

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
MINUTES OF THE GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Regular Meeting – February 10, 2021

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, February 10, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

We are holding this meeting using videoconferencing technology. 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.

**Roll Call**

Members Present:

Eric Bode  
Emily Gephart  
Kevin Gusé  
Jesse Truett  
Molly Wassmuth

Members Absent:

**Presentation – School Board Appreciation Month**

In honor of January being School Board Appreciation month, Superintendent Andy Culp read the following statement:

Good evening, Board members, staff members, and community members. January was officially Board recognition month, and in an effort to bring relevancy, earnest appreciation, and deserved and sincere gratitude on this occasion, I prepared a few words for our collective board to capture our appreciation for their selfless leadership and service.

First, on behalf of the entire Grandview Heights School District students, staff, and the Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff community, thank-you to each one of you for your service, your courage, your leadership, your dedication, your consummate preparation, and desire to do right by all students. School board members exemplify local citizenship control and decision-making in education. They volunteer hundreds of hours and an immeasurable amount of energy to ensure that our schools are providing the best education possible for the children of our community.

For all of their dedication, we are taking this opportunity to show them our appreciation during school board recognition month. School board members are citizens whose decisions affect our children, what they learn, who will teach them, and what kinds of facilities house their classrooms. These are the men and women elected to establish the policies that provide the framework for our public schools. They represent you. They take this responsibility exceedingly seriously by attending lengthy, sometimes challenging, meetings, conferences and institutes where they broaden their knowledge about education during numerous conversations about the schools and sessions before the Ohio General Assembly.

So, again, thank you. I have a firsthand view of the hours of analysis and preparation. I see the late night calls, the earnest and genuine desire to get it right for our students. I see the desire by each one of you to get it right for our community. I see the desire and reflection that all of you engage in in earnest and genuine dialogue. It has been a dream come true to serve as your superintendent. And, therefore, it is with great humility that I thank each one of you for your service to this community, this district, our parents, and most important of all, our students. Thank you for your leadership and your service above self, such that Grandview Heights Schools is truly a small place to dream big.

- Jesse Truett has been a member of the Grandview Heights Board of Education since 2014. He was re-elected to the Board of Education in November, 2017, and thus is serving his second term. In January, 2020 Jesse was elected President of the Board of Education and re-elected President in January, 2021.

- Beginning in 2015, Eric Bode served as a community member on the school district's Facility Task Force advising the Superintendent during the facility planning process. He previously served on the Superintendent's legislative committee. He is serving his first term on the Board of Education, having been elected in November, 2017. In January, 2020, Eric was elected Vice-President of the school board and re-elected Vice-President in January, 2021.
- Molly Wassmuth is serving her first term on the Board of Education having been elected in November, 2017.
- Emily Gephart, elected in November, 2019, is also serving her first term.
- Kevin Gusé elected in 2019, is serving his first term.

On behalf of everyone associated with Grandview Heights Schools, a heartfelt and sincere and genuine thank you for all that you do.

## Public Comments

Mr. Adam Smith addressed the Board as follows:

I am a Grandview resident and by way of background, my wife and I have five kids in the district, one in each school and one in each building. We're both lawyers in Columbus and participate in the district. We highly value education, we do fund raising, we volunteer, we're in social events, and we participate and donate in the Grandview Foundation. So, what I am doing today, speaking in a forum like this, is not typical for me. I don't seek confrontation or the spotlight and I think those who know me know I am a reasonable person. So, it's an extraordinary step for me. Certainly, some will not agree with my statements and some may even be upset with me, but I remain confident that those who know me and Karen will understand what we are doing, and what we are doing we think is right.

I've tried to address and I will in a minute, my concerns through the proper diplomatic channels with the board, but that's literally not worked. Unfortunately, I'm left with no choice but to speak up publicly and I can no longer sit back and watch the district damage our kids, damage my kids, watch our kids suffering with the status of the situation and the way the Board has handled things. So, action must be taken and I think voices must be heard.

I really take no pleasure in what I am about to say but I think it's long overdue. As I mentioned, and I'm sure I'm going to make some enemies here and I can live with that, because I really think at this point in time, it's time to do the right thing, not what's convenient or easy.

Unfortunately, I think the Board has failed. You failed the community and you failed the district. You failed the parents, the property owners who pay for the schools, and most importantly, you failed our students. You have not led. You have failed as your constitutional duty to educate our kids.

By way of background, I am not speaking today as a first-time complainer, someone coming out of left field. A group of us have approached Andy and the board members back in July to voice their concerns and offer input in ways to properly education our kids in this challenging school year. We continued to write letters, make calls, send emails, ask questions, offer to meet to offer alternative plans to Andy and the Board and those have had no success. And the fact, at this point in time, our group has only grown in size and frustration. To say that we were ignored I think is being nice. I would say that we were placated and disregarded and, in some fashion, rebuffed.

Communications from the Board consist mainly of canned emails vetted by counsel I'm sure. If this is the way that board members treat community folks who are friendly, genuinely interested in a meaningful discussion on ways to better educate our kids in schools that we pay for, I hesitate to wonder what happens to those who don't.

I want to make one thing clear. This statement is not a reflection of the teachers and the staff in the schools. I think our teachers and staff are some of the best around. Many are personal friends, neighbors, and peers. I believe the board forced these teachers to try to teach in impossible circumstances. Mine and many others' issues really are with the Board and frankly, the lack of adaptability, flexibility, and inability for the Board to be bold and lead. We hide behind zoom calls and screen time instead of engaging the community, small one at that, and trying to educate our kids.

We've had a lot of months to come up with a game plan to get our kids back to school full-time. Many of us now call what you call hybrid half-school. It's three days, three hours a week if we're lucky followed by homeschooling by the parents after hours.

To date, the last email from Andy was another canned email stating that don't get your hopes up for the vaccine, there's no promises and no plan for return. A website for a dashboard is not a return to school plan. It's a lazy way to keep us all at bay without making a stand on any position. I think I'm a relatively intelligent person and I can

understand numbers and data, but the dashboard data to me seems like simply we're flooding the zone with information, no logical connection, mostly inapplicable to our area and our schools, simply ways to say you provided information without direction, without a plan or a pathway to normalcy. That's not leadership.

As of today, the Department of Education in Ohio has 395 school districts back to full-time in-person learning. That doesn't count any private schools, almost all of which are back in-person. Why, as one of the smallest districts in our area, are we not back to full-time learning or even have a plan to do so? Westerville, Olentangy, Hilliard, they're all going back full-time in March. Where is our plan? What are we waiting for? We have a low number of students, we have the space, we have the resources to do so. Where is our plan?

I hear on these emails that you guys are concerned with the safety and wellness of the students and that's the number one priority. Where does education fit in, number two? Of course, safety is an issue but isn't education the number one issue? Isn't that what we pay for?

I have another concern the Board needs to think about and I'm not sure you have. What about the mental health, the sanity, stability, certainty, and human and social interaction for our kids? Where is the Board's concern for these things? I see my kids suffering, crying, begging for social interaction, not a silly computer screen. We are killing our kids with this method. We are making them robots to a screen, making them slaves to their homes, making them feel guilty for interaction with others, afraid they're going to go out and "kill somebody."

All of this data the Board sends out, where is the data on kids getting sick? I mean just normally sick, let alone hospitalized, or God forbid dying. I see none of it. I see no such data. I have heard of no child in our community being hospitalized from COVID, let alone sick. I've done my research. Kids have almost 0% risk of severe illness or hospitalization. There are no studies showing kids are active transmitters of the virus. In Ohio, the average age of getting COVID is 42 years old. That's a far, far cry from the school aged child.

The CDC says return to school. Fauci says return to school. DeWine says return to school. Almost every medical committee and advisory board in America says return to school. Today, the Ohio Department of Education Superintendent issued a resolution saying return to school. Our teachers are being vaccinated. Where is our plan for return?

Of course, there are going to be those who disagree with me and that's fine. They have that right, they have that option. Their option is virtual learning. Those of us who want our kids to go back full-time, we have no option at the present. This is a one-sided plan. It only works for those who remain in hybrid or remote. Where is our choice? Where are you addressing the large number of us who want to return to full-time school? I can tell you my feelings and concerns are not exclusively mine. There are many, many others who feel the same way and I can tell you our numbers are growing.

This board is failing our kids in this model. You're denying them their guaranteed education, denying them mental wellbeing and social normalcy from the risk of an illness that is negligible to them and most around them. At this point, the damage to the mental wellbeing and educational standards for our kids far, far outweigh the risk of any physical illness.

Many people in this community are tired of hiding behind screens and zoom calls. I can tell you the anger is real and the mistrust of this Board grows. You are losing the support of this district. It's time to stop the bleeding. The board should be ahead of the curve, not chasing it. You have all the resources, you have the community support other districts only dream of. If you're not willing to take the lead, perhaps it's time to let someone else do so. That's okay. Our kids' wellbeing is at stake here. It's time for the Board to do its job, to lead with vision, be bold, and be courageous. Open up our schools full-time now. Thank you.

Mr. Brandon Strong addressed the Board of Education as follows:

I have one child in school in third grade. Board members and Mr. Culp, thank you for letting me speak with you this evening. I wanted to talk to the Board, urging them to make the transition from hybrid to full-time school either the week of March 15<sup>th</sup> or the week of March 29<sup>th</sup> after teachers and staff are successfully vaccinated.

I remember sitting in on these virtual board meetings last summer as the Board tried to come up with a plan for the current school year. At that time, we didn't know much about the transmission of the virus, the effects on children, nor did we want to put our teachers in harm's way. Additionally, Dawn and I were very apprehensive about sending our son back to school. We have stood by and supported the decisions the district has made up to this point.

I want to make it clear that by no means am I discounting that COVID cannot be deadly because it can and it has been to many families across the country and world. What I think is that we need to change our risk calculus. Have we reached a point that the academic, social, and emotional risks to our children continuing in hybrid is greater than the risk of them going to school full-time? I am concerned that we could be, if we don't get this accomplished by the end of this academic year. So, I think we need to weigh the risks from both perspectives.

By the end of February, almost all the staff in our district will be vaccinated. While I know this does not mean they cannot get nor transmit the virus, I do know that what it does mean is that the serious health consequences are significantly diminished. We also know that there have been districts, both public, for example the Granville School District, and private, that have been at school full-time during this entire school year. And, largely the health effects haven't been substantial.

Are we reaching out and talking to any of these districts to get information and data that will help our decision? Additionally, Upper Arlington School District is planning to return to full-time school after their spring break. So, perhaps that is another district that we could reach out to and discuss their plan and how we could modify it to fit our district.

We also know that in the State of Ohio that the most vulnerable are getting or have been vaccinated, thus further reducing the risk to our most vulnerable in our communities. So, when I say changing risk calculus, I think we need to give greater weight to the risk posed to our children's academic and social lives if we do not get them back in school full-time.

I also know parents in this community seriously contemplating sending their children to private education if the school cannot get back to full-time. What will this do to our tight-knit community, to our athletic and our social gatherings? I believe that these are all factors that need to be considered.

Therefore, tonight I ask the board to give weight to not just health concerns, which are important, but also other relative concerns that I mentioned. I would hope that the Board and Mr. Culp can give a promise to the community that they are working towards full-time academics by the end of this year, if not before. Thank you.

Mrs. Joanne Taylor addressed the Board of Education as follows:

I come before you tonight to talk as part of One Grandview. And, just to give a little backstory to anybody who is listening or anybody on the Board, One Grandview is composed of some Grandview teachers and parents. We formed in May, 2020 after a series of events across our nation had some of us so disturbed we felt we needed to do something. We like to see ourselves like a Start Talking Grandview, except for social justice.

In the fall, we did a survey to parents, staff, and students just to get some ideas of what people's feelings were. Were we off base? Were we close to base? Where did we need to go? We have spent a lot of time meeting and strategizing, and one of the things we have come up with, and I believe you guys have before you, is a resolution for the Grandview Heights Board of Education condemning racism and committing to being an anti-racist school district.

Not only do we feel this is important, but just to provide a little bit of history to go along with this, the City of Grandview last year declared the year 2021 to be the year of racial justice learning. So, we thought this was a good tie into that as in also One Grandview working with the schools in conjunction with the City. Grandview Public Library is also very vested in being an anti-racist establishment and helping our community in any way. The Grandview Board of Health, last summer, also declared racism as a public health crisis.

We are releasing our survey results. We are working on a website and hope within the next couple weeks to have the results up there.

Overwhelmingly, people feel that Grandview Schools are doing great things. I want to be clear, we are not trying to do something radical or force beliefs down people's throats. All we are trying to do is build upon the learning attributes that Grandview Schools already have in place. And there are learning attributes in each building that those schools take a lot of time to ingrain into the students to make them better humans. So honestly, Grandview Schools have already laid the groundwork and we're just building on what you are already doing. So, we would ask that you would consider declaring this resolution so that we could be an anti-racist school district.

Mr. Truett read the resolution and asked the Board to consider taking action on that resolution.

**Motion 21-072 (Board Resolution – Anti-Racism)** Mrs. Gephart moved to approve the following:

1. Resolution of Grandview Heights Board of Education Condemning Racism and Committing to Being an Anti-Racist School District

WHEREAS, Systemic racism has long led to political, physical, economic, and educational harm to people of color in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, The Ohio Board of Education adopted a resolution on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020, condemning racism and strongly recommended that all Ohio school districts “begin a reflection and internal examination of their own, involving members of their school community to examine all facets of the school’s operations”; and,

WHEREAS, The Grandview Heights School District is committed to fostering a learning community which benefits the holistic growth of all our students; and,

WHEREAS, The District recognizes its need to confront systemic racism and proactively teach anti-racism to achieve this goal.

Now, therefore be it resolved, by the Grandview Heights Board of Education, on this day February 10, 2021, that, the district condemns racism, racial violence, white supremacy, hate speech, and bigotry in all forms inside and outside of our schools; and,

The district commits to a careful examination of institutional policies and practices in order to establish an anti-racist community and dismantle systemic racism in our schools; and,

The district affirms the importance of a culturally responsive curriculum that represents the diversity of our country, accurately honors the contributions of historically marginalized communities, and encourages anti-racism; we acknowledge our current curriculum does not achieve that yet, and commit to supporting teachers and staff as they work towards this goal; and,

The district believes that having a diverse faculty and staff provides significant value to all students and will examine recruitment, hiring and retention practices to broaden the representation of diversity in the district; and,

The district will commit to reexamine student discipline policies and records, recognizing that school discipline policies can have a disproportionately negative impact on children of color; and,

The district will commit to reexamine staff professional development content and practices, ensuring opportunities to identify implicit biases and support every student’s emotional, mental and physical needs.

Links:

<http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/State-Board/State-Board-Reports-and-Policies/Equity/Resolution.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US>

[https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.3102/0034654318791582?casa\\_token=Pq4PApcuC80AAAA%3AhrZaAqjnr0Lx450N2Hx2I\\_fyfbjdx695014GVQzwcBotsWw4QUqFC33sZbd7rXti7dc\\_GWGGQ3GxdAA](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.3102/0034654318791582?casa_token=Pq4PApcuC80AAAA%3AhrZaAqjnr0Lx450N2Hx2I_fyfbjdx695014GVQzwcBotsWw4QUqFC33sZbd7rXti7dc_GWGGQ3GxdAA)

Mr. Bode thanked Mrs. Taylor and One Grandview for their thoughtful and collaborative work, and agreed that this resolution builds on the work that the school is doing. He also stated that he liked how the resolution focused on some practical considerations, including recruitment, professional development, and discipline, which are very much at the core of what we do as a school district. Mr. Bode also reaffirmed that it is not just about not being racist, but about being anti-racist. He thanked Mrs. Taylor for bringing the resolution forward and stated that he feels it is the right thing at the right time.

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.

**Presentation – Construction Update**

Mr. Jay Tadena, Corna-Kokosing/Elford (CKE) Project Manager, reported that despite the recent weather conditions, the construction team has been making great interior progress on the project. Following are some of the recent and upcoming highlights of the project:

- Drywall is being hung on the second floor and walls are being framed on the first floor;
- Windows will be shipped next week and will be installed the last week of February;
- Planning is underway for the summer transition to the new 4-8 building;
- 80-90 workers onsite daily;
- Sky lights have been delayed until March due to COVID-19; however, the construction team has been able to absorb that delay in the overall schedule.

### **Presentation – GHS COVID-19 Learning Mode Framework Discussion**

Superintendent Culp provided the following COVID-19 update as a basis to further discuss the current learning framework with the Board of Education and garner feedback about the Board's thoughts for considering an all-in return to traditional school.

#### COVID-19 Dashboard Update:

- Currently 2 positive cases, 8 quarantines;
- 8.1% positivity rate, down from 9.6% last week;
- Case rates in Franklin County are down to 414 per 100,000, down from 550 last week;
- CATS case rates in Grandview Heights Schools' boundaries: 632 per 100,000, down from 705 last week.

#### CHS COVID-19 Learning Mode Framework 2.0

- 90% of staff have been vaccinated with the first dose; second doses begin February 23<sup>rd</sup>;
- Whether vaccinated individuals can be carriers or spreaders of the virus is currently unknown;
- Research around the benefits of students being in school full-time socially, emotionally, behaviorally, and academically are clear and something this Board of Education has indicated is a priority;
- The learning mode framework is not binding, but rather is designed to trigger discussion about the possibility of changing learning modes.

#### Considerations for All-In Return to School

- The leadership team has been discussing the possibility of a full return to school based on the COVID-19 numbers.
- The Ohio Board of Education has issued a declaration urging local school boards to work collaboratively with their superintendents and public health departments to implement a fully in person non-hybrid learning option, where feasible. The Board is also urging local school boards to implement solutions to protect teachers and staff who are high-risk, and to provide for those families choosing a remote learning option.
- Key factors to consider in evaluating a full return to school:
  - Safety of staff and students;
  - Adding to the spread of COVID-19; and
  - Ability to operate school, considering the quarantining requirements.
- In preparation for a possible full return to school, Superintendent Culp has asked principals to review the district's plan for return including the following:
  - Allowing for 6' distancing at lunch;
  - Exploring the option of allowing kids to go home for lunch;
  - Current recess plan of grouping students in classroom pods to allow for contact tracing;
  - Students wearing masks for the full day;
  - NOTE: All-in return to school would significantly reduce our ability to maintain 6' distancing in classrooms and would allow only 1-3' in most classrooms, although FCPH continues to recommend 6'.
  - Using plexiglass barriers, sanitizing, handwashing and distancing as much as possible;
  - Implications of new virus strands are unknown and will be closely monitored;
  - Full benefit of vaccine is 14 days after the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, which would be March 15<sup>th</sup> for our staff;
  - Fourth grading period begins March 11<sup>th</sup>;
  - Spring Break is March 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>;
  - Likely will be an increase in quarantining requirements with a return to full-in school.

#### Questions/Discussion

Mr. Gusé: With the likely increase in quarantining, would there be a possibility of students having access to a live broadcast of their classroom instruction?

Mr. Culp: All students have the option of Florida Virtual Learning Academy. Broadcasting may work in higher grades, but would likely present more challenges for younger students. FCPH has decreased the quarantine requirements in classrooms such that as long as 3' distancing is maintained and masks are worn, quarantining would not be required from the classroom. Quarantining would still be required for athletics, however.

Ms. Wassmuth: How many instances would there be of classrooms with distancing of less than 3' if we return to all-in school? Would FCPH approve of us going back to school all-in with less than 3' of distancing between students?

Mr. Culp: FCPH continues to recommend 6' distancing when feasible, but will accept 3' of social distancing. An all-in return to school would mean we are not able to maintain even 3' in some cases. FCPH will review school district plans and provide feedback, but will not be approving or signing-off on school district plans to return to school.

Ms. Wassmuth: In how many classrooms would there be less than 3' of distancing between students with an all-in return to school?

Mr. Culp: With the size of our classrooms, we will not be able to maintain 3' of distancing. There are a few exceptions where more distance can be maintained, but 3' will not be feasible in most cases.

Ms. Wassmuth: The district has been able to keep quarantining numbers relatively low because of the ability to maintain 6' of social distancing during hybrid. The inability to maintain 3' in an all-in return to school is worrisome in terms of a possible increases in cases.

Mr. Truett: With the consideration of returning all-in, the Board needs to provide any and all questions to Superintendent Culp and then the Board can reconvene and further discuss this possibility with additional information and data as follows:

- Square feet of classrooms and number of students in each classroom;
- More details regarding lunch and how 6' of distancing will be maintained;
- More discussion regarding extracurriculars;
- What would an all-in return to school look like in Grandview Heights; and
- Timeline for a potential return.

Ms. Wassmuth: The district has always done a good job of evaluating data and making appropriate decisions. This additional data will be helpful for the Board.

Mr. Bode: An all-in return to school is the best learning mode and we want to get there. Our approach has been to remain flexible and that's been beneficial for our district as things have changed rapidly with the pandemic. Trends at the national, state and local levels are looking good right now. Teacher safety is very important and they are currently being vaccinated. Getting back to all-in schooling as soon as possible after staff are vaccinated would be great. Returning to full-day schooling for even the last quarter of the school year, students may have as much in-class time in one quarter as they have had for the first three quarters of the school year.

Mrs. Gephart: She agrees with Mr. Bode's analysis. More data would be good to analyze, but even if the data shows that distancing is less than 3', decreasing the distance in half does not necessary mean the risk of transmission would be doubled. The issue comes down to risk tolerance and how much risk are we willing to take. Maintaining the required 6' distance for lunch does not seem to be insurmountable. At this point, I would be comfortable sending kids back to school all-in if the numbers continue to trend downward once staff are fully vaccinated.

Ms. Wassmuth: She would like to see the numbers continue to trend downward and is not certain the district would be ready for an all-in return in three weeks from now. While the numbers are trending downward, spring break could be an issue. Returning all-in would be a major educational shift and there are many details to work out. She would like kids to be able to return but is also concerned with the new variants of the virus and how they may impact kids. She is in favor of pausing and reviewing more data.

Mr. Gusé: One important consideration is travel over spring break. Returning all-in will mean more quarantining, which is a concern. He is interested in watching the numbers over the next two weeks.

Mrs. Gephart: She agrees that the Board needs to evaluate the operational details of returning all-in.

Mr. Truett: It will be important to talk to children. School will still be different with an all-in return. He has been working in schools that have been all-in since the beginning of the year and there are many procedures in place including distancing and one-way hallways. He suggested that the Board reconvene with the additional data to be gathered by Mr. Culp and further discuss what an all-in return will look like.

Mr. Culp: He agreed with Mr. Truett. In preparation for this meeting, he has been talking to principals and directors about reviewing the plan for an all-in return that was authored last year. He will also share that document again with the Board members as that may answer many of their operational questions.

Mr. Truett: One important consideration is that PPE supplies are much more readily available now than they were last year. Also, when the Board reconvenes in a special meeting, he would like for public participation to be permitted due to the significance of this topic.

Ms. Wassmuth: She agrees with not considering returning to school before March 15<sup>th</sup>, the date when staff vaccines will be fully effective. And, whatever the decision ends up being, she thinks it would be best to give parents a couple weeks notice to plan for childcare, etc..

Mr. Truett: The timeline for a potential return is a big part of the discussion. We need to meet before the regularly scheduled March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting to allow discussion and provide ample notice to parents.

Mr. Truett: Because staff are getting vaccinated beginning February 23<sup>rd</sup>, how about we reconvene on February 22<sup>nd</sup>?

Mrs. Gephart: She also suggested a discussion could take place on returning Board of Education meetings to in-person.

Ms. Wassmuth: She asked Mr. Culp to also provide information on when the general public would be vaccinated.

**Motion 21-073 (Minutes)** Mr. Bode moved to approve the minutes of the following meeting:

- a. Organizational and Regular Meeting, January 13, 2021
- b. Special Meeting, January 23, 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.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **Teaching and Learning**

- To celebrate Black History Month, Stevenson Elementary has created monthly plans around inclusion that include read a-louds, video shorts, STEM activities, and other creative ideas to celebrate Black History. Mrs. Ullum will focus on Black History in her morning announcements and will work with Mrs. Keller and Mrs. Doran to send home family ideas in the monthly newsletter, the Stevenson Star.
- As well, Larson Middle School sixth graders wrapped up the short story unit on "Thank You M'am" by Langston Hughes focusing on the literary elements of conflict and theme.
- Fifth graders are working with Jessica Fields to create podcasts about "a moment in history" that everyone should learn about. They are researching their topic and writing a script that will be presented in the form of a podcast. Some may choose to enter their podcast in NPR's yearly podcast challenge.
- The GHHS Mock Trial Team had an incredible (virtual) performance on January 28th! It was so impressive that they are moving on to the regional competition on February 19th! Only a handful of teams advance. Some of the competitors will be Dublin Jerome, Granville, and Indian Hills High Schools.
- The GHHS Creative Writing Club has published its Winter 2021 edition of Either/Or. Read it here: [www.ghhseitheror.com](http://www.ghhseitheror.com)
- Colleen Cross with our CKE Construction Team has graciously offered tours of the new 4-8 building to our high school age students/staff (limited group sizes, masked, distanced), beginning in early February.
- Congratulations to Senior Derek Amicon who has been named to the ThisWeek's Super 12 Boys Cross Country Team.
- To date, six Grandview Heights students from the class of 2021 have committed to participate in intercollegiate athletics. A signing day will be held at a later date.
- GHHS Performing Arts will present YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN in early March. For details, visit [https://www.ghschools.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=221347&type=d&pREC\\_ID=551428](https://www.ghschools.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=221347&type=d&pREC_ID=551428)

### **District Wide**

- This month we are celebrating and thanking our Board of Education members for their service to our learning community! Thank you for ALL you do!
- As of this writing, nearly 90% of staff have received round one of the Pfizer vaccine.
- Two of our long-time, beloved teachers have announced their retirements at the end of this school year. Congratulations to Billie Sarich and Lydia McLaughlin! We wish you much happiness in your retirements! You will be missed!

### **Community Engagement**

- The district's Quality Profile 2021, which is also serving as our winter newsletter, will be in resident mailboxes soon.



- Superintendent Andy Culp recently met (virtually) with the Class of 1959 to share updates and answer questions about the district's construction projects. GHHS alumni, this class especially, are so supportive and engaged!
- The Student Services team is working to connect with all Grandview Heights Schools families by calling each household. These calls have provided a great opportunity to talk with parents and get their feedback regarding their student's experience this school year and also determine if there are any areas of need or support.
- Superintendent Culp and CKE Construction Team Leader Jay Tadema have recorded their 6th "Hard Hat Update" on January 23, 2021, and included Colleen Cross from Corna-Kokosing in the update. Weekly Summaries can be found here: <https://www.ghschools.org/apps/pages/construction>  
Please visit [www.ghschools.org](http://www.ghschools.org) and follow us on FB @GrandviewHeightsSchools for news and updates.
- Recent ThisWeek News articles:  
<https://www.thisweeknews.com/story/news/local/grandview-heights/2021/02/05/upper-arlington-duo-form-harpers-corner-foundation-equip-school-libraries-books-diversity-inclusion/4378910001/>  
<https://www.thisweeknews.com/story/news/local/grandview-heights/2021/02/08/grandview-heights-roundup-bobcats-swimming-teams-enter-postseason-high-note/4310487001/>  
<https://www.thisweeknews.com/story/news/local/grandview-heights/2021/01/25/grandview-heights-roundup-bobcats-bowling-teams-making-up-lost-time/4166492001/>

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Beth Collier presented to the Board on the following:

### **January, 2021 Financial Report highlights:**

#### **General Fund (001):**

- General Fund Revenues
  - **Taxes** – \$3,024,000 advances of first half 2021 settlement received; 68.0% of budget.
  - **State Funding** – 60.5% of budget; 2<sup>nd</sup> half casino revenue \$30,541.36 received (1<sup>st</sup> half \$15,608.06).
  - **Property Tax Allocation** – 48.6% of budget.
  - **Grandview Yard** –51.1% of FY budget; (\$148,984 over calendar year 2020 revenue projection).
  - Interest Earnings (**Other Revenue**) for January, 2021: \$8,060.72.
- General Fund Expenditures
  - 7 months (58.3%) FYTD Budget
  - **Total FY Expenditures:** 55.2% of budget

#### **Construction Fund (004):**

- Interest Earnings for January, 2021: \$9,171.80
- Interest Earnings Project-to-Date: \$1,254,952 (net of \$42,812 investment advisory fees)
- Investing some excess funds in CD's (.30%, .35%, and .40%); Star Ohio is currently .09%
- 49.3% of Soft Costs have been spent.
- 22.2% of Construction Costs have been spent.
- Current Fund Balance: \$41,599,074.45.

#### **Bond Retirement Fund (002):**

- 4.00 mill collection for 2021 (drop in millage offsets increase in property value for 2021).
- April, 2021
  - Scheduled to transfer \$1,026,573 to TIF Revenue Set-Aside Account
  - Scheduled to transfer \$808,906 from Set Aside Account to Bond Retirement Fund

#### **Permanent Improvement Fund (003):**

- \$112,000 of tax advances on 1<sup>st</sup> half 2021 received.
- Current Fund Balance: \$717,757.48.
- Upcoming expenditures: GHHS Roof, \$200,000; Athletic storage sheds, \$17,033; Scoreboard, \$25,390.

#### **Other Funding Updates:**

- **FY 2021 State Funding**
  - 1/22/2021 Executive Order restoring a portion of funding reductions
  - FY 2021 Initial State Funding allocation - \$320,495 reduction with HB 164 offset of \$176,517 (net reduction of \$143,978)
  - Executive Order restores \$78,963
  - Net reduction \$65,015 (compared to FY 2019 pre-pandemic)

- **FY 2022, 2023 Executive Budget Proposal**
  - Returns to pre-pandemic level
- **ESSER II Funding**
  - \$231,214
  - Summer Programming, PPE, Safety Supplies

**Motion 21-074 (Treasurer’s Reports)** Mr. Bode moved to approve the January, 2021 Treasurer’s reports and accept payment of the January, 2021 bills for all funds.

Mrs. Gephart 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 21-075 (Business and Finance)** Mr. Gusé moved to approve the following:

1. Then and Now Certifications  
Recommend the Board approve the following Then-and-Now certifications:
  - a. Star Beacon, RLS supplies, PO #36502
  - b. Star Beacon, RLS supplies, PO #36540
  - c. Mark Van Horn, Board meeting closed captioning, PO 36355
2. OSBA Legal Assistance Fund  
Recommend the Board approves participation in the Ohio School Boards Association Legal Assistance Fund for 2021 at a cost of \$250.
3. 2021 Summer Kids’ Club Fees  
Recommend the Board approve 2021 Summer Kids’ Club Fees as follows:

Fees	No. of Children	Cost
Summer Activities Fee	1	\$129
	2+	\$99 each add’l child
Flex Fee	Per Child	\$79
Full Time	1	\$152
	Each Add’l Child	\$148

4. Statement of Work  
Recommend the Board approve a statement of work with the Educational Services Center of Central Ohio for OELPA testing administration services for English learner students.
5. Disposal of Items  
Recommend the Board approve the disposal of items.
6. Amended Tax Rate Resolution – 2021 Collections  
Recommend the Board approve a resolution accepting the amounts and rates as Determined by the Budget Commission, and authorizing the necessary tax levies, and Certifying them to the County Auditor.
7. Donations  
Recommend the Board accept the following donations:
  - a. \$100 from Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories to Grandview Heights High School on behalf of Chris Perry
  - b. 2 - VIP Crowded Symbols LEA kit - \$449.50 each; 2 - Pass 2 Stereopsis - \$278.50 each; and 2 - Good-Lite Color Check Complete - \$150.00 each to Grandview Heights Schools via a grant from Prevent Blindness Ohio

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 21-076 (Personnel)** Mr. Gephart moved to approve the following:

1. Retirements

Recommend the Board approve the following retirements:

- a. Billie Sarich, Reading Intervention and ESL Teacher, effective June 30, 2021
- b. Lydia McLaughlin, Language Arts and Social Studies Teacher, effective June 30, 2021

2. Kids' Club Resignation

Recommend the Board approve the following Kids' Club resignation:

- a. Abigail McCully; Substitute, effective January 12, 2021

3. Supplemental Contract (GHEA, Article X, pg. 34-40)

Recommend the Board approve the following licensed supplementals for the 2020-2021 school year:

- a. Robert Ballinger; Track, Assistant Varsity Coach, Class V-3-M, \$4,293.30
- b. Kathy Kinnard; Tennis, Head Coach, Boys, Class III-3-M, \$5,581.29
- c. Emily Meister; High School Musical, Costume Design Advisor, Class VII-1-3, \$1,287.99
- d. Christopher Reeder; Track, Middle School Coach, Class V-1-2, \$2,575.98
- e. Tyler Fitzgerald; Baseball, Head Coach, Class II-2-8, \$4,937.30

4. Supplemental Contracts (GHEA, Article X, pg. 34-40)

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. Jason Diwik; Baseball, Middle School Coach, Class V-2-5, \$3,219.98
- b. Tim Fries; Track, Middle School Coach, Class V-2-6, \$3,219.98
- c. Garrett Griffin; Baseball, Assistant Varsity Coach, Class V-2-7, \$3,219.98
- d. Patrick McHugh; Track, Assistant Varsity Coach, Class V-1-2, \$2,575.98
- e. Kelly Riddlebaugh; Baseball, JV Coach, Class V-2-5, \$3,219.98

5. Spring 2021 Musical Personnel

Recommend the Board approve the following Spring Musical personnel for the 2020-2021 school year, to be paid from the Musical Activity Account:

- a. Aaron Dvorak; Rehearsal Accompanist and Pit Player, \$1,350
- b. Dave Lehnus; Pit Player, \$350
- c. Drew Martin; Pit Player, \$350
- d. Chris Herrmann; Pit Player, \$350

6. Administrator Contract Expirations

Recommend the Board authorize and direct the Treasurer to notify the following administrators in writing that his/her contract expires on the date indicated, and that he/she may request a meeting with the Board of Education to discuss the Board's reasons for renewal or non-renewal of his/her contract in according with state law.

- a. Brad Bertani
- b. Kirsten Carroll
- c. Jennie Clifton
- d. Madeline Partlow
- e. Angie Ullum

7. Kids' Club Personnel Changes

Recommend the Board approve the following Kids' Club personnel changes:

- a. Jaelynn Filio; Recreation Leader to Team Leader, \$13.85 per hour, effective February 1, 2021
- b. Analicia Morales; Substitute to Recreation leader, \$12.15 per hour, effective February 1, 2021
- c. Nate Lombardo; Team Leader to Substitute, \$12.99 per hour, effective February 1, 2021

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 21-077 (Co-Curricular Activities and Extra-Curricular Activities)** Mr. Truett moved to approve the following:

1. Field Trip

Recommend the Board approve the following field trip to the District Swim Meet at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio:

- a. February 17-19, 2021
- b. Transportation by van, bus, and/or parents
- c. District cost \$1,500, funded by the Athletic Department
- d. Estimated 4-10 students; 1 chaperone

2. Field Trip

Recommend the Board approve the following field trip to the State Swim Meet in Canton, Ohio:

- a. February 23-25, 2021
- b. Transportation by van, bus, and/or parents
- c. District cost \$1,500, funded by the Athletic Department
- d. Estimated 10 students, 1 chaperone

3. Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Volunteers

Recommend the board approve the following volunteers:

- a. Luke Fassett
- b. Tricia Cunningham

Mrs. Gephart 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 21-078 (Adjourn)** Ms. Wassmuth moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gusé 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