transportation Committee needs formed and started for next yr. and other items from previous months. Also building up Music program. Kathy - Need to talk about Music program in MS and/or 5th grade. Kathy - Policy EDE and EDE-R and Board standing committees.

J. Adjournment

Action 2024-337: 1. Motion to Adjourn

11:34 pm.

Motion by Libby Gray, second by Seth Bower.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner