

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
MINUTES OF THE GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Special Meeting – January 22, 2022

The Grandview Heights Schools Board of Education met in special session in Room 2311 of the new Larson Middle School.

Call to Order: President Eric Bode called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Roll Call	Members Present:	Members Absent:
	Eric Bode	
	Emily Gephart	
	Kevin Gusé	
	Katie Matney	
	Molly Wassmuth	

Superintendent Andy Culp shared the following meeting goals with the group:

**Goals:**

1. To build understanding about best practices for board governance teams and what that looks like for GHS.
2. To understand next steps associated with the athletic complex and Stevenson Elementary master planning.
3. COVID-19 update, masking, and metrics.
4. To understand the process and next steps associated with the 2022-2023 calendar committee.
5. To begin to build understanding regarding an ultimate framework for negotiations in the Spring.

**Opening Activity**

Superintendent Andy Culp asked the Board members to split up into small groups and discuss topics they would like to learn more about. The topics shared by the groups included the following:

- Opportunities for students to be exposed to diversity;
- Post-Secondary student tracking;
- Standardized testing and how it is used to guide teaching practices;
- Mental Health/MTSS;
- Board meeting agenda process and how to bring ideas up for discussion;
- Continued collaboration with the City of Grandview Heights; and
- High school course offerings.

**Communication Norms**

Superintendent Andy Culp brought up the topic of communication norms for the group to discuss. He explained that historically the Board President acted as the spokesperson for the Board, but that any Board member can email/speak to any member of the community to share their individual views. The group discussed and agreed on the following guidelines:

- If an email is addressed to all Board members, Eric will respond at a minimum. Others may respond also.
- If an inquiry is addressed to the Superintendent, he will respond accordingly.
- Board members may choose to share their emails with the other Board members.

**Committees/Liaisons**

The Board discussed committee and liaison appointments and agreed on the following:

*Superintendent/Treasurer Committees:*

- Policy Committee – Katie Matney & Kevin Gusé
- Finance Committee – Emily Gephart & Molly Wassmuth
- Core Team – Eric Bode & Emily Gephart
- Teaching & Learning Committee – Kevin Gusé and Molly Wassmuth

*Board Liaisons*

- City of Grandview Heights – Molly Wassmuth/Emily Gephart
- Village of Marble Cliff – Eric Bode
- Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Education Foundation – Kevin Gusé
- Start Talking Grandview – Kevin Gusé
- OSBA Legislative Liaison – Molly Wassmuth
- OSBA Student Achievement Liaison – Molly Wassmuth

- Wellness (Includes One Grandview & Library) – Katie Matney
- Library – Katie Matney

Mr. Bode explained the expectation would be for committees to report at monthly Board meetings. The group also discussed structuring the Board meeting agendas slightly different for more continuity.

### **Negotiations**

Treasurer Beth Collier reviewed historical and comparative financial information compiled for purposes of preparing for GHEA negotiations.

### **Calendar Committee Update**

Superintendent Andy Culp shared with the Board a request to update the 2022-2023 school calendar to provide some time for teachers moving buildings over winter break.

### **Athletic Complex & Stevenson Elementary**

Superintendent Andy Culp shared some of his thoughts on master planning for the athletic complex and Stevenson Elementary. He explained that he feels it may be best to bundle the planning for these two projects together. He explained that while the athletic complex is in more critical need of facility improvements, he would like to avoid the perception that athletic space needs are prioritized over academic space needs.

Eric Bode explained that he feels it is important to think about what type of actions are being considered. In regards to the athletic facility, the contract the Board is seeking is for master planning only at this time, while the contract for Stevenson would be design, which are two very different things. Master planning involves thinking about the whole layout. The Board could choose to do a master plan and not pursue a major project for several years. Master planning would, rather, give the Board a roadmap to ensure that when individual needs are addressed, they align with the eventual overall plan for that space. Mr. Bode also explained that he is not in favor of seeking a levy for athletic facilities before addressing Stevenson Elementary.

Mr. Culp stated that he feels the Board needs to be mindful of staff considerations in voting for a plan for athletics prior to voting for a plan for Stevenson, even if a ballot measure is not being considered at this time.

Mr. Bode explained that he felt it made sense to wait until the current facility improvement project is completed and build off of the excitement from that. He also stated that he does not want to be in a position of not thinking about Stevenson Elementary for several years. In fact, the district has had conversations with the architects at Perkins + Will regarding recommended next steps. The district already went through a master planning process several years ago that resulted in a recommendation to renovate Stevenson Elementary. The Board will need to determine whether to stick with that plan, or open that process back up for further consideration. The recommendation of the architects was to start with evaluating the district's needs and then determine how those needs fit with the current Stevenson facility. That process will help drive the discussion of which direction to go in terms of improvement options.

Mr. Bode stated that he feels comfortable with moving forward with a master planning process for the athletic facility because of how dire the condition of that facility is.

Mrs. Matney stated that she wanted to do both projects and that both are definitely needed.

Mr. Culp reminded the Board that the current bond millage, after the \$55.25 million 4-12 improvement project, is less than 1 mill higher than when the Board started facility planning in 2015.

Ms. Wassmuth stated her position is that academic facilities should take priority over athletic facilities.

Mrs. Gephart stated that practically speaking, the district has permanent improvement levy funds and struggles with spending that money on improvements to the athletic facility without having a master plan to know how best to utilize those funds. So the master plan is an important step even if the district is not considering a tax levy to improve the entire facility.

Mr. Bode explained that he feels the district should go through a process. What likely will happen is that the district will get a master plan and there will be some things that could be addressed within the scope of the district's permanent improvement levy, even without considering a bond levy. That is likely not the case for Stevenson Elementary. Rather, Stevenson Elementary would likely need to be done comprehensively as one project. Mr. Bode further explained that his recommendation would be to move forward with master planning for the athletic complex, while concurrently evaluating and planning for a Stevenson ballot issue. And, the district would need to make sure it is planning ahead for bond and operating

levy needs. The first step for evaluating Stevenson Elementary, though, is the educational needs process and that is driven by us.

Ms. Wassmuth suggested holding a special work session meeting for the sole purpose of discussing this facility planning.

Mr. Bode stated that he is very proud of the partnership that has been developed between the school district and the city on the current 4-12 construction project. Within the scope of the athletic complex and Stevenson Elementary, he suggested that there may be additional opportunities for the district to partner with the city as both of these facilities are very much community facilities.

**Motion 22-065: (Adjourn)** Mr. Gusé moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Gephart seconded the motion.

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

President Bode declared the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

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President

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Treasurer