

GEORGE-LITTLE ROCK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

The George-Little Rock Board of Education met for the regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 19, 2024, in the community/board room in the GLR central office building in George. President Austin Lloyd called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Jason Fugitt, Austin Lloyd, Andrea Johnson, Matt Mitchell, and Andrew Sprock. Also in attendance were Superintendent Tom Luxford, School Business Official/Board Secretary Cathy Bonestroo, Principal Karie Aeikens, Principal/Activities Director Tyler Glanzer, and guests Les Douma and Valecia West.

A quorum was established. No public comment requests were filed, so no public comment was received.

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Fugitt, seconded by Johnson, and carried 5-0.

Superintendent Luxford thanked Thelma Van Briesen family for the memorial donations to the music and drama departments. Also recognized were all-state speech participants and sponsors, winter sports with 3 state qualifier wrestlers and successful girls and boys basketball post-seasons, and district jazz band competition with 2 jazz bands participating.

A motion to approve the amended minutes was made by Mitchell, seconded by Fugitt, and carried 5-0.

FFA state convention request was presented. A motion to approve was made by Mitchell, seconded by Johnson, and carried 5-0.

Luxford recognized Les Douma for his work and mentorship. Les discussed board development of culture and climate and the district environment planning to meet with focus groups to discuss themes with good things happening in the district and always focus on continuous improvement. Environment of school district focus for good culture must be on mission commitment, district branding and improvements made, who you are, aspire to be part of mission, optimistic attitude from everyone, maintenance of courtesy and civility treating each other right, high standards of integrity expectation, dedication and support of colleagues, willingness to pitch in, district pride, and being champions for kids, If we want to make changes, then it is up to us. Leaders make a difference and if not liked, leaders must change and make the difference. Everyone is a leader in their area. Principals broader sense of leadership and responsibility within their buildings and superintendent is district-wide responsibility for culture. Internal forces are focus and can control what we want to continually pursue excellence. Discussion was held on main talking points of what each category means to the board relating to the district – average, quality people, commitment to excellence, trust, and communication. Trust will not be improved or accomplished without communication. Communication with tough topics was also discussed. Board role and expectations were also discussed with promoting all stakeholders to practice above the line behaviors, common goals, building positive culture, and accountability of students and staff.

A motion to approve the bills was made by Fugitt, seconded by Johnson, and approved 5-0. Mitchell stepped out of the meeting briefly.

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

Superintendent Luxford reported Bonestroo will attend the Iowa Superintendent Finance Leadership Consortium (ISFLC). Legislative updates were shared regarding state supplemental aid (SSA) still not determined, AEA bill, minimum teacher salary bill, and private school athletics participation. Current job openings were shared. Mitchell returned to the meeting.

Principal Aeikens reported on DARE graduation and thanked guest speaker Drew Denekas and Sheriff Vander Stoep, NAEP tests for 4th graders, family literacy night, and staffing and class sizes preparations for 24-25.

Principal and Activities Director Glanzer reported on mid-terms and parent teacher conferences, FFA week, NHS induction ceremony, MS dance, IGHS AU War Eagle Conference leadership conference, War Eagle academic banquet, all-state speech, jazz band, MS girls basketball and wrestling, individual speech, and basketball tournament games.

Finance committee met for negotiations prep with initial proposals scheduled for February 27. Facilities committee tuckpointing bids were presented with bids still being received for summer projects. City of George sewer lining project and potential district impact was discussed for the unknown of what's under the school. Water was reported again in the MS/HS building basement in looking at sewer project. Future bond discussion was reported for potential larger projects.

Program sharing committee reported meeting with Boyden-Hull for potential additional sharing positions, Mr. Verburg's retirement, discussion of shared science teacher, and maintenance position for possible operational sharing.

SIAC meeting is planned for March 13 with committee tabled as students needed on committee.

Superintendent Luxford presented FFA state convention request, Automatic Building Controls agreement, and LCRF grant applications from Alan Holloway and Shannon Klooster. Luxford reported no updates on safety grant that was submitted for fencing, door replacements, and door system. Bonestroo reported on new budget process with legislative changes for new requirement of holding 2 public hearings with courthouse now sending out proposed tax rates to all constituents with proposed tax rate percentage to be reduced but tax revenue about the same due to valuations. Calendar committee meeting will be set with public hearing to be moved to April for 2024-25 start date and schedule. Discussion was held on upcoming public hearings, special meetings, and needed work session.

Resignations were presented from Sarah DeHaan, paraprofessional, and Mitzi Wynia, high school science teacher with accepting a principal position in South Dakota. Megan Stanley was recommended for hire as a substitute teacher.

Policy reviews were presented for Policy 604.04 Program for At-Risk Students, 604.05 Religious-Based Exclusion from a School Program, and 604.08 Foreign Students. Policy first readings were presented for 604.06 Instruction at a Post-Secondary Educational Institution, 604.07 Dual Enrollment, 604.09 Home School Assistance Program, 604.10 Virtual On-Line Courses, and 604.11 Appropriate Use of Online Learning Platforms.

A motion to table the SIAC committee pending decision on additional members was made by Johnson, seconded by Mitchell, and approved 5-0.

A motion to approve remaining consent agenda was made by Mitchell, seconded by Fugitt, and approved 5-0. Consent agenda included FFA State Convention request, elementary tuckpointing bid to M & D Construction for \$71,130.00 for high area including above lower roofs all four sides and \$7,620.00 for northeast portion of elementary, Automatic Building Controls agreement, LCRF grants for Holloway and Klooster, calendar and 2nd budget hearing set for April 15, resignations of Sarah DeHaan and Mitzi Wynia, recommendation for hire of Megan Stanley, policy reviews and first readings as presented. First budget property tax rate public hearing will be determined.

Next regular board meeting will be held in Little Rock on March 18.

A motion to adjourn at 7:34 pm was made by Sprock, seconded by Mitchell, and approved 5-0.