

GEORGE-LITTLE ROCK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

The George-Little Rock Board of Education met for a special meeting on Wednesday, May 4, 2022 in the superintendent office in the GLR administration building in George. President Austin Lloyd called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Austin Lloyd, Andrew Sprock, Jason Fugitt, and Andrea Johnson. Also in attendance were Superintendent Tom Luxford, Board Secretary/School Business Official Cathy Bonestroo, and guests Valecia West, Serenity Putnam, Matt Mitchell, and Jason Stubbe.

A quorum was established. No public comment was received.

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Fugitt, seconded by Sprock, and carried 4-0.

District 3 board vacancy had 3 applicants including Serenity Putnam, Matt Mitchell, and Jason Stubbe. Applicants were asked to share a few minutes about themselves. Serenity Putnam shared she has 3 children in the district, has lived in George almost 10 years, current work experience as legal assistant at Clabaugh and Goslinga, and education of working on her associates as a paralegal and BA in social work with ultimate goal of becoming a lawyer. She also shared she has no generational ties in the district which brings more awareness of what outsiders look at for the school, flexibility, and being a single working mom gives valuable insight. She presented awareness of teacher shortage, academic interests, and ability to take problem and come at with a different angle. Matt Mitchell shared he has 4 children in the district, has lived in George just short of 20 years, graduate of Sheldon and NCC, and work experience traveling around state to start and having been in own business 16 years overseeing many projects. His daily work has developed great relationships in George and Little Rock being in the public every day, served 6 years on development corporation board recognizing the goals of George and Little Rock, and was part of the daycare needs survey and now has focus of housing with goal of assisting with enrollment for the school. Volunteer work was shared with George Betterment Club, sporting events, and donations. He presented academics is number 1 and doesn't want to have any kids left behind as a focus. He also shared awareness of athletic facilities improvements, conference affiliation discussions, track improvement options, some positions stretched too thin and overworked causing burn out, continue working community for enrollment focus and open enrollment issues. Jason Stubbe presented born and raised in district of both communities, volunteer as football announcer and volunteer basketball coach, SDSU graduate and pharmacist with 3 kids with 2 currently students and one younger and wants what's best for them and communities. Alumni passion for the school not replicated and pride of district sets him apart. He shared involvement somehow somehow if not selected for board, whether through volunteer coaching basketball with youth sports passion and gladly involved elsewhere if not selected.

Lloyd thanked and recognized the appreciation of 3 great applicants wanting to be involved and make the sacrifice to serve. Sprock shared the process just doesn't seem right and is difficult position with appointment process regardless of outcome and encouraged them to run for election to let public decide as they should. Discussion was held of committee assignments open with Landis' resignation for GLR educational foundation and IASB delegate with IASB delegate traditionally being president.

Superintendent Luxford reported on softball lights project with cement work being completed Friday. Lights are needing to be retrofitted. Luxford confirmed softball lights project would be completed by the end of the month. M & D initial electrical invoice of \$26,876.14 was presented for approval. Discussion was held that budgeted projects will need to be adjusted accordingly with softball lights total project costs anticipated before of \$10,000 without the cement work with initial electrical invoice being significantly higher than expected with no bids presented for electrical, excavating, or cutting down poles, with only bid received and approved for the cement work. Auditorium stage curtains bid was presented for \$18,998

with \$2150 for installation and removal costs for total of \$21,148 noting glad scrim was able to work. Lights and sound system bid is awaiting. IPERS wage adjustment was presented for approval from April 2012 to February 2014 for a staff member who met eligibility as a sub before becoming a regular employee according to payroll records. District will pay employer contributions and interest due with employee paying employee rates. Resignation was received from Heidi Borer. Recommendations for hire were presented for Kim Dykstra, summer school coordinator at \$25 per hour; Ashley Klaassen transfer from MS to HS language arts teacher; Bret Sherkenbach, business instructor .75 FTE position recognizing 7 years and master degree at \$29,322 with no TSS as not part of master contract with pro-rated benefits and leave and pending Iowa license and background check; Ethan Van Briesen, 6th grade teacher recognizing BA with 7 years experience at \$35,946 plus TSS pending Iowa license and background check.

Discussion was held regarding board vacancy recognizing all qualified candidates and fortunate to have all of them. Candidates were offered to step out if more comfortable during discussion with everyone remaining present. Sprock seriously encouraged all to run for election, voting for Mitchell. Johnson reiterated appreciation voting for Putnam with reason of kids at all levels within the district at this point and background to assist in helping with social and emotional part for the district believing that is part of the open enrollment issue. Fugitt voted for Mitchell saying he knows him the best and will do a great job, not meaning the other wouldn't. Lloyd shared he is torn recognizing Mitchell's involvement but sharing that Putnam's social side of things is important and relevant, voting for Putnam. Lloyd noting that gives a tie of 2-2 reiterating the social and emotional learning piece is the reason for his vote noting a conversation is needed for students, staff, and administration with leadership starting at the board table with the tone set at the top with board and administration.

Conversation was held that revote is needed until come to a decision or motion fails and must appoint a board director. All were asked if would change their vote and further discussion was held. Fugitt denied willingness to change his vote noting important reasoning and justification and positives with Mitchell does not mean negatives towards others. Mitchell being very level-headed with personality known well and brings balance to some strong personalities on the board was stated by Fugitt. Communication with communities is important and huge decisions coming up with one conference affiliation and need ears in the community. Sprock shared selling factor is involvement on prior boards knowing issues that he has worked on stressing keeping other 2 involved in the district going further as a challenge to administration. Johnson shared value points shared recognizing Putnam gives a different valuable perspective than some on the board and believes issues within the school can be improved with some tending towards having driven open enrollment issues. Behaviors can mean district going sideways really fast and can cause district to lose students quickly. Sprock also shared good perspective Mitchell gave to assist in that avenue. Lloyd shared he is still split and hear all statements and arguments with positives on both sides. Regardless moving forward, Lloyd shared the social and emotional piece and what drives open enrollment needs to be dealt with in a different way stating formal education with topic extremely valuable and recognizing open mindedness not being from here. Fugitt shared hard to quantify if that would help with issues. Lloyd shared he would be willing to change his vote hearing no one else would.

Fugitt made motion for Matt Mitchell for District 3 board director appointment, seconded by Sprock. Roll call vote was given with Fugitt, Sprock, Lloyd all ayes, and Johnson nay, motion carried. Bonestroo gave oath of office to Matt Mitchell for District 3 board director.

Board committees were explained. Lloyd recommended to facilities committee a short term and long-term facility plan for the district are still needed. Discussion was held if committees should change before November meeting with determining committees will remain same and just fill vacant positions.

A motion to appoint Matt Mitchell on GLR Educational Foundation and Austin Lloyd as IASB delegate was made by Sprock, seconded by Johnson, and carried 3-0 with Lloyd and Mitchell needing to abstain.

Discussion was held on the softball lights invoice with questions of perspectives of what needs to be completed. Question was posed if another opinion is needed. Luxford shared project work wanted to remain local. M & D has been involved in all parts with Mitchell saying they still need to dig around for wire trench for electrical. A conversation is needed with all contractors of project to have written estimates of total costs from all.

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Mitchell, seconded by Sprock, and carried 5-0. Consent agenda included approval of M & D Electric initial electrical invoice of \$26,876.14 with written bids needed from other contractors for remaining project costs; auditorium stage curtains bid with scrim for \$18,998 from Scholastic Equipment Company with \$2,150 for installation and removal costs from PACA Enterprises for total of \$21,148, IPERS wage adjustment from April 2012 to February 2014 for a staff member who met eligibility as a sub before becoming a regular employee with total wage adjustment of \$3,731.25 with district paying employer contributions and interest due with employee paying employee rates; resignation from Heidi Borer; recommendations for hire for Kim Dykstra, summer school coordinator at \$25 per hour; Ashley Klaassen transfer from MS to HS language arts teacher; Bret Sherkenbach, business instructor .75 FTE position recognizing 7 years and master degree at \$29,322 with no TSS as not part of master contract with pro-rated benefits and leave pending Iowa license and background check; and Ethan Van Briesen, 6th grade teacher recognizing BA with 7 years experience at \$35,946 plus TSS pending Iowa license and background check.

Operational sharing meeting needs to be held with a finance meeting planned immediately following sharing meeting date being set. Finance meeting is needed for work agreement adjustments, HR contract, and handbooks review and approval before bringing to the full board.

Special meeting for closed session will be held May 11 at 5:30 pm. Discussion was held to change the time of the meeting. Parents have been notified of meeting date and time, so time needs to remain same.

A motion to adjourn at 6:43 pm was made by Fugitt, seconded by Johnson, carried 5-0.