

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF THE GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting – December 29, 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 2:30 p.m.

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

Motion 21-058 (Business and Finance) Mr. Bode moved to approve the following:

1. Concord Addis Contract Amendment
Recommend the board approve an amendment to the contract with Concord Addis for owner representation services, increasing the fee by \$46,000.
2. Moody Nolan Contract Change Order
Recommend the board approve a change order to the contract with Moody Nolan for architectural services, reducing the fee by \$77,175.
3. Ratifying Easement & Right of Way Granted to Ohio Power Company
Recommend the board ratify the easement and right of way granted to Ohio Power Company as follows:

The Superintendent requests ratification of an Easement & Right of Way granted to Ohio Power Company (“AEP Ohio”) in order for AEP to install new electrical facilities on the property located at 1587 West 3rd Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43212 (the “Property”).

Rationale:

1. AEP Ohio requested an easement through the Property for the purpose of installing new electrical facilities within an easement area within a strip of land ten feet in width as depicted on Exhibit A of the Easement & Right of Way document (“Easement”).
2. The electrical facilities are needed to support the Board’s school facilities, and execution of the Easement was of an urgent nature so as not to delay installation of the electric facilities.
3. R.C. 3313.41(E) requires the Board President and Treasurer to execute the easement, but does not require Board approval in advance of execution.
4. To ensure timely progress was made to install new electrical facilities, the Board President and Treasurer executed the Easement.
5. The Superintendent recommends ratification of the actions taken by the Board President and Treasurer to execute the Easement.

The Grandview Heights City School District Board of Education resolves as follows: The Board ratifies the actions taken by the Board President and Treasurer in executing the Easement.

Mr. Gusé seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried 3-0.

COVID-19 Discussion

Superintendent Andy Culp provided an update to the Board of Education as follows:

- The district continues to update the COVID-19 online CATS dashboard.
- The COVID-19 framework, which includes criteria intended to trigger discussion on the possibility of changing learning modalities, is on the district website.
- The COVID-19 vaccine is currently being administered to healthcare workers with availability for all school employees expected in February, 2021.
- The current Franklin County Public Health stay-at-home advisory is scheduled through January 2, 2021. This advisory recommends residents stay at home except for certain essential activities including work and school. There has not been any indication at this point regarding whether the advisory will be extended.
- Governor DeWine has recommended school districts consider distance learning for the first week or two after the holiday break to mitigate COVID-19 spread.
- The current plan for Grandview Heights Schools is distance learning from January 4th-8th with hybrid learning resuming on Monday, January 11th.
- There has been a dramatic decrease in required quarantining since the week of distance learning before winter break.
- One month ago, there were 14 cases and 75 required quarantines.
- Following a brief pause, winter athletic practices and competitions resumed in December.
- 23 of the 24 MSL schools are competing in athletic competitions. Columbus School for Girls is currently pausing athletics until the first week of January.
- 32 of the 33 OCC schools are participating in athletic competitions. Groveport Madison is the one exception.
- All Licking and Fairfield County school districts have resumed athletic competitions.
- Columbus City School District is scheduled to resume athletic practices on January 3rd.
- Dublin Schools are participating in athletic competitions. Grades K-5 are scheduled to return to hybrid learning on January 4th. Grades 6-12 will return to distance learning until January 18th.
- Worthington, Westerville, Upper Arlington, Hilliard and Bexley Schools are participating in athletic competitions and all are scheduled to return to hybrid learning on January 4th.
- South Western Schools are participating in athletic competitions and are scheduled to return to distance learning in January.

Mr. Gusé: He asked whether distancing and wearing masks will prevent quarantining in school.

Mr. Culp: He explained that the quarantining period has recently been reduced from 14 days to 10 days and is required when there is close contact to a confirmed case. Close contact is defined as less than 6 feet distance for a cumulative period of at least 15 minutes, regardless of whether masks are worn. In most cases, we are able to maintain the 6 feet distance between students in our hybrid learning model and, therefore, the likelihood of quarantining is low. However, there are instances where student desks are slightly less than 6 feet apart due to space constraints and, therefore, quarantining would be required if there is contact with a positive case. He also explained that Franklin County Public Health requires entire athletic teams to quarantine when there is a positive case on the athletic team, without regard to distancing or mask wearing.

Mr. Bode: He asked Mr. Culp to provide an update on what Franklin County Public Health is recommending in terms of athletics and extracurricular activities.

Mr. Culp: He explained that Franklin County Public Health recommended in the current stay-at-home order that districts consider pausing extracurricular activities. However, this was a recommendation and not a mandate or order.

Mr. Bode: He asked Mr. Culp to explain more about how athletic teams are practicing. For example, does JV and Varsity practice together? Are cheerleaders and/or band members participating in athletic events currently?

Mr. Culp: The band is not currently participating. Cheerleaders are currently participating in home competitions only. Two parents per athlete are permitted for home team competitions and one parent per athlete is permitted for visiting teams. At the conclusion of each JV game, the gym is cleared before the players and parents are permitted to enter for the Varsity competition.

Mr. Bode: He asked if some players play on both JV and Varsity teams.

Mr. Culp: He confirmed that there are players that play on both JV and Varsity teams. In basketball, for example, athletes are permitted to play a total of 5 quarters per night.

Mr. Bode: He asked about the travel arrangements for the athletic teams.

Mr. Culp: Athletes are required to wear masks and have assigned seats on the bus to maintain social distancing. JV and Varsity teams do not travel together. He also explained that if an athletic team plays against an opponent who subsequently has a positive COVID-19 case, the team would be required to quarantine if the case was within the first 48 hours of the competition.

Mr. Bode: Are our athletic events scheduled to respect the current 10:00 p.m. curfew?

Mr. Bertani: Home athletic events are completed well before the 10:00 p.m. curfew. There are games scheduled at opponent schools (e.g. Buckeye Valley) which start at 7:00 p.m. and therefore, our athletes would likely return home right around the 10:00 p.m. curfew time.

Mr. Bode: To clarify, does each athlete get two parents or two guests to attend home events?

Mr. Bertani: The two spectators per athlete are intended to be parents. However, there are a few isolated cases in which a parent is unavailable or deceased and the athletic department allows another family member in that parent's place. The rule during fall sports (e.g. volleyball) was 3 guests per home athlete and 2 guests per visiting athlete. However, as the COVID-19 cases increased, that was reduced for winter sports competitions.

Mr. Culp: We are also continuing non-athletic extracurricular activities and clubs at this time to provide some degree of normalcy for students.

Mr. Bertani: We are being creative and doing all we can do to allow competitions to continue. Recently, we held a swimming competition in which Grandview swimmers competed in one pool while the opponent competed at another location simultaneously and the times were called in following each event.

Mr. Truett: He said he thinks this is a good discussion and it is prudent for the Board to get together for this discussion and update. He explained that about half of school district Boards vote each time there is a change in learning modalities and/or extracurricular activity participation, and about half delegate that authority to the Superintendent to decide. Our district allows the Superintendent to make those decisions, but the Board also actively reads all pertinent information behind those decisions.

Mr. Truett: He also summarized that currently the plan is to return to hybrid learning on January 11th and that as of now, athletics are continuing. He asked for feedback from the other board members regarding these two issues.

Mr. Bode: He explained that he feels like there are many particulars to discuss and evaluate in determining whether to return to school or not, and whether to allow athletics to continue or not. He said the most difficult thing for him is having decided to move to distance learning because the COVID-19 cases are so high and believing it is too dangerous to be in school, but allowing athletics and extracurriculars to continue. He explained that he is not advocating to cease extracurriculars at this time, but that is certainly still an option to consider. The number of students and staff required to quarantine in November and December had a significant impact on learning and athletics were the driver of many of those quarantine cases. If that continues to impact learning in January, then the Board may need to consider taking a pause in extracurriculars. He also stated that additional measures could possibly be taken to further reduce the risk of spread at athletic events and recommended the district take every step possible to minimize the risk while allowing the core team to compete in activities.

Ms. Wassmuth: She stated that she agreed with much of what Mr. Bode explained. She, too, agrees with continuing extracurriculars for now but that pausing activities is definitely a possibility if cases and quarantining increase and impact learning.

Mrs. Gephart: She agrees with Mr. Bode and Ms. Wassmuth. She was pleasantly surprised with how well fall sports went, but feels like winter sports is a different situation and the district will need to closely monitor it. To the extent extracurriculars can be done safely and not interfere with academics, she agrees with continuing those activities at this time.

Mr. Gusé: He agrees with what the other board members have stated. He doesn't like that students who do not participate in extracurriculars could be impacted (e.g. required to quarantine) as a result of coming into contact at school with students who are participating in extracurriculars. But he agrees with allowing those activities to continue at this time.

Mr. Truett: He stated that he agrees and we will move forward with allowing extracurriculars to continue at this time. He also stated that while the district is excited about the availability of the vaccine soon, it will still be very important to remain diligent in wearing masks and maintaining social distancing. He also recommended the athletic department continue to think creatively about opportunities to reduce risk. For example, would reducing the number of practices or competitions on a weekly basis help ensure the teams get to participate in a full season? Moving forward, Mr. Truett asked that information on

COVID-19 cases and quarantining be broken down between athletics and non-athletics to provide the Board information to evaluate. Mr. Truett also challenged the leadership team to look at creative ways to hold classes in a way that ensures all students are at least 6 feet apart even if classes need to be moved to a less traditional space. Doing so would reduce the instances of required quarantines. In conclusion, Mr. Truett asked Mr. Culp to consider the feedback provided by the Board members and stated the Board may reconvene at any time to further discuss any new developments.

Motion 21-059 (Adjourn) Mr. Gusé moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Gephart 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