

GEORGE-LITTLE ROCK COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

The George-Little Rock Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 in the Band Room in Little Rock. Board President Doug Krull called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Doug Krull, Todd Klein, Curt Fiedler, Wade Netten, and Kristi Landis. Also in attendance were Superintendent John Eyerly, Board Secretary Cathy Bonestroo, Principal Kevin Range, Principal Molly Schilling, and guests Valecia West. Dawn Arends, Darcy Hansmann, Karie Aeikens, Dan Helkenn, Brian Luenberger, Jordan Kruse, Ed Jumbeck, Kris Hamilton, Brenda Sandbulte, Michele Johnson, Bill Ackerman, Ruth Ackerman, Morgan McComas, Apryl Henrichs, Kim Terhark, Jill Netten, Stacie VerSteeg, Nick Long, Kristi Donaker, Sheri Molitor, Reid Gerdes, Levi Judge, Lisa Harms, Angie Mayer, Mark Lutmer, Lissa Harson, Melinda DeLeeuw, Shari Kruse, Sharon Klaahsen, Joel Hoogland, Paul Denekas, LaRae Denekas, Jordan Kruse, Lucas Nagel, Carson Stave, Cole Stave, Caleb Terhark, Landon Jumbeck, Jayden Klingenberg, Dayton Harson, Alex Bonestroo, Jayden Mauldin, Serenity Putnam, and Crystal Pedersen. A quorum was established noting all the board was present.

Superintendent Eyerly recognized FFA and the anticipated \$1427 FFA chapter award notice received from Dakota Access Pipeline; state speech students with Brenda Sandbulte making comments about the season noting 40-50 large group state speech students, an estimated 32 individual state speech students, and recognizing the all-state students. Brian Luenberger shared his pride of the state basketball team and the comments received about the well rounded team both on and off the court. Superintendent Eyerly presented certificates of recognition for students who accomplished state speech and state basketball. Principal Schilling recognized the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade young authors with those being chosen to be published in Northwest AEA Harvest publication as follows: Alexis Landis, Elise Sandbeck, Sara Betz, Sydney Bender, Quinn Master, Will Hellenga, Brandon Van Briesen, Josh Hansmann, Kennedy London, Ava Bonestroo, and Jacey Eben. Sydni Mauldin was also recognized for her drawings being published. Matt Helkenn was recognized for his State Geography Bee participation. Elise Sandbeck was awarded first, Alexis Landis was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Sara Betz was awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> at Northwest Iowa Reading Council's annual writing contest. Elise Sandbeck's story was also recognized as 1<sup>st</sup> in the state after being sent to the Iowa Reading Association's Contest. Schilling also recognized Mrs. Poor Bear, Andrew Everhart, and Shaelyn Denekas for their participation in Jazz Band as 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Principal Range recognized the success of the Swing Show, the boys' basketball team, and the cheerleaders and how they represented the district. Krull thanked the staff and administration recognizing the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter already.

Citizens were invited to address the board. Krull noted that public comment section was limited to 5 minutes per person with a total time allotted for all comments to 30 minutes. Krull also noted that the board is aware of staff and community concerns and that a work session for the board will be held on Thursday at 7 pm. Krull reminded all in attendance that since it is a public meeting personnel and names are not allowed in the discussion. Krull welcomed comments at 5:45. After presenting the required public comment form to President Krull prior to the meeting, public comments were received from Karie Aeikens, Dan Helkenn, Brian Luenberger, Serenity Putnam, Sharon Klaahsen, Kristi Donaker, Mark Lutmer, and Kim Terhark regarding the possible reduction of the liaison officer position to a part-time position. Support for the liaison position remaining full-time was shared noting the strong relationships made, the behavior differences seen in the students, the need for a positive male role model for many students, the impact that's working with now preventing instead of reacting, continuity for the students,

and the assistance given to the teachers. Kristi Donaker also expressed concerns of Reading Recovery and Title. Brenda Sandbulte addressed the board recognizing the economics of education and the boards' difficult task with a tight budget, noting the loss of enrollment and the strong staff support and love for the students. She also noted the long history of concerns for the future of GLR and we are still here. Concerns were expressed for possible one teacher 1<sup>st</sup> grade and all that is taught in that year. The legacy and success of GLR graduates was noted and the focus on what is best for the kids at GLR. Sandbulte encouraged support of the district coming together and the impact legislative decisions are having on school districts, especially the small districts recognizing the need to address legislators. Bill Ackerman expressed concerns of one teacher and a full time para for 1<sup>st</sup> grade noting concern of the ability of a para to do the same as a teacher and concern of distractions for the students with the higher numbers in one class. Concerns of struggling students not receiving what they may need were also expressed. Helkenn also addressed the possible 1<sup>st</sup> grade decision as a disappointment. Krull thanked the public for their feedback and concerns, expressing that no firm decisions were made yet and the board would be holding a work session on Thursday, April 12 at 7 pm to discuss in more detail. The majority of those in attendance left the meeting. Guests remaining included Brenda Sandbulte, Michele Johnson, Bill Ackerman, Ruth Ackerman, Darcy Hansmann, Dawn Arends, and Valecia West

A motion to approve the agenda with the additions of some bills and resignations was made by Netten, seconded by Landis, and carried 5-0.

A public hearing was held on the 2018-2019 budget. Cathy Bonestroo and Superintendent Eyerly presented a power point outlining the budget. Enrollment is the driving force of the budget recognizing the decline in enrollment as a concern. 2018-19 open enrolled out expenses will be an estimated \$84,000 increase with an estimated total of \$315,000 paid out for open enrollment. The majority of open enrolled out survey responses noted open enrolled out students were for convenience, particularly daycare issues. Eyerly shared the exploration currently taking place for a community daycare. Spending authority was explained as part of the complicated Iowa finance formula for the limit the district is allowed to spend noting scenarios of full grain bins or credit card balance as analogies. Restricted categorical funds and the spending limits were stressed. The complex issue of caution needed for spending down the LCRF funds was also shared in particular related to the spending authority. Area tax rates were shared in comparison to the GLR tax rate. The different levies and funds and their uses were also explained. District concerns were also noted recognizing staff, community, and board comments of GLR as the "revolving doors" for teachers and how it is perceived that GLR builds teachers for the bigger schools. Eyerly noted particularly coming from a bigger district that bigger does not equal better, noting the good things about GLR. The district plan was shared to manage by attrition, explore operational sharing for funding possibilities, transportation cost reduction plan looking into larger buses to reduce shuttles, and LED lighting for utility savings. Eyerly shared district concerns of open enrolled out expenses noting the increase of \$84,000 for a total estimated of \$315,000, community perception and what staff and others are saying about GLR is important. Additional concerns noted were district perception, decreasing enrollment, staff retention, and staff morale. Fiedler noted that some positions could not be shared successfully, noting Cathy as an example. Eyerly also recognized the concern of staff morale particularly with the difficult decisions being made. Eyerly is working on articles, speaking engagements, the e-newsletter, and an updated website with a goal of a July 1 rollout. Eyerly also expressed the facilities assessment from Estes for future planning and the ability for the public to check out the facilities assessment book from the central office. It was also noted that the LCRF funds are never guaranteed. The board recognized the grim financial position the district would have without the LCRF funds, noting the district would likely be in a negative environment. No public comments were received on the budget.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Landis, seconded by Fiedler, and carried 5-0.

A motion to approve the bills was made by Netten, seconded by Fiedler, and carried 5-0.

A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Netten, seconded by Klein, and carried 5-0.

The board reviewed the Retirement Open House, Northwest AEA Board Briefs of March 19, 2018, Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) communications, updated calendar hours to date, the thank you from the Marcia Martens Rosenboom family, the LCRF FYI received noting no current changes for payment distributions.

A motion to accept the resignations of Sheri Molitor as para, Melia Towne as middle school girls' basketball coach, Joel Hoogland as middle school girls' basketball coach, and Thomas Vigdal as middle school football coach was made by Landis, seconded by Klein, and carried 5-0.

Range shared the history of the prom sponsor and the interest in someone taking over to coordinate for the \$500 contract and still have the support of the junior class sponsors with the possibility of it brought to the board in May. A motion to accept the recommendations for hire for prom sponsor to be split evenly at \$125 each between the junior class sponsors of Tyler Glanzer, Sheri Stratman, Shannon Poor Bear, and Thomas Vigdal; summer school staff of Melinda DeLeeuw as coordinator at \$25/hour, Amy Stump and Kim Dykstra as teachers at \$20/hour, and Apryl Henrichs, Darcy Eben, Kendra Reitsma as paras at \$12/hour; Amanda Storm will be an alternate at \$12/hour if student numbers warrant; Trisha Hengeveld as summer credit recovery aide at \$12/hour was made by Landis, seconded by Fiedler, and carried 5-0.

Superintendent Eyerly shared the legislative update noting the security plans, operational sharing, suicide prevention, school meal debt, and civics test. Local purchase threshold protocol was discussed for parameters. Private use of public property was also addressed noting if open to one, then it should be for all, liability concerns, possible volunteers who have come forward for coordinators in George with the hopes of individuals willing to come forward in Little Rock as well. A planned policy meeting to address private use of public property and other board policies will likely be held this summer.

Board committee reports were shared. Buildings and grounds noted the Estes report and the priorities it helped to establish for an improvement plan, noting the signage required for the parking lots, bathroom upgrades, and possible window replacements. It was noted that a bond issue was not being considered as part of the improvement plan. Sharing committee gave updates about the recent meetings with Central Lyon regarding the athletic sharing agreement. Agreement was amended to include the verbal agreements from last year with cross country and a 2<sup>nd</sup> assistant softball coach. Eyerly recognized that Cathy noted that these costs were to be split between the districts and after another conversation with Superintendent Ackerman, this was added to the agreement. The agreement will be a 2 year agreement instead of a 4 year agreement with meetings two times a year. It was noted that both districts have different community projects which may impact the agreement with good reason to move to a 2 year agreement. It was also noted that softball was part of the discussion.

Superintendent report included the receipt of news of GLR listed in the will for the estate of LuAnn Heeren for scholarships for needy students or other uses as deemed by the board with possibility of receiving it by the end of the calendar year. The book, Fulfilling Ride was distributed to board members to read to encourage a positive experience for the students through extra-curricular activities. It was noted that the books were purchased through a donation from the Mustang Sports Boosters.

Discussion was held regarding the local purchase threshold noting considerations to set as a guidance for parameters but also noting the many variables and the considerations that need to be factored including

possible percentages with dollar amounts, emergency considerations and if guidelines versus a policy should be set. Discussion will be followed up at future work sessions. Cathy noted that when staff are given a limited budget, they need to try to get the most out of their budget which includes best pricing and many comments have been heard from staff about this. Range and Schilling also supported. Cathy also noted how this could be helpful for future considerations including the possibility of a purchasing card program for parameters for staff as to when it is allowed to purchase elsewhere. It was stressed that the board and administration want to support local business but also need to recognize and define and avoid situations when it is not a competitive price. With no motion made, local purchase threshold died for lack of support.

A motion to approve and adopt the 2018-2019 budget was made by Netten, seconded by Klein, and carried 5-0 noting no discussion was brought forward from the public hearing.

A motion to approve the proclamation for May 8 as Teacher/Staff Appreciation Day was made by Netten, seconded by Klein, and carried 5-0.

A motion to approve the 2017-2018 calendar adjustment adding May 24 as a student day and moving the staff PD day to May 25 and teacher work day to May 29 was made by Landis, seconded by Klein, and carried 5-0. Motion included that if any more late starts occurred, last student day would be May 25, with staff PD day of May 29, and teacher work day of May 30.

A motion to approve the 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Des Moines was made by Fiedler, seconded by Klein, and carried 5-0.

A motion to approve the 2018 graduation class as presented was made by Netten, seconded by Klein, and carried 5-0.

A motion to approve the Retirement Investor's Club (RIC) Agreement was made by Fiedler, seconded by Netten, and carried 5-0.

A motion to approve the Center Point Energy Natural Gas Agreement was made by Netten, seconded by Landis, and carried 5-0.

A motion to approve the bid from Rock County Implement for the Little Rock tractor and accessories for \$15,282.95 to replace the 22 year old tractor in need of repairs was made by Fiedler, seconded by Klein, and carried 5-0. It was noted that the disposal will be considered at a later date with the list of other items for disposal needed to be presented for a public hearing. It was also noted that the committee thought this was approved the previous year for Little Rock.

A motion to approve the request to obtain LED lighting bids was made by Klein, seconded by Landis, and carried 5-0.

A motion to approve the request to obtain carpet and flooring bids with Eyerly meeting with Paul and Dawn to determine a priority list was made by Netten, seconded by Landis, and carried 5-0. Eyerly noted his considerations were the high school band room and Little Rock offices.

A motion to approve the request to obtain bus bids for two large 84 passenger buses was made by Klein, seconded by Landis, and carried 5-0. Eyerly shared that Paul had already obtained possible bids for used buses. It was noted that this could reduce the Little Rock shuttles and activity shuttles to save money in the general fund.

A motion to approve the request to obtain a concrete bid from Eben Construction to complete the project stopped last summer noting their allowance to break the contract plus obtain a bid for possible new concrete work at the Little Rock front entrance opening this portion up to more vendors was made by Fiedler, seconded by Klein, and carried 5-0.

A motion to approve the request to obtain bids for the elementary roof project in George was made by Netten, seconded by Fiedler, and carried 5-0. It was noted that McDonald already submitted a bid, but the bid will be opened up for a competitive bid due to the expected dollar amount of the project. Eyerly will follow-up with McDonald.

A disclaimer was noted that the district would not proceed with the bids if Superintendent Eyerly and Cathy were not comfortable with the bids or the budget. They will be working through the end of the year balances to check into the possibilities. It was also noted, that these bid items are from different funds and do not affect the funds where staffing is paid.

A motion to approve the Central Lyon Athletic Sharing Agreement was made by Netten, seconded by Landis, and carried 5-0. Changes were noted including the split of salaries as discussed with a follow-up call with Superintendent Ackerman.

The board expressed their appreciation and thanks to the guests still in attendance.

A board work session was set for Thursday, April 12 at 7:00 pm in the library in George.

The next regular board meeting was set for Monday, May 14 at 7:00 pm in George with a supper served to board members and their spouses at 5:30 pm by the Foods Class.

A motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm was made by Klein, seconded by Netten, and carried 5-0.