

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF THE GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting – September 11, 2019

The Grandview Heights Schools Board of Education met in regular session at the Brotherhood of Rooks Media Center in the Grandview Heights High School.

Call to Order: President Jesse Truett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call	Members Present:	Members Absent:
	Eric Bode	
	Debbie Brannan	
	Melissa Palmisciano	
	Jesse Truett	
	Molly Wassmuth	

Pledge of Allegiance was said and a moment of silent meditation was held.

Public Comments

Dawn Storm made the following statement to the Board of Education regarding the district's food service program:

My name is Dawn Strong. Thank you for the opportunity for speaking to you this evening. I am the parent of a second grader at Stevenson Elementary. Beyond my role as a mother, I am a nurse anesthetist as well. While I have a bachelor's and master's degree in nursing, I also have a bachelor's degree in nutrition.

My husband and I have been part of the Grandview community for ten years now but we have only been involved in the school system for the past two years, which is when I began to notice the school lunch program and the nutritional offerings to our children. This is why I am in front of you tonight.

In September of 2018, the Ohio Department of Education released the 2017-2018 local report cards for all schools and school districts in Ohio. The results were shared with the community and our Performance Index score was 106.3, which was the highest score of the 16 school districts in Franklin County. This is something the district and all the families within our district should celebrate. With such success and leadership in our academics, why shouldn't the district also be a leader in the cafeteria and the food we serve our children? Actually, the question should be: Why isn't our district the leader in the school lunch program in Ohio?

While I don't have the complete answer, I believe part of the reason is because the food served in the cafeteria has not been a priority in our district and the bar has been set low. Based on last year, throughout our three schools and the 1,178 students, only 24% purchased a school lunch. Additionally, our schools employ over 120 administration and staff members yet only 2% of those purchased a school lunch. While you may think that the high school has open lunch and therefore these numbers do not reflect the true story, let me tell you that only 34% of the students at Stevenson purchased a lunch, and only 23% of the students at Edison, which has the highest amount of students, purchased a lunch.

These are not just numbers and statistics. This information tells a great deal. Students, staff, and administration are not buying a lunch because the product that is being offered to them is unhealthy and doesn't taste good. Parents in this community are more often than not a two-parent working household. Beyond their careers, they have children to raise, after-school events to get to, homework to manage, dinner to get on the table, and bedtime routines. Packing a school lunch is an added chore. Yet, the alternative of having their child(ren) purchase a school lunch is truly not much of an option if you want them to have nutritious food at lunch that will fuel their mind and body so that they will continue to learn throughout the remainder of the school day.

And I would be remiss if I did not mention the children that are on our free and/or reduced lunch program. Perhaps they do not have the luxury of packing a lunch. Perhaps lunch at school is their main meal. They are depending on us to serve them something nutritious.

The district Academic Prospectus of the Grandview Heights Schools states on page 15, "Our wellness team views the cafeteria as a learning lab for life. This environment is where students will put theory into practice. We want our students to begin evaluating and thinking deeply about the choices they make around food and nutrition." That is a fantastic statement. Now here are some of the items that have been on the cafeteria menu for the past two years: Bosco sticks, hot dogs, hamburgers, corn dogs, chicken poppers, and a slushy cup which is actually considered a fruit. I am not a practicing nutritionist but I do not believe that these items speak to what the prospectus states. There is clearly a disconnect.

Our children are our most valuable assets and our most crucial responsibility. They deserve better. Beyond attending every wellness committee meeting last year and successfully writing the grant for the salad bars that are currently at each of our schools, I also sought out and took the opportunity to visit and serve lunch at the Bexley School system this past April with another parent from our community. It was eye opening as the potential for what our school lunch program could offer our children: in-house made hummus, salsa and soups served weekly, yogurt parfaits, grab-and-go freshly made sandwiches and wraps, along with vegetarian and vegan options all offered daily along with their hot lunch offering.

While what I saw was impressive, I believe and know that our school lunch program can be even better. I have had many conversations not only with parents, but with teachers who live in our district, regarding the school lunch program over the past couple years. And, although it is just myself in front of you tonight, I could fill an auditorium with people from our community who feel the exact same way that I do.

We are realistic and know that change takes time. Yet, more importantly, it takes initiative, and that is what I am asking of the Board tonight, to start that initiative. Some examples of potential short-term goals for each of our schools could be grab-and-go items, in-house menus, and the added vegetarian and vegan option. A potential long-term goal could be that of a commercial kitchen in our new building with a chef-driven lunch program that not only serves nutritious and delicious food, but food that perhaps could entice our high school students to want to stay for lunch and engage in social interaction with friends in all the great spaces that will be created in our new building. The kitchen could also serve Stevenson.

These are just some ideas. The next step lies in your hands. Last week a few parents and I met with Andy Culp. We spoke with him about our desire and the absolute need for an improvement in our school lunch program. Our dialogue consisted of similar topics that I have mentioned and I informed him of my speaking with you this evening. He was very receptive to our discussion and my hope is that you will be the same. Thank you.

Katie Clifford spoke to the Board in support of the comments that Dawn Strong made. She shared photos of the Bexley food service program offerings from the parents who visited there recently. She also echoed that Grandview prioritizes academics and extracurriculars so well, and the food service program is the one shortfall that is missing. Katie also stated that she understands many districts do not perform well in this area, but if Grandview is going to talk about wellness, mental health, and emotional wellbeing of students, the food service program is a critical piece. With the new school building, this should be a priority with a commercial kitchen, a chef, and food made from scratch. In the interim, she expressed their willingness to assist the district to begin making improvements.

Dustin Weatherby, local resident and owner of Sculpt Décor LLC, spoke to the Board of Education regarding his custom sculpting business and stated that he is available if the school district has any need for any type of sculptures.

Recognition/Presentations

The following representatives presented to the Board of Education on their respective booster group/PTO fundraisers and initiatives for the 2019-2020 school year:

- EILMS PTO – Rebekah Hatzifotinos
 - Fundraising plans include a Bobcat discount card sale and a move-a-thon or color-run in the Spring.
 - The EILMS PTO expects to provide funding for the following activities: EILMS field day, supplementary funding for the 6th grade Washington D.C. trip for families who are not able to pay, and the T-ball for Theiss tournament.

- GHHS PTO – Susan Jagers
 - Susan provided information on the overall structure of the PTO's. The PTO is a 501(c)(3) under one corporate umbrella with each building PTO (GHHS, EILMS, and RLS) filing as a separate "doing business as" entity with the Ohio Secretary of State.

- The GHHS PTO primary fundraiser is the sale of spirit wear at events including football games, the RLS ice-cream social, EILMS holiday bazaar, and through a local partnership at State of Devotion. Anticipated revenue is approximately \$10,000 from the spirit wear sale. Other fundraisers include ticket sales for the after-prom event and the spring fling event.
 - Funding is planned to be provided primarily for the after-prom event, spring fling, and staff appreciation.
 - Mrs. Jagers also reported that the GHHS PTO now holds funds raised by parent groups for each high school class to be used for senior year activities including an after-graduation party, senior t-shirts, and senior yard signs. These funds had previously been held by individual parents.
- Touchdown Club – David Rickert
 - Fundraising is expected to include: Meet the Team Night, parking lot space sales for home football games, football spiritwear, 50/50 raffle, and the annual Smoker event. Mr. Rickert also reported the Touchdown Club is considering a membership drive.
 - The following activities are supported by the Touchdown Club: Football camp, coaches clinics, senior banners and patches, a tailgate event at the first home football game, and 2 annual scholarships to football players. The Touchdown Club also supports the Grandview Youth Football Association (GYFA).

Mr. Truett thanked Mrs. Hatzofotinos, Mrs. Jagers, and Mr. Rickert not only for their time in volunteering for each booster/PTO group, but also for their willingness to attend and present to the Board of Education. Mr. Truett recognized that it is an added responsibility, but explained that it's an important part of the district's governance structure and accountability. Mr. Truett expressed, on behalf of the Board of Education, his sincere appreciation to each of them.

Presentation – Facility Design Update – Steve Dzurainin, Moody Nolan Architects

Mr. Truett provided an overview of the Facility Core Team function. The team includes Board Members Jesse Truett and Eric Bode, as well as Superintendent Andy Culp and Treasurer Beth Collier. Team members also include Doug Addis, owner's rep, and representatives from Moody Nolan and Corna Kokosing/Elford. From the beginning of the facility planning process, the Core Team evaluates and makes recommendations to the Board of Education, and the Board of Education is the ultimate decision-making authority.

To date, the Board of Education has approved the facility design at the end of Schematic Design and again at the end of Design Development.

Mr. Truett also explained that following the recent community meeting, questions surrounding the design and layout of the restrooms came up. And, while the restrooms have been in both levels of design approval by the Board of Education, Architect Steve Dzurainin will present more detail on the restroom layout since the current design was not discussed in depth and because the design represents a change from the current restroom design.

Mr. Dzurainin reviewed images of the current restroom design which includes both binary restrooms and individual private gender-neutral restrooms with floor to ceiling walls and door. There was some concern about both genders washing their hands in the same area after using the restrooms.

Mr. Bode asked if the Core Team could go back and discuss the restroom layout in greater detail and bring a recommendation back to the Board of Education on the following two considerations:

- Looking at options to make the space for handwashing more open
- Including sinks and mirrors in the individual restrooms

Motion 20-019 (Minutes) Mrs. Brannan moved to approve the minutes from the following meeting:

- a. Special Meeting, July 30, 2019

Mrs. Palmisciano seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Bode, abstain; Mrs. Brannan, aye; Mrs. Palmisciano, aye; Mr. Truett, aye; Ms. Wassmuth, abstain.

Motion carried 3-0-2.

Motion 20-020 (Minutes) Mr. Bode moved to approve the minutes of the following meeting:

- a. Regular Meeting, August 14, 2019

Mrs. Brannan seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Bode, aye; Mrs. Brannan, aye; Mrs. Palmisciano, abstain; Mr. Truett, aye; Ms. Wassmuth, aye.

Motion carried 4-0-1.

Motion 20-021 (Treasurer's Reports) Mr. Bode moved to approve the August, 2019 Treasurer's reports and accept payment of the August, 2019 bills for all funds.

Mrs. Brannan seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Bode, aye; Mrs. Brannan, aye; Palmisciano, aye; Mr. Truett, aye; Ms. Wassmuth, aye.

Motion carried 5-0.

Superintendent/Treasurer Committees & Liaisons Reports

- **Core Team** – Mr. Culp reported on the following:
 - The high school attic bat eviction has been completed. Remediation clean-up will be done soon when school is not in session.
 - The Facility Core Team is currently working with district administration on planning for the logistical aspects of site work preparation.
- **Finance Committee** – Mr. Bode reported the Finance Committee has been evaluating development possibilities related to the Marble Cliff Mansion on Fifth Ave. Negotiations are currently underway.
- **Communications** – Mr. Culp reported the district quarterly newsletter is currently being edited and will be mailed to all district residents soon.
- **Wellness for Life & Start Talking Grandview** – Mrs. Brannan reported the Wellness for Life Committee had its first meeting and discussed the possibility of expanding mental health services for students. She also reported on several wellness initiatives for students including yoga/mindfulness during AO period, digital safety, and the new salad bars in each cafeteria. Mrs. Brannan also shared information about an upcoming event on November 14th at 6:30 p.m., "Not our Kids, Not in Grandview," sponsored by Start Talking Grandview.
- **City of Grandview Heights** – Mrs. Palmisciano reported on an upcoming planning commission meeting relating to the development of the Deyo-Davis property on West First Ave. This proposed development is expected to include first floor retail with 18 condominiums on the upper floors. Mrs. Palmisciano also reported the city is applying for Ohio Public Works Commission funding to help with the planned road connection from Goodale to Twin Rivers Drive.

Superintendent's Report

Teaching and Learning

- At Stevenson Elementary, their Let's Talk Tuesday video will feature various adults reading a quick story about a specific emotion. At the end of each video there will be discussion questions to help students learn how to cope and regulate that specific emotion. The goal is to develop common strategies to help students identify and manage their emotions at a young age.
- At EILMS, staff and students will continue to utilize STAR periods throughout the day in grades 4 through 8. Teachers will engage students in extension activities/lessons that promote deeper levels of critical thinking. One such example is the Local Matters class being taught by Health and Wellness Teachers Becky Lee and Kathleen Cress. The staff is also continuing its work on improving the overall MTSS process.
- At GHHS, the Building Leadership Team has met to discuss goals and objectives, based on district goals, for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Twenty-five (25) GHHS student athletes, along with Athletic Director Brad Bertani, attended a MSL Advance Student Leadership Summit at Ohio Christian University on September 10.
- Representing the district, GHHS School Counselor Bryan Stork will attend a state-wide September 26 Resiliency Conference in Dayton, Ohio.

District Wide

- Grandview Heights Schools is projected to receive \$25,000.00 in fiscal year 2020, and \$36,000.00 in fiscal year 2021. Our district will utilize this funding to enhance and improve our mental health services and programming. For many districts, these allocations will be the first step in building a wellness model that includes mental health support. In Grandview Heights Schools, our Wellness for Life Model and district committee have been in existence for 5 years.
- Marc Alter, Kevin McCarthy, Bethany Black, Caleb Evans, and Stacy Sauer are participating in a collaborative project between the Columbus Museum of Art, The Martha Holden-Jennings Foundation, and Harvard's Project Zero. Members of this team will participate in a cohort over a three-year timeline. The project aims to investigate civic engagement through the arts, creativity, and emergent learning opportunities. This work will be shared through professional development workshops and instructional coaching within our district. The first meeting took place the evening of September 5 and meetings will continue on a monthly basis.
- The Technology Department capped off a busy summer by finalizing our switch to @ghschools.org. All students and staff are on the same email domain and with this we have been able to roll out some additional changes. The website is now www.ghschools.org.

Community Engagement

- A total of 364 kids, ages 2 to 14, participated in the second annual TRI the HEIGHTS Youth Triathlon. Thanks to Grandview Heights Parks and Recreation Department and the GHMCEF for their support of this community wellness event.
- Thank you to the Bobcat Boosters for providing a bigger and better than ever Ox Roast this year! A good time was had by all and we appreciate all that you do for our students.
- Congratulations to EILMS students for their hard work making the PTO Bobcat Card sale successful. Sales have garnered \$10,000 so far for PTO programming.
- We have begun a Friday Fact feature on Facebook/social media.
- Our Fall 2019 District Newsletter is in the final design and production phase and will soon be mailed to all district residences.
- Dr. Jamie Lusher will be the guest speaker at the Tri-Village Chamber Partnership on Thursday, September 12.

Recommendations from Superintendent to the Board of Education:

Motion 20-022 (Board Policy and Procedure) Mrs. Palmisciano moved to approve the following:

1. Board Policy (Final Reading)
Recommend the board approve on final reading the following policy.
 - a. BJA – Liaison with School Boards Associations

Ms. Wassmuth seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Bode, aye; Mrs. Brannan, aye; Palmisciano, aye; Mr. Truett, aye; Ms. Wassmuth, aye.

Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 20-023 (Business and Finance) Mrs. Brannan moved to approve the following:

1. Then and Now Certifications
Recommend the board approve the following Then and Now certifications:
 - a. PO# 33939 to Specialized Speech Services
 - b. PO# 33938 to Specialized Speech Services
 - c. PO# 34013 to Specialized Speech Services
 - d. PO# 34034 to the Fairfield Country ESC for professional development
 - e. PO# 34082 to Mark Van Horn for videography services
2. Records Disposal
Recommend the board approve the disposal of records as contained in the appendix.
3. Tri-Star Contract
Recommend the board approve a contract with Tri-Star to provide transportation services to students.
4. Invo HealthCare Associates Contract
Recommend the board approve a contract with Invo HealthCare Associates for specialized therapeutic services.
5. Instructional Coaching & Behavior Assessments
Recommend the board approve a statement of work from the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio SOS Team for special education instructional coaching and functional behavior assessments.
6. GCI Contract
Recommend the board approve a contract with Geotechnical Consultants, Inc. for construction inspection and testing services.
7. Budget Adjustments
Recommend the board approve the following budget adjustments:

Estimated Revenue

018-9052 GHMCEF 2019 Grant Fund

\$11,263.93

Appropriations

004-0000 Construction Fund	\$47,735,502.13
018-9052 GHMCEF 2019 Grant Fund	\$11,263.93

8. District Service Plan 2019-2020

Recommend the board approve the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio District Service Plan 2019-2020 for mental health services.

9. Donations

Recommend the board accept the following donations:

- a. \$12,312.50 from the Bobcat Boosters to the Athletic Department as its partnership portion from the sale of Bobcat Sports Passes for 2018-2019
- b. \$881.42 from the Bobcat Boosters to the Athletic Department for Athletic Trainer supplies
- c. \$1,376.72 from the Grandview Heights High School Alumni Association to the Board of Education for facility planning
- d. \$100 and a cello from Kent and Susan Studebaker to the Strings Program

Ms. Wassmuth seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Bode, aye; Mrs. Brannan, aye; Palmisciano, aye; Mr. Truett, aye; Ms. Wassmuth, aye.

Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 20-024 Mrs. Brannan moved to approve the following:

(Personnel)

1. Resignations

Recommend the board approve the following resignations:

- a. Charlie Allen; Soccer, Middle School Boys, .50 FTE for the 2019-20 school year
- b. Stephanie Briones; Kids' Club, effective August 25, 2019

2. FMLA

Recommend the board approve the following FMLA request:

- a. Carmen Mendoza; approximately 12 weeks, beginning August 12, 2019

3. Degree Advancements

Recommend the board approve the following degree advancements for the 2019-20 school year:

- a. Jenny Callif; MA+15
- b. Allison Kukura; MA
- c. Maria Murphy; MA
- d. Jessica Fields, MA+45
- e. Joe Liptrap, MA+15

4. The Big Think 2019 Presenter Payments

Recommend the board approve payment of \$150 to each staff member who was a presenter at The Big Think 2019.

5. Supplemental Contract Corrections

Recommend the board approve the following unlicensed supplemental changes for the 2019-2020 school year:

- a. Preston Miller: Soccer, Middle School Boys, from .50 FTE to 1.0 FTE
- b. Ben McCollough; Golf, JV Coach, Class VI-1-1, \$1,680.36

6. Classified Substitute
Recommend the board approve the following classified substitute for the 2019-20 school year:
 - a. Karl Beem; pending successful FBI/BCI background check results
7. Human Resource Manager Part-time Position
Recommend the board approve the creation of a part-time management level position of Human Resource Manager.
8. Kids' Club Rate Increase
Recommend the board approve the following rate increase to Kids Club personnel, effective for the 2019-20 school year:
 - a. Kelly Miller, Program Specialist, \$20.03 per hour
9. Kids' Club Personnel
Recommend the Board approve the following Kids' Club personnel:
 - a. Hali Roderick; Recreation Leader, \$12.15 per hour, effective 8/26/19
 - b. Mason Sturm; Recreation Leader, \$12.35 per hour, effective 9/4/19

(Co-Curricular Activities and Extra-Curricular Activities)

1. Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Volunteers
Recommend the board approve the following volunteers:
 - a. Masa Abdelhadi
 - b. Salem Almaani
 - c. Ryan Binkley
 - d. Daniel Adam Cochran
 - e. Stephanie Cochran
 - f. Kyri Ann Gold
 - g. Holli Jarrell
 - h. Sarah Jump
 - i. Lesley McCurry
 - j. Kathryn Marie McKinney
 - k. Katherine Peters
 - l. Jennifer Kristen Powell
 - m. Rachel Sopkovich
 - n. Kelly Lynne Wuebker

Ms. Wassmuth seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Bode, aye; Mrs. Brannan, aye; Palmisciano, aye; Mr. Truett, aye; Ms. Wassmuth, aye.

Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion Topics

Ms. Wassmuth mentioned recent legislation that limits the percentage of time that students may be tested or engaged in test preparation. She asked how Grandview Heights Schools testing and test prep time compares to those percentages. Superintendent Culp reported that he and Jamie Lusher would present that information to the Board at the next regular meeting in October.

The Board also discussed the public comments made at the start of the meeting regarding the food service program. Mr. Truett asked Superintendent Culp to evaluate options for the program and further discussion could occur at the next meeting. Mrs. Palmisciano also stated that changing the food service program will take a financial commitment from the Board. The administrative team will evaluate options and costs and report back to the Board.

Motion 20-025 (Executive Session) Mr. Bode moved to enter into Executive Session for the following purpose:

- a. To consider the employment of an employee.

Mrs. Palmisciano seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Bode, aye; Mrs. Brannan, aye; Palmisciano, aye; Mr. Truett, aye; Ms. Wassmuth, aye.

Motion carried 5-0.

The Board of Education entered into Executive Session at 9:00 p.m.

The Board of Education returned to Regular Session at 10:20 p.m.

Motion 20-026 (Adjourn) Mr. Bode moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Brannan seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Bode, aye; Mrs. Brannan, aye; Palmisciano, aye; Mr. Truett, aye; Ms. Wassmuth, aye.

President Truett declared the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

President

Treasurer