

GEORGE-LITTLE ROCK COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

The George-Little Rock Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, October 14, 2019 in the Middle School 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, Jason Fugitt, and Kristi Landis. Curt Fiedler was unable to attend. Wade Netten was expected later. Also in attendance were Superintendent Pat O'Donnell, Board Secretary Cathy Bonestroo, Principal Steven Green, Principal Karie Aeikens, and guests Valecia West, Virginia Klaassen, and Austin Lloyd.

A quorum was established. President Krull welcomed everyone to the meeting. Citizens were invited to address the board with no public comment received.

Superintendent O'Donnell recognized Sheri Stratman for the \$400 beef grant she applied for and received for the Family and Consumer Science (FACS) classes with \$50 to each class. Krull recognized the fall activities in progress.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Landis, seconded by Fugitt, and carried 3-0.

A motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting was made by Fugitt, seconded by Landis, and carried 3-0.

A motion to approve the bills from all funds was made by Fugitt, seconded by Landis, and carried 3-0. Discussion was held on the status of the garage door project with O'Donnell stating he will follow-up again. Kim Dykstra joined the meeting at 7:06 pm.

A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Landis, seconded by Fugitt, and carried 3-0. Discussion was held on the activity and lunch funds with additional reports needed for area business managers with the new online payment system.

NWAEA Board Briefs of September 16, 2019 were reviewed. Key dates for the November elections were reviewed with a reminder to vote on November 5 with absentee ballots now available. The canvass of votes for GLR will be on November 19 with new board members being able to be sworn in after the canvass of votes. November 25 board meeting will be the regular meeting and annual organizational meeting at 4:30 pm in George. IASB annual convention information was shared with each candidate, and all board members were encouraged to attend the convention on November 20 and 21.

The board reviewed the second series of annual policy review for Policies 600 Goals and Objectives of the Education Program, 601.01 School Calendar, 605.04 Technology and Instructional Materials, 606.01 Class Size – Class Grouping, 606.06 Insufficient Classroom Space, 707.02 Treasurer's Annual Report, 707.05 Internal Controls, 710.01 School Nutrition Program, 711.03 Student Transportation for Extra-Curricular Activities, 711.04 Summer School Program Transportation Service, 711.05 Transportation of Non-Resident and Non-Public School Students, 804.01 Facilities Inspections, 804.02 Warning System and Emergency Plans. O'Donnell noted that Policies 601.01 and 707.05 will need 2<sup>nd</sup> reads and approval noting the changes. School calendar policy was changed to hours which has been practice for students but remains days for staff with additional change of the earliest start date of August 23. Internal controls were explained as the control over the district finances noting the difficulty for small districts and giving the example of athletic events where one person sells the ticket and another tears the ticket. It was also

noted that the business procedures manual, processes, and forms have been implemented to assist with district internal controls too. O'Donnell noted that the School Nutrition Program is one of the most regulated programs within the schools.

Principal Aeikens recognized the school lunch staff with National School Lunch week. Updates on professional development were shared with additional ARC training October 2 with a data wall at both sites showing academic growth; all staff training with 57 in attendance on October 9 for ethics training, youth mental help, and ALICE training; 4 staff members attended Really Great Reading training for state required interventions and will be sharing with other staff; and SDI (Specially Designed Instruction) training for more precise testing and interventions based on student needs. Mrs. Lewis was recognized for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders performing a concert at the nursing home. Middle school cross country and volleyball were both recognized for their success. Fall testing has been completed with 2 types of testing for information, IRLA (Independent Reading Level Assessment through the ARC curriculum) and FAST (Formative Assessment System for Teachers) testing. Middle school fundraising will begin October 25 through Cherrydale again with money raised towards field trips and middle school activities. Aeikens also reported on the upcoming preschool night with a supper and centers experience, Red Ribbon week, parent teacher conferences and Scholastic Book Fair.

Netten arrived at 7:24 pm.

Principal Green reported on the junior class career day at NCC with Landis reporting 1100 students at NCC, Fire Prevention week, ACT prep day, senior class improved ACT average score from previous year, big football game Friday with district championship on the line, volleyball success with hosting first game of regionals against HLP, cross country success, fall play practices, upcoming speech camp, ala carte items implemented in the lunchroom, and pleased with school pictures from new company. Green shared there are many positive things going on right now with the new curriculum and complimented the staff who have embraced the new curriculum, the maximum effort of the students, and consultants focus on growth as a team with honesty sometimes hard to receive. O'Donnell shared there are now better early interventions and response plans with trail for what has been implemented.

Superintendent O'Donnell presented coaches guidelines which had been previously presented but not acted upon. Bonestroo noted that guidelines for the other activities (fine arts) were waiting follow-up and guidance to include to present for board action. O'Donnell asked the board if they felt it was a "workable criteria" with board responding they like the guidelines are in writing for guidance. O'Donnell shared the importance of personal instruction and details especially at the middle level noting the longer you keep students in programs, the stronger programs will be. Board committee structure was presented with members assigned at the organizational meeting. Input is encouraged for committees with looking at board member strengths for the committees. SIAC needs to set annual and long range academic goals for fall state reports with this being set in the spring. O'Donnell shared he was not able to find these goals from the previous year. O'Donnell is meeting with board candidates with a plan for board growth and working together on the 6 board standards with one planned per month. Preschool restricted balance of \$272,000 within the general fund will be proposed to transfer to flex account in the general fund with public hearing required for expenditures. Maximum benefits for kids is the focus. It was noted that it is common for districts to have higher categorical or restricted balances and explained how money in categorical funds is restricted by the state for how it can be used. Advocacy with legislation has helped open some of this restricted money for other uses. Curriculum and instructional supplies are recommended for expenditures from the Flex fund with a public hearing planned for the November meeting.

Discussion was held that confirmation was received that the federal government shorted the state approximately \$10 million so the almost \$95,000 expected and budgeted for the school improvement comprehensive status which was expected this year and next year will not be funded and result in a budget impact. Updated certified enrollment was shared with 13 less students from previous year with state money for next year (FY21) estimated at \$89,440 less. The district will be on budget guarantee for FY21 for funding but needs to have a 2 year plan with enrollment and needs to plan for reductions or district will be back in the same position. O'Donnell noted the complexity of school finance and how Iowa is so different than other states around. Improvement in open enrollment numbers was noted. Daycare will not have an immediate impact, but long-term impact is expected for assisting with open enrollment issues. Financial focus will be on ways to reduce with as little pain as possible for the district.

Board expressed appreciation for the estates received from the Viola and LuAnn Heeren estates. O'Donnell stressed the appreciation from the district and the significant impact for the district. The money is required to be in a trust fund and is not part of general fund purposes. Language from the wills was shared with the board for possible use of the funds. A motion to approve the establishment of a new money market account at Security Savings Bank for the trust fund money was made by Netten, seconded by Fugitt, and carried 4-0. Discussion was held that CD rates were checked with both local banks but without knowing the future use or when it will be used, the money market would be a better alternative versus locking funds up for 3 years for the best interest rate. It was recommended to set-up a committee to manage the fund and consider possible use noting it was one-time money so cannot be used to sustain ongoing expenditures. It was noted that the auditor has recommended a separate bank account to avoid potential general fund use.

A motion to approve the coaching guidelines was made by Fugitt, seconded by Netten, and carried 4-0.

A motion to approve the GLR Concussion Protocol was made by Landis, seconded by Fugitt, and carried 4-0. O'Donnell shared that an activity director meeting presented by the state was held with directors from the area focusing on protecting the student athletes and the concussion protocol. Discussion was held regarding the implementation and support from all coaches, particularly how to implement the GLR protocol with shared sports.

A motion to approve the open enrollment out requests was made by Landis, seconded by Fugitt, and carried 4-0.

A motion to approve the revisions to the bus driver manual was made by Netten, seconded by Landis, and carried 4-0. O'Donnell shared history that after recent review of bus driver time sheets clarification was needed for shuttle pay as timesheets recently submitted were resulting in almost \$76/hour pay for some shuttle activity drivers. Pay period was also reviewed and clarified as some staff are not submitting timesheets in the proper pay period which IPERS can interpret as wage manipulation. Landis questioned when changes became effective. O'Donnell stated the changes became immediate from when he addressed with staff.

A reminder was given for the regular board meeting and organizational meeting on November 25 at 4:30 pm in George.

A motion to adjourn at 8:05 pm was made by Netten, seconded by Fugitt, and carried 4-0.