

GEORGE-LITTLE ROCK COMMUNITY SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

The George-Little Rock Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, April 8, 2019 in the Library in Little Rock. Board President Doug Krull called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Doug Krull, Wade Netten, Kristi Landis, and Todd Klein. Curt Fiedler was unable to attend. Also in attendance were Superintendent John Eyerly, Board Secretary Cathy Bonestroo, Principal Steven Green, Principal Molly Schilling, and guests Valecia West, Nyla Hellinga, Sharon Klaahsen, Morgan McComas, Reid Geerdes, Tyler Glanzer, and Ruth Ackerman.

A quorum was established. Citizens were invited to address the board noting the proper paperwork needing to be submitted to the Board President prior to the start of the meeting for up to a 5 minute speaking time. No public comment was received.

Principal Green recognized Mrs. Lewis for submitting the application which resulted in GLR being recognized as a 2019 Best Community for Music Education. GLR is one of just four school districts in the State of Iowa and among only 4% of districts nationwide to receive the award from NAMM Foundation. The award program recognizes outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community leaders who have made music education part of a well-rounded education. Designations are made to districts and school that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and access to music education. GLR is recognized for the cohesiveness of the music program including support from the community, board, and administration. GLR supports music with lessons during the day, recently purchasing new curriculum, remodeling the rooms, new instruments, and training for the teachers. The music program also participated in the solo/small ensemble contest with I (superior) ratings for 9 students in instrumentals and 8 in vocal and II (excellent ratings) for 4 students in instrumentals and 3 in vocal and recently hosted swing show. Principal Schilling recognized middle school band for competition clinic participation, middle school dance which was well attended, Kid WIND stem project competition approaching, and the Book Bash participation.

A motion to approve the agenda with some extra bills added was made by Landis, seconded by Netten, and carried 4-0.

A public hearing was held for the 19-20 calendar adjustments with built in snow days added and a change in parent teacher conferences to longer conferences on Monday and shorter conferences on Wednesday to allow church attendance.

A public hearing on the 19-20 budget was held.

A motion to approve the minutes from the previous meetings was made by Netten, seconded by Klein, and carried 4-0.

A motion to approve the bills from all funds was made by Klein, seconded by Landis, and carried 4-0. Two bills will be followed up on before payment is sent as noted by Bonestroo.

A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Netten, seconded by Klein, and carried 4-0.

The board reviewed the Northwest AEA board briefs of March 18, 2019 and Iowa Association of School Boards Board Connect noting School Board Recognition Month in May.

A motion to approve the resignations of Molly Bomgaars, Vo-Ag teacher and Reid Geerdes, Assistant Girls Basketball Coach was made by Landis, seconded by Klein, and carried 4-0. President Krull thanked them for their time and dedication to the district.

A motion to approve the recommendations for hire of Reid Geerdes, Head Girls Basketball Coach for \$3383; Reid Geerdes, Assistant Golf Coach pro-rated to \$1722; Jordan Kruse, softball, baseball, and football field maintenance at \$1500 was made by Klein, seconded by Landis, and carried 4-0. Netten commented and inquired about the number of golf participants and the participation in meets. He noted some concerns from past golf seasons with coaches added but lack of meets attended. Glanzer shared that girls and boys golf compete in two different locations so another coach will be helpful. He also shared there are 6 competing with 19 out for golf.

Superintendent Eyerly shared on the legislative updates focusing on mental health professionals as a possible resource, SAVE extension still moving forward for infrastructure, and noted about the failed bill regarding possibly carrying a weapon on district grounds. Board committee reports were requested with finance committee having met to review the budget and discussions held regarding staffing and expenditure reductions. Facility and grounds committee met for projected projects. Bonestroo noted she had developed and presented a facility plan taking the information from the Estes visit and from principals and staff with a need for prioritizing and timing of projects necessary for a budget plan and forecast. Eyerly noted one of the upstairs bathrooms needs to be completed by October 1 in the high school per directive from the state equity audit. Coaching staff position guidelines and possible budget impact are still being reviewed.

Superintendent Eyerly shared there will be a second meeting with the Central Lyon athletic sharing committee. Eyerly shared the summer projects list for getting bids and assuring projects completed will be based on the estimates received but again noted the only definite project is at least one of the upstairs bathrooms. The possible weight room was discussed noting the willingness of the booster club to support the project with the possibility to rehab the old concession stand area. Students in house enrollment projections for 2020 through 2025 were shared noting the anticipated declining enrollment projections with Schilling noting the projections were based on seniors leaving versus preschool students starting.

Budget power point presentation was presented by Bonestroo and Eyerly. Tax rate history and area tax rates were compared. Iowa school finance was discussed sharing the different funds that are used for different expenditures as required by statute and how operations (salary, benefits, and supplies) are a different fund than repairs and projects. Spending authority was also discussed which is the limit the state sets for district spending from the operations (general) fund based on enrollment. It was noted that the easiest way to understand spending authority is even if the district has money in the accounts, they are still limited by the state as what can be spent. It was stressed that taxing will not affect spending authority, but direct donations can assist the district with authority. It was stressed that the goal for balancing the budget and not having a negative effect or decrease on spending authority was to match expenditures and revenues. It was stressed that when expenditures are above revenues the spending authority will decrease and have a compounding effect. Projected revenues and expenditures were shared with recommendation of decreasing expenditures to align with revenues and noted that even with the state aid at 2.06%, the district is facing negative new money of over \$116,000 due to the decline in enrollment the previous fall. Operational sharing that has been done has a positive effect by receiving additional state aid estimated at \$105,000. Open enrollment outs (43) are also more than those coming in (10) resulting in a net loss of 33 students with state aid and teacher leadership aid both following the student. Bonestroo explained how she invoices other districts for the students who are open enrolled in and pays out for those students who are open enrolled out, therefore being part of the expenditures for the district's

operational fund. It was also explained that the published budget is all funds combined and sets the maximum expenditures for each fund with no anticipation of spending all of it. However, all funds must be separated and must follow Iowa Code for each fund when it comes to expenditures. The line item budget is the districts expenditure plan to maintain the district's fiscal health. The district is in a good position now, but changes will need to be made for the future in order to maintain the financial health of the district.

Bonestroo's recommendation for bank account balance transfers from the checking to the money market account for the PPEL/PERL/SAVE fund were reviewed. Eyerly shared 3 budget options for the 2019-20 staff plans. Projected elementary enrollment numbers were shared for preschool through 3rd grade. Preschool 23, TK 12, Kindergarten 19, 1st grade 31, 2nd grade 27, and 3rd grade 29. It was noted that Kindergarten would be 19, 20, or 21 which falls below the guidelines for the board class size.

A motion to approve the amendment to the 2019-20 school calendar was made by Netten, seconded by Klein, and carried 4-0.

A motion to approve the 2019-20 published budget was made by Landis, seconded by Netten, and carried 4-0.

A motion to table the coaching staff position guidelines was made by Netten, seconded by Klein, and carried 4-0.

2019-20 staff plans were discussed. Krull stressed concerns of serving the students and following board guidelines of maintaining classroom sizes of 24 (K-3) and 28 students (4-8) and to have 2 sections and also expressed concerns of open enrollment. Landis also shared concerns of class size with testing scores, teacher retention, and at risk student concerns. Board requested creativity with decreasing the budget. Eyerly stressed that over 80% of the budget is salary and benefits. Netten shared discussions from the finance committee on the 3 options with possible ESSA uses for a certified teacher to assist in classrooms as an interventionist. It was stressed the need to stay a viable district for a long-time to come. Interventionist is a creative way to address concerns and have a teacher assist in the classrooms. District needs to review and make some changes when enrollment decreases and look at everything especially having the least impact to students. Krull noted everything will need to be looked at from the top down starting with administration. A motion to approve the 19-20 staff plans of Option 1 for 1 section of Kindergarten, 2 sections of 1st grade, 2 sections of 2nd grade, and 2 sections of 3rd grade based on projected enrollment was made by Netten, seconded by Landis, and carried 4-0. Eyerly stressed this decision will impact other areas noting an example of decreasing field trips with needed changes to be made to lower expenditures as presented with the budget and where we need to be in 3-5 years.

A motion to approve the renewal of the shared transportation director agreement with Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn was made by Netten, seconded by Landis, and carried 4-0.

A motion to proclaim May 8 as National Teacher's Day to recognize teacher and staff appreciation was made by Landis, seconded by Klein, and carried 4-0.

A motion to approve the 2018-19 graduating class for those meeting requirements was made by Klein, seconded by Landis, and carried 4-0.

A motion to approve the Mustang softball run club fundraiser was made by Netten, seconded by Klein, and carried 4-0.

A motion to approve the Center Point Energy Services Agreement was made by Landis, seconded by Netten, and carried 4-0.

A motion to approve the Schumacher Elevator agreement was made by Netten, seconded by Klein, and carried 4-0.

A motion to approve to obtain bids for the weight room renovation or addition was made by Landis, seconded by Netten, and carried 4-0.

A motion to approve to obtain bids for security cameras was made by Netten, seconded by Klein, and carried 4-0.

A motion to approve to obtain bids for carpet and flooring projects was made by Netten, seconded by Klein, carried 4-0. Auditorium stairs were mentioned by Eyerly as a need.

A motion to approve to obtain bids for bathroom projects was made by Klein, seconded by Landis, and carried 4-0.

A motion to approve to obtain bids for sidewalk projects for Little Rock and George elementary was made by Klein, seconded by Landis, and carried 4-0.

A motion to approve to obtain bids for George elementary canopy project was made by Klein, seconded by Netten, and carried 4-0.

A motion to approve to obtain bids for the distance learning (ICN) room was made by Landis, seconded by Netten, and carried 4-0.

A motion to approve to obtain bids for the bus barn garage doors was made by Klein, seconded by Landis, and carried 4-0.

A motion to approve to obtain bids for window replacements noting the goal of a multi-year plan for Little Rock and the High School was made by Netten, seconded by Klein, and carried 4-0.

A motion to approve the purchase of scoreboard panels from Daktronics, Inc. with 100% Booster Club support was made by Netten, seconded by Klein, and carried 4-0. Glanzer noted councils on the score tables are going bad. Cost is for 2 new councils and includes the extensions on the current scoreboards for panels on the sides of scoreboards.

A motion to transfer balances between the money market and checking account as presented by Bonestroo to increase interest income was made by Klein, seconded by Landis, and carried 4-0.

A motion to approve the open enrollment out applications was made by Netten, seconded by Klein, and carried 4-0.

Krull read the resignation received from board member Todd Klein effective May 31, 2019 due to an upcoming move. A motion to approve was made by Netten, seconded by Landis, and carried 3-0 with Klein abstaining. Krull noted the board has 30 days after May 31 to replace the position. Procedures will be confirmed with anticipation of advertising and applications for the board to approve and appoint someone to complete Klein's term at a special board meeting.

The next board meeting will be held May 20, 2019 in George at 7 pm. Special board meeting was tentatively set for Friday, April 12.

A motion to adjourn at 8:50 pm was made by Landis, seconded by Klein, and carried 4-0.