

GEORGE-LITTLE ROCK COMMUNITY SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

The George-Little Rock Board of Education met in work session April 12, 2018 in the Library in George. Board President Doug Krull opened the session at 7:00 pm. 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, Darcy Hansmann, Karie Aeikens, Reid Geerdes, Kelsey Geerdes, Liisa Eyerly, Officer Nyron Moore, and Officer Amy Stoner. President Krull opened the work session at 7 pm noting no public comments or presentations are allowed at a work session. Work session was held to discuss and review staffing needs and a financial review and budget discussion.

Superintendent Eyerly read a statement of the process that took place to present the district plan and recommendations including the chronology of all the administration and board committee meetings and board communication requested to present the district plan for staffing. It was noted that difficult decisions will need to be made to ensure the future sustainability of GLR and that the process for dealing with upcoming decisions must be effective and efficient to avoid facing serious and unnecessary difficulties.

Superintendent Eyerly recognized the administration understands the hierarchy, and that the board has the final decision. President Krull noted the board has the right to make the final decisions. Krull requested Cathy to present noting the separate funding and the decreased revenue of \$29,633.65 and therefore increased expenditures from the liaison position moving from half time in 16-17 to full time for 17-18 school year. At risk funding was also discussed noting the uses and the 18-19 decrease for that funding. Other revenue decreases were also shared, as were staffing expenditures. Also presented were the IASB impact on new money, budget guarantee, and funding sheet which included the \$7,215 in new money for 18-19.

First grade was discussed with Superintendent Eyerly noting that he and Principal Range have had great discussion on how to make a teacher and para work with rotation of students, so they are not always in the room together. It was also noted that it was believed there are strong candidates for the para position. It was noted that the decision is a difficult decision for all. It was also noted that the administration would not make the recommendation if they felt it would hurt the students. A reminder was given that if a first grade teacher was hired, it would likely be a cut position in the next year or so which was what was trying to be prevented.

Administration is looking at all staff qualifications and looking at how staff can be used in multiple ways with their skills and qualifications and having dialogue with other districts about sharing some positions as is currently done with Mr. VerBurg. A reminder was given that financial experts have shared that GLR is overstaffed for the number of students. It was stressed that administration wanted to manage by attrition.

Discussion was held regarding the staffing changes with moving some teachers. It is proposed to have a half time ELL and half time Title I with a disclaimer pending numbers. Reading Recovery would be discontinued. Fourth grade will become two sections. To keep all middle school staff full-time, the 5th grade will move into the middle school rotation for classes. Cathy Bonestroo also reminded of the

concern of special education expenditures and how it is projected that they will be significantly reducing in the future and concern of losing funding if not used effectively.

Guidelines were requested to help strategize and make decisions better. It was stressed that the board and administration want to make the right decisions to continue the high level of education and success for the students that leave GLR. It was also reminded that the board is a volunteer position and the goal was to prevent future staff cuts. Fiedler stressed these are difficult decisions and does not want hard feelings when meetings are finished. He also noted that the first few grade years are crucial and title and reading recovery are important to avoid struggling students “getting lost in the shuffle”. Netten noted that long discussions have been held and the difficult decisions these are to make. Board requested the administration to compare class sizes with other districts, noting the understanding of different dynamics.

Closing thoughts were to continue to trust the administration as previously agreed upon for the first grade para position. Administration again stressed that if they did not feel they had the right candidate, that a teacher would be pursued. It is the hopes of the administration to have a higher degree, high qualified para for the position. It was the consensus to keep the liaison position as a full-time position for 18-19. All other recommendations were also supported by the board. It was also noted that the staffing recommendations were team recommendations and not made by one person. Klein reiterated that administration does need better direct guidance. Fiedler also noted that Eyerly has requested quarterly reviews and still has not received a review.

A special board meeting will be held on Monday, April 16 at noon to accept resignations.

The work session adjourned at 8:25 pm.