

## **Board of Education Regular Meeting (Wednesday, March 13, 2024)**

*Generated by Tara Blackburn on Friday, March 15, 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

Discussion: 2. Five Principles of Cruiser PLC

Procedural: 3. Roll Call - All members present and accounted for.

Discussion: 4. Review of Belief Statement and Board Norms

#### **B. Agenda Approval**

**Action: 1. 24-166:** 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, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

#### **C. Call to Order**

#### **D. Public Participation**

Information: 1. Public Participation

Mr. Jack Hamilton - With two children attending high school and one in elementary, he has been made aware of concerning incidents occurring in the school bathrooms. It is imperative that these issues are brought to the attention of the school board. Considering relocation due to these security concerns, Mr. Hamilton emphasizes the ongoing nature of these problems.

Ms. Bell - Following a parent-teacher conference at the high school, Ms. Bell encountered unprofessional behavior and offensive material within a classroom. Although the offensive items have since been removed, she remains deeply troubled by the incident, feeling both unsafe for her child and personally humiliated.

#### **E. Recognitions and Presentations**

Recognition: 1. Recognition of National Women's History Month and Irish-American Heritage Month

Recognition: 2. STAR Award and Educators of Excellence 2023

Presentation: 3. Tiny House Presentation

Discussion: 4. Teaching and Learning Update

Discussion: 5. Innovation and Accountability Update

#### **F. Board Items**

Discussion: 1. Discussion of Committees and Subcommittees -

Elementary - Gathered at Glendening, the Elementary Student Advisory Committee comprised primarily of enthusiastic fifth graders. Notably, they expressed a profound attachment to their school, referring to it as "my home." Engaged in lively discussions, they articulated areas requiring improvement and voiced concerns about safety issues. Remarkably attentive and

articulate, these young students demonstrated keen awareness and insight.

Middle School - The Student Advisory Committee convened at the middle school, where students expressed contentment with their presence while also acknowledging that some of their peers seemed to have lost hope. In discussions regarding high school, they emphasized the necessity for improvements to benefit future students, emphasizing the importance of reinstating pride and cultural elements within the school environment. Additionally, they articulated their dissatisfaction with the negative influence of social media.

High School - Addressing the need for enhancement in high school experiences for upcoming students, the committee members emphasized the importance of reinstating pride and fostering a positive cultural atmosphere. They also highlighted their concerns regarding the adverse effects of social media, expressing a collective dislike for its negative impact.

**Action: 1. 24-167:** Approve SAC Meeting Minutes Motion Added to Approve Minutes from March 7, 2024 GMHS Student Advisory Committee Meeting

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

Discussion: 2. OSBA In Service Meeting - Scheduled for April 16, 2024. Questions or comments to be addressed need to be given to President Dowdell-Burger by March 22, 2024.

Discussion: 3. Policy Committee - John Kershner and Seth Bower will serve on it.

Discussion: 4. Education Trust - Golf outing scheduled for June 14, 2024 located at the Groveport Golf Course.

Report: 5. COSSBA Update - The conference was highly informative, particularly regarding Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) initiatives and various programs implemented in different states. The multitude of programs available in high schools nationwide is truly impressive. One seminar focused on the concept of Continuous Board Meetings, where discussions with representatives from Toledo schools revealed innovative partnerships with businesses. These partnerships include programs such as aviation classes, where students have the opportunity to build planes, sponsored by DELTA, which often leads to employment with the company after graduation. Toledo schools also offer initiatives like the "Grow Your Own Program" for teachers and a robotics program.

Discussion: 6. Vouchers Hurt Discussion - Mr. Kershner has conflicting sentiments regarding the program, based on his firsthand encounters with his children. Mrs. Dowdell-Burger raised concerns about the exclusion of certain students in voucher schools and advocated for uniform academic standards across all voucher schools.

Discussion: 7. GMLS Strategic Plan Update - Meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2024.

Discussion: 8. Board Meeting Minutes - Board member Walsh presented a letter emphasizing the necessity for improved and comprehensive Board minutes, highlighting the absence of recordings for certain meetings, particularly special ones. Latoya, Seth, and Libby expressed appreciation to the Treasurer for diligently recording minutes. John echoed Mrs. Walsh's sentiment regarding the need for enhanced minutes and advocated for recordings of all meetings without exception.

**Action: 2. 24-168:** Recording of Special Board Meetings Motion Added that Special Board Meetings shall not be recorded if only to open, enter executive session, and then close.

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

Discussion: 9. Public Records Requests - Time and Costs - The board requested a report on the number of Public Records Requests (PRR) and their associated costs, both in terms of monetary expense and administrative time, to be presented at an upcoming Board meeting.

Discussion: 10. Master Facility Planning Presentation

**Action: 3. 24-169:** Motion for 5 minute recess at 10:12 P.M; to return at 10:17 P.M.

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by Libby Gray.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

## **G. Consent Agenda**

**Action : 1. 24-170:** Motion to Amend Consent Agenda

Motion to Remove G2 February Meeting Minutes, G5 Soliant Contract, and G7 Payment in Lieu from consent agenda, to be voted on separately.

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 : 2. 24-171:** . Motion to approve the amended Consent Agenda

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda according to recommended action

Motion by Libby Gray, second by John Kershner.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

### 3. Approve Certificated Personnel Items

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Certificated Personnel Items:

### 4. Approve Non-Certificated Personnel Items

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the following Non-Certificated Personnel Items:

### 6. Approve ESports Team Trip to Regional Tournament

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the ESports Team trip to Ohio University for the Spring 2024 Regional Tournament

The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda according to recommended action.

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 3. 24-172:** 2. Approve the minutes for the February Regular Meeting

Resolution: The Treasurer recommends the Groveport Madison Local Board of Education postpone the approval the minutes for the Special Board meeting on February 7, 2024 and the regular Board meeting on February 16, 2024 to be voted on at the next board meeting on March 20, 2024.

Motion by Kathleen Walsh, second by John Kershner.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

**Action 4: 24-173:** 5. Approve Soliant Contract for maternity leave coverage for therapist

Resolution: The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Soliant Contract for maternity leave coverage for therapist (SIP in particular).

The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda according to recommended action.

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 5: 24-174:** 7. Approve Payment-In-Lieu Transportation Reimbursement

Resolution: 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.

The Superintendent recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda according to recommended action.

Motion by Seth Bower, second by Libby Gray.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

## **H. Superintendent's Agenda**

Discussion: 1. Portrait of a Cruiser Discussion

Report: 2. Business Services Update - Transportation Department is in good shape with a sufficient number of drivers available.

Report: 3. Human Resources Report

## **I. Treasurer's Agenda**

Procedural: 1. Treasurer's Reports

Report: 2. District Savings Report

**Action: 24-175:** 3. Approve Resolution Accepting Amounts and Rates

The Treasurer Recommends that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education Approve the Resolution Accepting Amounts and Rates As Determined By The Franklin County Budget Commission for tax year 2023 (collected year 2024)"

Motion by John Kershner, second by Libby Gray.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

## **J. Comments, Announcements, and Other Business**

Information: 1. Board member comments and/or special announcements, and other business. Possible items to be added to

next meeting's agenda-

John Kershner - Plans to deliver a presentation to the Board members, Superintendent, and Treasurer regarding a proposal for a "SPLIT BOARD". Additionally, he advocates for increased student participation in the sports program and proposes executive sessions on safety, security, and restroom facilities. The Fellowship Pantry will be open tomorrow, and all are encouraged to attend. Latoya Dowdell-Burger- Announces that scholarships are now available at the high school. Columbus Classics is offering a significant discount for an upcoming event, which promises to be an enriching experience for our students. She also mentions the initiation of a Black educators group. Kathy Walsh- Expresses disappointment with the lack of acknowledgment from the Department of Education for Irish Heritage month. Paul Smathers - Extends gratitude to the communications department for procuring 8,000 eclipse glasses. He also mentions discussions with military recruiters and plans to explore a military pathway for students.

#### **K. Adjournment**

**Action: 24-176:** 1. Motion to Adjourn @ 11:19 P.M.

Motion by Seth Bower, second by John Kershner.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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