

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF THE GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting – April 8, 2020

The Grandview Heights Schools Board of Education met in regular session via video conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Good evening, I'd like to call to order this meeting of the Grandview Heights Board of Education on Wednesday, April 8, 2020.

As you can see, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are holding this meeting using videoconferencing technology. We feel this is the safest way to hold a meeting in light of the state's stay-at-home order and guidance regarding social distancing. The Ohio General Assembly and Attorney General have approved the use of virtual meetings as a viable alternative to conducting public hearings during this time, and the district's alternative complies with the new statutory directives.

We will be broadcasting this meeting via our Grandview Heights YouTube channel. The link to the YouTube Channel is currently available on the district's website. The live-stream of this meeting is being recorded and will remain available on the district's website.

Please be advised that public participation at Board meetings is not required by the Open Meetings law but is instead governed by Board Policy BDDH. That policy provides that the Board *may* allow for public participation at its meetings. Given these extraordinary times, we are pleased that we are able to offer an alternative way for members of the public to provide their voice through emails. In lieu of the in-person public participation section this Board of Education meeting, the public has been instructed in the meeting notice and on our website to submit comments via email. The commenter's name and comments will be read into the public record and attached to the meeting minutes. All comments must be received a minimum of two hours prior to the start of the meeting and must, as always, contain the commenters name and address and cannot not mention students or staff by name.

Please also be advised that Board of Education meetings are not hearings – they are meetings. We are in full compliance with House Bill 197 by having our meeting live-streamed so that members of the public can observe and hear the discussions and deliberations of the Board.

This meeting will include an executive session, which will not be streamed or broadcast. Following our executive session, the board will only act on the adjournment of the meeting.

Roll Call	Members Present:	Members Absent:
	Eric Bode	
	Emily Gephart	
	Kevin Gusé	
	Jesse Truett	
	Molly Wassmuth	

Recognition of Guests and Hearing of the Public

- Grandview Heights resident John Wagner, 1309 Murrell Avenue, submitted the following statement to be read during the public comments portion of the meeting:

Grandview school board;
The school board normally has a "Recognition of Guests and Hearing of the Public" segment at the beginning of each board meeting. Any member of the public used to have the right to speak live before the board for up to five minutes. This was required in the Open Meeting laws of Ohio.

Due to the restrictions on public meetings during the Corvid-19 pandemic, the board has restricted public comment to email, which must be received and pre-approved by the board. We don't know if the board will read these emails – because the first meeting under these rules has yet to occur.

Following the law in SB 17
I believe the board has made the wrong choice in restrictions to comments via email. I don't think the

restrictions are following the laws, as spelled out in SB 197. The following is a quote from that law.

From SB 197

(C) When members of a public body conduct a hearing by means of teleconference, video conference, or any other similar electronic technology, the public body must establish a means, through the use of electronic equipment that is widely available to the general public, to converse with witnesses, and to receive documentary testimony and physical evidence.

End SB 197.

The important words in that law are “to converse with witnesses”. The word converse implies a back and forth, live comment from the public. An email is not a conversation, it is a one way text.

Parents could have been allowed into video conferences

The Grandview board could have allowed live comments during board meetings. The online video conferences that is used instead of in person meetings allows additional attendees to hold the floor, with permission, and speak live before the board, and hold a live conversation. That option was not chosen by the board.

There is no additional danger from parents who might try to violate the rules for speakers before the board during an online conference. If anything, the board has even greater control of speakers, because they can be rejected from the meeting with a simple button press.

The board should change policy and start allowing live conversations at the next board meeting.

The emails from residents might be censored before meetings

The board has rules in place that restrict the words that may be used during live comments at board meetings. I'm afraid that the temptation will be to pre-screened emails that are to be entered into the public record, and reject whole emails that only contain certain objectionable words.

I have heard residents speak before the board in the past, and use strong words. The president has a gavel to restrict the use of specific words during live meetings, but the general comments of the speaker are still heard by the board. If the board can pre-screen emails and reject some for strong language, that person has been censored, and loses the right to be heard.

And the word censored is correct, because it will be an action taken by a governmental body. F*** that.

Restrictions on speech feed into general paranoia during the pandemic

One of the more common reactions to the restrictions that have been placed on the public is to accuse the governments of using a national emergency to take away freedoms – and imply that those freedoms will never be returned.

The board could have followed a less restrictive method to allow public comment. The law, as written in SB 197, says that the meetings of public bodies may be held online until December of 2020. This is not a temporary change in board policy, if it will be taking away the right to be heard live before the board for 8 months. This is a major restriction.

The present policy of the board, which it announces before each “Recognition of Guests and Hearing of the Public” segment of the board meeting, is that the board will only hear guests, and not respond live during meetings. This change was a disappointment to the community, who deserve the right to obtain live answers from the public at board meetings.

Restrictions on “Recognition of Guests and Hearing of the Public” that will now only allow emails are worse policy. Given that the Grandview board always looks for the most restrictive ways to limit conversations with the public, I have no faith the board will return to live comments in person in the future.

The board should re-think policy and start allowing live conversations at the next board meeting.

Presentation – Construction Update

Mr. Jay Tadena, Corna-Kokosing/Elford (CKE) Project Manager, presented to the Board on the following:

- Work completed within the last month: storm sewer; utility relocations, GHHS power relocated so the basement excavation could take place.
- Upcoming: basement excavation work, concrete foundations for new middle school.
- COVID19 – Construction has been deemed essential so the project is moving forward as planned with enhanced safety protocols put in place including 6 feet of separation when able, additional washing stations, and point of entry implemented with roll call and survey of workers daily.

Mrs. Gephart asked if any workers on the project have tested positive for COVID-19 and Mr. Tadena confirmed that there has not been anyone on the project test positive.

- The project team is aware of potential labor/materials shortages due to the COVID-19; however, CKE has been in constant contact with subcontractors and is expecting no delays with the concrete, structural steel, and masonry work that is upcoming. So, at this time, there is no impact on the project.

Motion 20-089 (Minutes) Mr. Gusé moved to approve the minutes of the following meeting:

- a. Regular Meeting, March 11, 2020

Mr. Bode seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Bode, aye; Mrs. Gephart, aye; Mr. Gusé, aye; Mr. Truett, aye; Ms. Wassmuth, aye.

Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 20-090 (Treasurer's Reports) Mrs. Gephart moved to approve the March, 2020 Treasurer's reports and accept payment of the March, 2020 bills for all funds.

Mr. Bode seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Bode, aye; Mrs. Gephart, aye; Mr. Gusé, aye; Mr. Truett, aye; Ms. Wassmuth, aye.

Motion carried 5-0.

Committee/Liaison Reports

Core Team Committee

Mr. Jesse Truett and Mr. Andy Culp provided the following updates to the Board on behalf of the Facility Core Team:

- Core Team continues to meet online every Thursday with the project team.
- Agendas and minutes from those meetings are shared with all Board of Education members.
- A presentation of the safety, security, and ADA work to be done at Stevenson Elementary will be presented to the Board of Education during the May Board meeting.
- The City has been an important community partner in this project and City personnel continue to join the weekly meetings.

GH/MC Education Foundation

- Foundation met on April 6th and is currently evaluating creative ways to help the GH/MC communities during this time.

Finance Committee

Mr. Bode reported the Finance Committee met recently and discussed the following:

- Property tax appeals;
- Permanent Improvement Levy Fund annual budget;
- Grandview Yard TIF revenue vs. projections.

Superintendent's Report

Teaching and Learning

- Digital Learning Plans were rolled out on Monday, March 30. Thank you to our entire Leadership Team and staff for collaborating, creating, and communicating our plan to best serve our students during this unprecedented time. Our Teaching & Learning and Technology Teams have been incredibly selfless and flexible during this time.
- Building staffs and grade level teams are virtually meeting on a regular schedule to learn from one another, troubleshoot, and improve operations.
- Stevenson Elementary and Edison Intermediate & Larson Middle School have created, shared, and posted "hello" videos for their students.

- At Stevenson Elementary, Stephanie Doran is providing lunch bunch videos to support the health and wellness of students using the Social and Emotional State Learning Standards for the content. The intent of these videos is to help students stay connected during this difficult time.
- AP testing will be online this year, so students will have access at home. The high school staff is working hard to provide online instruction and resources related to AP.
- **Congratulations to Brian Collier** who was named **Division IV Player of the Year in the State** by the Ohio Coaches Association AND to The Dispatch 2019-2020 All-Metro Boys Basketball Second Team. Luke Lachey was named to The Dispatch 2019-2020 All-Metro Boys Basketball Third Team
- Congratulations to the 40 new GHHS National Honor Society members! The new members are selected on the basis of character, leadership, scholarship, and service and are listed at www.ghschools.org.
- Our Nationwide Children's Sport Performance Coach Kirk Sabalka has been emailing daily workouts to GHS student-athletes. The workouts are also being posted to ghathletics.org daily.

District Wide

- **Join us for our first-ever virtual Spirit Week April 13-17** - Our schools will be participating in a district-wide Spirit Week and we are inviting the whole COMMUNITY to join us! Post photos of yourself, your coworkers, and/or family and tag us with the hashtag #GHSDreamBig. If you want us to see and share your photos, ensure your post is set to public.
- Construction continues on our Master Facilities Plan. Weekly summaries, photos, and drone video continue to be posted at www.ghschools.org and on social media.
- Shout out to Brett Bradley and his Facilities Team for cleaning and sanitizing our buildings!

Community Engagement

- On April 3 Marc Alter met with the Tri-Village Chamber Partnership. This ongoing connection between our schools and the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff/Upper Arlington business community benefits our schools and community alike. The Chamber featured a video on GHHS's Explore Class in its weekly email blast.
- The district Winter 2020 newsletter in final draft and will be sent to print shop soon and then mailed to every residence in the district.
- We continue to post updates, news, and information to our website and social media.
- Even a worldwide pandemic can't keep Grandview Heights Schools from having its beloved Cake Walk! The 71st Annual Cake Walk was a week-long Facebook Live virtual event. Thank you to organizer Dot Keil and the Band Parents Association for keeping tradition alive in untraditional times.

Mr. Truett explained that the Board of Education has a work session scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2020 to discuss teaching and learning. Because of the ongoing pandemic and the efforts focusing on the transition to online learning, Mr. Truett stated that he thought it was prudent to postpone the work session at this time.

Motion 20-091 (Board Work Session) Mrs. Gephart moved to postpone the April 18th board work session with the intention to reschedule it in the future.

Ms. Wassmuth seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Bode, aye; Mrs. Gephart, aye; Mr. Gusé, aye; Mr. Truett, aye; Ms. Wassmuth, aye.

Motion carried 5-0.

Recommendations from Superintendent to the Board of Education:

Motion 20-092 (Curriculum and Instruction) Mrs. Gephart moved to approve the following:

1. Local Control of Language for New Graduation Requirements
Recommend the board adopt district local control language for the new graduation requirements as it pertains to locally defined diploma seals.
2. Student - Parent Handbook 2020-2021
Recommend the board approve the changes to the Student – Parent Handbook 2020-2021.

Mr. Gusé, seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Bode, aye; Mrs. Gephart, aye; Mr. Gusé, aye; Mr. Truett, aye; Ms. Wassmuth, aye.

Motion carried 5-0.

First Reading (Board Policy)

1. Board Policy (First Reading)
Recommend the board consider on first reading the following policies:
 - a. BDC – Executive Sessions
 - b. IJA – Career Advising
 - c. IKF – Graduation Requirements
 - d. IKFC – Graduation Plans and Students at Risk of Not Qualifying for School Diploma
 - e. IND/INDA – School Ceremonies and Observances/Patriotic Exercises
 - f. JED – Student Absences and Excuses
 - g. JEE – Student Attendance Accounting
 - h. JFCF – Hazing and Bullying (Harassment, Intimidation and Dating Violence)
 - i. JFCF-R – Hazing and Bullying (Harassment, Intimidation and Dating Violence)
 - j. BDDG – Minutes
 - k. GBCB – Staff Conduct
 - l. GBH (Also JM) – Staff-Student Relations
 - m. JM (Also GBH) – Staff-Student Relations
 - n. EHB – Use of Electronic Signatures

Motion 20-093 (Business and Finance) Mrs. Gephart moved to approve the following:

1. General Fund Transfer
Recommend the board approve a transfer from the General Fund to the TIF Set-Aside for Debt Service Fund (001-9003) in the amount of \$1,242,884, representing 2020 Grandview Yard TIF revenue being set aside for future debt service payments on the 2019 facility bond issue.
2. TIF Set-Aside for Debt Service Fund Transfer
Recommend the board approve a transfer from the TIF Set-Aside for Debt Service Fund (001-9003) to the Bond Retirement Fund (002-9019) in the amount of \$808,906, representing the Grandview Yard TIF revenue to be used for 2020 debt service principal and interest payments.
3. Then and Now Certification
Recommend the board approve the following then and now certification for purchase order #35198 to Russell Tree Experts.
4. Property and Liability Insurance Renewal
Recommend the board approve renewing property and liability insurance coverage with Wright Specialty at an estimated 8% premium increase, effective July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.
5. Fairfield County Educational Service Center Contract
Recommend the board approve a contract with the Fairfield County Educational Service Center for professional development and leadership training for the 2020-2021 school year.
6. All Day Kindergarten Tuition
Recommend the board suspend all-day kindergarten tuition, effective April 1, 2020, for the duration of the COVID-19 school closure.
7. Donations
Recommend the board accept the following donations:
 - a. \$6,000 from AEP to FIRST Robotics
 - b. \$300 from Pathways Financial Credit Union to FIRST Robotics
 - c. \$800 from GHS Vocal Music Boosters to the Spring Musical
 - d. \$3,664 from the Charles Cantwell Dumbaugh GHHS Class of 1956 Library Book Fund of the Columbus Foundation to the GHHS Brotherhood of Rooks Media Center
 - e. \$2,026.56 from the Johannes-Tyler Outstanding Grandview Heights School District Teacher of the Year Award Fund to Grandview Heights Schools
 - f. \$380 from the Grandview Heights High School Alumni Association to the Athletic Department to update conference signage in the high school gymnasium

Ms. Wassmuth seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Bode, aye; Mrs. Gephart, aye; Mr. Gusé, aye; Mr. Truett, aye; Ms. Wassmuth, aye.

Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 20-094 (Personnel) Mr. Bode moved to approve the following:

1. Transition Days

Recommend the board approve up to 10 transition days for Dr. Quint Gage, EILMS Principal, at his per diem rate.

Mr. Gusé seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Bode, aye; Mrs. Gephart, aye; Mr. Gusé, aye; Mr. Truett, aye; Ms. Wassmuth, aye.

Motion carried 5-0.

Motion 20-095 (Executive Session) Mr. Gusé moved to enter into Executive Session for the following purpose:

- a. To consider the employment of personnel.

Ms. Wassmuth seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Bode, aye; Mrs. Gephart, aye; Mr. Gusé, aye; Mr. Truett, aye; Ms. Wassmuth, aye.

Motion carried 5-0.

The Board of Education entered into Executive Session at 8:04 p.m.

The Board of Education returned to Regular Session at 9:03 p.m.

Motion 20-096 (Adjourn) Mr. Bode moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Wassmuth seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Bode, aye; Mrs. Gephart, aye; Mr. Gusé, aye; Mr. Truett, aye; Ms. Wassmuth, aye.

President Truett declared the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

President

Treasurer