

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF THE GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting – July 8, 2020

The Grandview Heights Schools Board of Education met in special 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 afternoon, I'd like to call to order this meeting of the Grandview Heights Board of Education on Wednesday, July 8, 2020.

Just like with our previous meetings, 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.

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.

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

Recognition of Guests and Hearing from the Public

Mrs. Melissa Palmisciano addressed the Board regarding the plan for students to return to school in the Fall. She believes the best option is for all students to return to school full-time. She indicated the online learning environment was not optimal and the best way to educate students is face-to-face. She also felt that Grandview Heights Schools should not worry about what other districts are doing due to the unique circumstances including having no bussing and only operating three small buildings. For that reason, she also felt that the plan should not be tied to the Franklin County alert system that was put in place by the Governor. Mrs. Palmisciano also mentioned the recent recommendation of the American Academy of Pediatrics to return students to school with additional safety measures put in place to mitigate the risks.

Mrs. Jill Gentry also addressed the Board regarding the plan for students to return to school. She agreed with Mrs. Palmisciano's statement that students should be brought back to a traditional school environment. She stated that the hybrid AM/PM option is good for consistency, but would prove challenging for working parents. As a hybrid option, she felt the alternate days would be better suited for working parents.

First Reading (Board Policy)

1. Board Policy (First Reading)
Recommend the board consider on first reading the following policy.
 - a. JED – Student Absences and Excuses

2. Board Policy (First Reading)
Recommend the board consider on first reading a resolution suspending policies in conflict with temporary laws and OHSAA bylaw adjustments (July 8, 2020)

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly enacted Am. Sub. H.B. 197 and the law became effective on March 27, 2020;

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly enacted Sub. H.B. 164 and the law became effective on June 19, 2020;

WHEREAS, the Ohio High School Athletic Association has adjusted its eligibility Bylaw to permit all students entering grades 7-12 to be academically eligible for 2020 fall sports;

WHEREAS, H.B. 197 and H.B. 164 included many provisions of temporary law that conflict with policies and regulations of the Grandview Heights Schools District Board of Education;

WHEREAS, H.B. 197 authorized the Superintendent of Public Instruction to waive or extend certain deadlines which conflict with policies and regulations of the District;

WHEREAS, the Board may, by formal action, suspend or rescind board policy as deemed necessary, appropriate or in the best interests of the District;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Grandview Heights Schools District Board of Education hereby temporarily suspends the policies and regulations identified below to the extent that those policies or regulations conflict with H.B. 197 or H.B. 164, OHSAA bylaw adjustments, or the waivers or extensions granted by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Such suspension shall be for the period of time the conflicting provisions remain in effect.

- AFC-1/GCN-1 – Evaluation of Professional Staff (OTES)
- AFC-2/GCN-2 – Evaluation of Professional Staff (OPES)
- BD – School Board Meetings
- BDDA – Notification of Meetings
- BDDF – Voting Method
- BDDH/KD – Public Participation at Board Meetings
- EBCD – Emergency Closings
- IGBB – Programs for Gifted and Talented Students
- IGBEA – Reading Skills Assessment and Intervention (Third Grade Reading Guarantee)
- IGBEA-R - Reading Skills Assessment and Intervention (Third Grade Reading Guarantee)
- IGCF – Home Schooling
- IGDK – Interscholastic Extracurricular Eligibility
- IKE – Promotion and Retention of Students

3. Board Policy (First Reading)

Recommend the board consider on first reading potential policy temporary suspensions from Spring 2020 legislative, state superintendent deadline extensions, OHSSA action (June 26, 2020).

Motion 21-003 (Board Policy) Mrs. Gephart moved to approve the following:

1. Board Policy (Final Reading)

Recommend the board approve on final reading the following policies:

- a. GBH (also JM) – Staff-Student Relations
- b. JM (also GBH) – Staff-Student Relations

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 21-004 (Business and Finance) Mr. Gusé moved to approve the following:

1. Invo Healthcare Associates Agreement

Recommend the board approve an agreement with Invo Healthcare Associates for specialized therapeutic services, including Speech Language Pathology.

2. Technology Consultation Agreement

Recommend the board approve a technology consultation agreement with Christine Rogers for the purpose of providing technology consultation services to the Department of Student Services.

3. Cintas Uniform Services Contract

Recommend the board approve a contract with Cintas Uniform Services for rental and laundry services for apparel, garments, and facilities supplies.

4. Out of District Tuition Student

Recommend the board approve the following out of district tuition student for the 2020-2021 school year:

- a. Student A, See Appendix A

5. School and Athletic Fees Waived for 2020-2021 School Year
Recommend the board approve waiving school and athletic fees for students for the 2020-2021 school year.

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 21-005 (Personnel) Mr. Bode moved to approve the following:

1. Resignations
Recommend the board accepts the following resignations:
 - a. Tondra Myers, Health Aide, effective June 30, 2020
 - b. Jacob Durakovic, Custodian, effective July 17, 2020
 - c. Mary Mauro, District Nurse, effective July 10, 2020

2. Extended School Year
Recommend the board approve the following staff to provide Extended School Year instruction at the rates listed, effective July 1, 2020:
 - a. Amy Garrison, \$42.17 per hour

3. Degree Advancement
Recommend the board approve the following degree advancement for the 2020-2021 school year:
 - a. Kristi Urig, MA+45

4. FTE Increase
Recommend the board approve an FTE increase for the following teacher contract, effective for the 2020-2021 school year:
 - a. William Amurgis; Teacher, from .43 FTE to .46 FTE

5. Change in Daily Hours
Recommend the board approve the changes in daily hours for the following employee, effective for the 2020-2021 school year:
 - a. William Amurgis; Paraprofessional, from 3.5 hours per day to 2.9 hours per day

6. Extended Days
Recommend the board approve the following extended days for the 2020-2021 school year:
 - a. Marc Alter, Director of 21st Century Technology – 15 days
 - b. Jessica Fields, 21st Century Learning Coach – 15 days
 - c. Bryan Stork, Counselor – 20 days

7. Supplemental Contracts (GHEA, Article X, pg. 33-35)
Recommend the board approve the following supplemental contracts for licensed employees for the 2020-2021 school year:
 - a. Carl Acton; Middle School Cross Country Coach, Class VI-2-5, \$2,146.65
 - b. Robert Ballinger; Fall Site Supervisor, \$2,200
 - c. Maureen Flanagan; JV Volleyball Coach, Class IV-1-2, \$3,005.31
 - d. Jason Peters; Wellness for Life – Summer, Class V-3-M, \$4,293.30
 - e. Kevin Richards; Varsity Boys Golf Coach, Class III-3-M, \$5,581.29
 - f. Lana Williamson; Middle School Cross Country Coach, Class VI-3-M, \$2,575.98
 - g. Ashley Artrip; Fall Varsity Assistant Cheer Coach, Class VI-1-3, \$1,717.32
 - h. Shawn Hinkle; Assistant Varsity Football Coach (.5 FTE), Class IV-3-M, \$2,361.32
 - i. Mike Lanza; Assistant Varsity Football Coach, Class IV-3-M, \$4,722.63
 - j. Jason Peters; Head Football Coach, Class I-3-M, \$7,513.28
 - k. Kathy Kinnard; Varsity Girls' Tennis Coach, Class III-3-M, \$5,581.29

8. Supplemental Contracts (GHEA, Article X, pg. 33-35)

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has offered the following position(s) to those employees of the District who are licensed individuals and no such employee(s) qualified to fill the position(s) have accepted them/(it); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education advertised the following positions as available to any licensed individual who is qualified to fill the position and who is not an employee of the Board, and no such person has applied for and accepted the position(s);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education of Grandview Heights Schools hereby employs the individuals to fill the following positions for the 2020-2021 school year:

- a. Amy Cooper; JV Girls Soccer Coach, Class V-1-2, \$2,575.98
- b. Brianna Dominach; Varsity Girls Soccer Coach, Class II-2-8, \$4,937.30
- c. Misti Dorsey; Middle School Girls Soccer Coach, Class V-1-4, \$2,575.98
- d. Preston Miller; Middle School Boys Soccer Coach, Class V-2-6, \$3,219.98
- e. Britney Payne; Middle School Athletic Director, \$8,000
- f. Nick Rose; Varsity Volleyball Coach, Class II-2-8, \$4,937.30
- g. Donnie Cook; Middle School Assistant Football Coach, Class V-2-5 \$3,219.98
- h. Michael Dodge; Assistant Varsity Football Coach (.66 FTE), Class IV-3-M, \$3,116.94
- i. Matt Haller; Middle School Assistant Football Coach, Class V-1-2, \$2,575.98
- j. Kristy Mason; Fall Head Cheer Coach, Class V-1-2, \$2,575.98
- k. Raterious Walker; Assistant Varsity Football Coach (.66 FTE), Class IV-2-5, \$2,408.54
- l. Chris Panknin; Assistant Varsity Football Coach (.66 FTE), Class IV-2-6, \$2,408.54

9. Curriculum Development Pay

Recommend the board approve payment for two professional development days (July 15 and 24, 2020) for Jeremy Rummer to develop curriculum for a forensics course at \$150 per day.

10. Kids' Club Resolution and Order of Recall

WHEREAS, Grandview Heights City School District Kids' Club closed consistent with the March 24, 2020, order of the Ohio Department of Health Director that all facilities providing childcare services in the State of Ohio be closed beginning on March 26, 2020, to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the State of Ohio;

WHEREAS, due to that closure, identified employees in the classification of non-teaching employees employed in the Kids' Club program were laid off on May 15, 2020, as a result of a lack of work;

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Health Director signed a May 29, 2020, order authorizing all facilities providing Ohio Department of Education licensed preschool and school age child care programs to reopen within the State once the Ohio Department of Education had appropriate rules in place and so long as safety standards were met;

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2020, the State Board of Education adopted necessary emergency rules and Governor DeWine signed an Executive Order allowing for those emergency rules;

WHEREAS, Kids' Club will reopen consistent with applicable Ohio Department of Education rules and relevant safety standards;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Grandview Heights City School District Board of Education that the Superintendent, Treasurer, and/or their designees are hereby directed to take all appropriate action to recall all necessary non-teaching employees in the Kids' Club program who were previously laid off at such time as the Superintendent determines appropriate to meet the needs of Kids' Club and consistent with all state laws and Board of Education policies.

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.

Discussion Topic – Plan for Learning, Fall 2020

Recap of What We Know

Mr. Culp recapped that the district has been engaging in a three-step approach to plan for what school may look like in the fall as follows:

- Step 1 (Data and Research) included surveying students, parents and staff.
- Step 2 (Design and Planning) includes planning for all four possible scenarios.
- Step 3 (Superintendent Recommendation) will be a recommendation to the Board of Education on or approximately July 29, 2020.

The District is currently in Step 2 (Design and Planning) and has been actively planning and preparing for each of the following scenarios:

- Full Day Traditional School with safety protocols in place;
- Hybrid Plan with AM/PM rotation;
- Distance Learning with increased accountability and synchronous learning; and
- Online Florida Virtual Learning Academy.

Mr. Culp explained that the district owes it to students to be prepared for all four scenarios and thanked the leadership team, teachers, and Board of Education for their collaboration and commitment to students in planning for the return to school.

Mr. Culp also stated that he would be sharing the draft plan with the community later this week.

The Governor has released guidance for school districts which include taking temperatures, sanitizing, social distancing, and a mask requirement for grades 3-12.

The Governor also has implemented a color-coded system to assess the COVID-19 risk by county and some districts are linking their return-to-school plans to the current county assessment.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recently released guidance recommending students return to school in a traditional setting, citing more harm to students to not be in school than the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Mr. Culp recently met with a team of medical professionals in the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff community to share the tentative plans and received the following feedback from them:

- Wearing masks is the most mitigating factor and should be required K-12.
- Social distancing is optimal, but masks help mitigate the risk when distancing is not possible.
- Kids back in school full day with safety protocols is the best option, but there are still risks.
- Recommend the district wait closer to the start of school to make a decision.
- If school returns to a traditional setting, consider implementing a 2 week AM/PM rotation to get students used to the new safety protocols.
- Saw the value in AM/PM rotation for the hybrid model as students would only be wearing masks half a day.
- Challenging situation with athletics – how can athletics compete if students aren't back in school?

Mr. Culp explained the district recently surveyed parents to ask if they would send their kids back to school in a traditional model. Of the 976 respondents, 953 responded yes and 23 responded no. The leadership team will use this data to plan how to meet the needs of the students who do not plan to return.

Questions

Ms. Wasmuth: What guidelines will be followed for closing school due to absences?

Mr. Culp: Any cases of COVID-19 will be reported to the Franklin County Board of Health. The subsequent action(s) will depend on contact tracing and the number and duration of interactions, but the district would consult with the Health Department for guidance.

Purpose of this Meeting

The purpose of this meeting is to learn more detail about what each pathway entails. The decision on which pathway is selected will come later.

- **Full Day Traditional School** (with safety protocols)
- **Hybrid (AM/PM Rotation)**
 - The initial plan included AM/PM rotation for K-3 and A/B rotation for 4-12.
 - Based on the Board's request for consistency K-12, the plan now includes AM/PM rotation K-12.
 - Educationally, AM/PM is best because students will see teachers every day.
 - This only requires students to wear a mask for half days.
 - AM/PM also reduces the challenges of serving lunch. There will be grab and go bags for students.
 - Currently looking at options for daycare.
- **Distance Learning**
- **Online Learning Academy (Florida Virtual Academy)** – would be facilitated by a GHS teacher.

Questions/Feedback

Mr. Bode: He has concerns with the AM/PM model. The goal would be a full year's worth of learning, regardless of the pathway. What would the synchronous learning look like during the half day students are at home.

Mr. Culp: AM/PM is a far superior model in that teachers would see students every day. Synchronous learning would not take place while students are at home because teachers would be teaching the other students face-to-face. The district would have capability of live streaming, however.

Mr. Bode: Repetition of instruction would cut effectiveness by 50%. Are the live streaming devices that Mr. Deis presented and recommended purchasing being considered for synchronous learning at home?

Mr. Truett: We should not prioritize content areas over other areas. This will need further discussion and evaluation. Has thought been given to some courses being taught in the traditional setting and some courses taught in the virtual setting? This would allow students to be engaged and learning for the full day?

Mr. Culp: The team will continue to evaluate this.

Mr. Gusé: The draft plan refers to quarantining if students travel outside the tri-state area. Is that based on some science or research?

Mr. Culp: That guidance was initially taken from the CDC; however, that is changing rapidly and will be further evaluated.

Mrs. Gephart: If parents choose to keep their students at home, will they be required to commit to that for a certain period of time?

Mr. Culp: The district needs to be flexible and there are no plans to require parents or students to commit to certain periods of time.

Mr. Truett: It makes sense to line up students transitioning to logical transition points, such as the 9 week periods; however, as a public school district, we cannot tell a parent or student that we will not allow them back in traditional school if they initially chose the online option.

Mrs. Gephart: Is the Florida Virtual Academy different than the distance learning option?

Mr. Culp: Yes, the Florida Virtual Academy is an independent curriculum program, but it would be facilitated by a GHS staff member.

Most Important Points

Mr. Truett: Most important points are 1.) Should hybrid be AM/PM or A/B? and 2.) Are we full day hybrid to start the year? And what determines when we move from one scenario to another?

Mr. Culp: The current plan recommendation for hybrid is AM/PM.

Ms. Wassmuth: There are certainly risks, but we need to take care of our kids and keep them safe.

Mrs. Gephart: No matter which option we pick, it will be drastically different than what students are accustomed to. Going back to school full day may not be the best option socially and emotionally because things will be so different. It's important to do what is best for learning, but it is unclear whether returning to school is what is best for them.

Mr. Bode: There is certainly a big difference between young children and older students. His perspective is more from the older student perspective due to the age of his children. The most important point is that the goal should be a full year's worth of learning for all students and there is concern regarding the older students getting the full content.

Mr. Gusé: As a high school science teacher, he believes being in school for full day education would be the best option. But, as Mrs. Gephart mentioned, there is uncertainty about whether that is best due to all the changes. However, he does feel being back to school in a traditional setting is the best option. The American Academy of Pediatrics recently recommended students return to school as the risk of not being in school is greater than the risk of spreading COVID-19 in school. So, absent some other evidence, he is compelled to return students to a traditional model. Having said that, it is still important to be flexible and pivot to another model, if necessary.

Next Steps

July 29th is the tentative date for the Superintendent to make a recommendation to the Board of Education.

Mr. Truett stated that he feels there are 2 decisions to make. First, the board needs to approve the details of the different pathways. Secondly, the Board needs to make a decision on which pathway will be used to start the school year. He is concerned about waiting until July 29th to approve the pathways and feels the district owes it to parents to get the decision out sooner rather than later.

Mr. Culp explained that the framework for the pathways is in the plan currently. The team will continue to work on the details, but he does not envision the hybrid model changing from the current AM/PM model.

Mr. Truett asked when the Board can take action on the plans and asked whether board members needed additional details on the plans.

Mr. Bode indicated that he would like additional detail on the transitioning between models. That information would likely impact his decision on whether AM/PM or A/B hybrid model is preferable.

Mr. Truett stated that he felt additional information is needed on the structure of the AM/PM model and how courses would be prioritized.

Mrs. Gephart asked what the next steps are in terms of board approvals. She clarified that Mr. Culp has already selected the AM/PM rotation for the hybrid model.

Mr. Truett explained that the Board took action to move to a virtual model at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. So if the district is going to consider moving to other models, the Board needs to approve them. He also thinks it is important for parents to know the details of the models.

Mrs. Wassmuth expressed concern about prioritizing certain core classes over other classes. She also echoed the concerns about needing to know the details, such as whether teachers are teaching face-to-face and online in the hybrid model.

Mr. Bode indicated he would like additional detail on the plans. He felt the key item is knowing what are the expectations for the time when kids are not in school for the distance and hybrid models.

Mrs. Gephart expressed her concern with knowing this information very soon so that parents can plan accordingly.

Mr. Truett asked, as a process question, whether the Board should approve the plans now.

Mr. Culp stated that he would be sending the plans out to the community this week to solicit feedback.

Mrs. Gephart asked what level of detail the board would be approving if they approve the pathways?

Dr. Hensley stated the Board would be approving the overall framework and the administration would work within that framework and make adjustments, as needed.

Mr. Bode stated that he is still struggling with the transition between the models. He does not feel that it should be tied to the Governor's color-coded risk assessment, but is not comfortable having no guidance/direction for transitioning. There probably needs to be some criteria to consider for transitioning.

Mr. Culp stated that the transitioning would be largely based on guidance from the Department of Health.

Mr. Gusé stated that he too was hesitant to link the school models directly to the Governor's risk assessment for the county. The indicators of that risk assessment are largely based on hospital criteria and not necessarily related to kids in schools.

Mrs. Gephart and Ms. Wassmuth also agreed with that.

Mr. Truett stated that, going back to what Dr. Hensely stated, the Board should get consensus on the framework and identify when kids transition between models. He felt parents need that information quickly.

Based on Mr. Culp's intentions of sending the plan out to the community, Mr. Truett suggested gathering all the feedback in one place for the Board to review and consider.

Mr. Gusé suggested a vote on the plans and a vote on the initial model to return to school, recognizing that things could change, so that parents can begin to plan.

Mr. Truett agreed with that plan and proposed holding a regular board meeting on July 22, 2020, allowing public participation.

Motion 21-006 (Board Meeting) Mr. Gusé moved to schedule a regular board of Education meeting on July 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing feedback and voting on the models.

Ms. Wasmuth 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 21-007 (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