Greenville Public Schools – Board Briefs

A Report of Board Activities – January 2020

Greenville Public Schools BHAG – Big Hairy Audacious Goal:
Greenville Public Schools will be known as an educationally progressive leader by ensuring rigorous individualized academic achievement for all students, through community partnerships, and globally diverse cultural and career opportunities in a safe and caring environment.

Core Values:
  Integrity  ♦  Collaboration  ♦  Compassion  ♦  Responsibility

Thank you for taking time to read the Board Briefs. If you have questions, please contact Kara Tiesworth at (616) 754-3686 or email tiesworthk@gpsmi.us. Of course, you are always welcome to attend our meetings.

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, January 13, 2020.
Members Present: N. Rasmussen, K. Wierda, J. Anderson, R. Hansen, C. Mahar, J. Petersen and student representative A. Thompson
Members Absent: R. Billmeier
Administrators Present: L. Van Houten, M. Blaszczynski, M. Fleet, L. Steed, M. Leiter and K. Beebe

Citizen Comments
• None

Celebrations/Communications
• Board Portrait Presentation – Lincoln Heights Art Teacher Lynette Robinson lead her fifth grade students through a portrait lesson and two students presented their portrait drawing to our newest board members (Dr. Jodi Petersen & Charlie Mahar).
• Mid-Year Retirees – GPS employees that have retired since the beginning of the year were recognized for their service – Roy Mabie, Ginny Hubbard, Gloria Rich, Robin Kiste and Tammy Kemp.
• Board Appreciation Month – January is School Board Appreciation Month. Board members were presented with a small gift of appreciation.
• There are several positive things happening throughout our district, please take the time to read the attached Inspiring Excellence document. If you have something to celebrate, please notify Superintendent Linda Van Houten or Administrative Assistant Kara Tiesworth.

Consent Agenda - The following items under the Consent Agenda were approved:
  A. Minutes of December 9, 2019 – Regular Meeting
  B. Ratification of Bills and Payroll Vouchers – December 2019 $4,030,428.00
  C. Donation – M1 Michigan One Credit Union – Opportunities for Success: $1,852.46
  D. Donation – Dicastal North America – Student Lunch Debt: $5,112.00

Information Items - These items are for discussion only. No action is requested at the meeting.
A. Student Representative Anna Thompson gave her first report to the Board. Several different activities have occurred or will occur at GPS schools – her report is attached.
B. Superintendent Linda Van Houten presented an update on the Strategic Plan 2.0 – see attached.
C. Assistant Superintendent Michelle Blaszczynski invited GHS Cisco Network Academy Instructor Marc Nelson to present to the Board. AP Language Textbooks were also briefly discussed and are
recommended by the Curriculum Committee. **This will be an action item during the regular February meeting.**

D. Human Resources Director Lisa Steed provided a staffing update, including some recently received letters of resignation/retirement. The first early retirement notification deadline (for GEA) is January 31, so we do anticipate notices of retirement effective for the end of this school year to start coming in soon.

E. Director of Finance Maureen Fleet presented the Quarterly 2019-2020 Budget Review. Brief information about the Building & Site Bonds, Series II and Refunding Bonds was also presented – the district is waiting for interest rates, which will be coming forward next week. **This will be an action item during the regular February meeting.**

F. Board Committee Chair Members provided an update regarding two Finance Committee meetings, a Curriculum Committee meeting and a Policy Committee meeting.

G. Board President Norice Rasmussen reported the next Montcalm County School Boards Association meeting will be held at the end of this month.

H. Board Vice President Kire Wierda reported the Education Foundation of Greenville (EFG) has not met since the last update, but the annual OUR3 concert is coming up on Saturday, January 25. The concert is a fundraiser for EFG’s Performing Arts OUR3 Endowment Fund. New officers will begin in February.

I. Jim Anderson gave a brief legislative update.

**Action Items** - **Generally speaking, these items were discussed at a previous meeting as information items.**

A. The Board approved two early graduation requests as recommended by administration.

B. The Board approved to award contracts for the bid categories in bid package #5 HS Remodel and MS Cafeteria Remodel.

**Upcoming Dates**

A. Special Board of Education Meeting Monday, January 20, CSF, 7:00pm

B. Finance Committee Meeting Wednesday, February 5, CSF, 7:00pm

C. Next Regular Board Meeting Monday, February 10, CSF, 7:00pm

“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

-Maya Angelou