Greenville Public Schools – Board Briefs

A Report of Board Activities – February 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, February 10, 2020.
Members Present: N. Rasmussen, K. Wierda, R. Billmeier, J. Anderson, R. Hansen, C. Mahar, J. Petersen and student representative A. Thompson
Members Absent: None

Financial Report
- Director of Finance Maureen Fleet reported on January 21, GPS completed the sale of two separate bonds.
  - The 2020 School Building and Site and Refunding Bonds (Tax-Exempt Bonds) combine the issuance of debt to finance the second phase of construction at the middle and high schools with the refunding (refinancing) of existing bonds. This refinancing portion results in a savings to GPS taxpayers of approximately $87,000.
  - The 2020 Refunding Bonds (Taxable Bonds) refunds (refinances) the 2011 Building and Site Bonds. The taxpayers will realize an estimated $2,660,000 savings as a result of this refunding.

Citizen Comments
- A member of the audience briefly spoke about the upcoming fundraiser for GMS wrestling to raise money to support the program (purchase uniforms, etc.). He expressed any donation would be greatly appreciated.

Celebrations/Communications
- 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.
- Baldwin Heights and Greenville High School were both nominated as Best School as part of the inaugural Daily News Readers Choice Awards. Voting will begin on February 17 and end on March 13. Winners will be announced on April 18.

Consent Agenda - The following items under the Consent Agenda were approved:
  A. Minutes of February 10, 2020 Special Meeting
  B. Ratification of Bills and Payroll Vouchers – January 2020 $4,124,466.04
Information Items - These items are for discussion only. No action is requested at the meeting.
A. Student Representative Anna Thompson gave her report to the Board regarding several different activities that have occurred or will occur at GPS schools – her report is attached.
B. Board Treasurer Jim Anderson gave a brief legislative update and a few GHS students presented information regarding the current Senate Bill 600 amending the Revised School Code and modifying the Michigan merit standards. Collective voice was expressed through a written letter calling for legislative action to amend Senate Bill 600 for flexibility within perimeters. The letter was signed by stakeholders present and will be shared with legislators. In the near future, the group will look at another legislative piece in the same manner; please let Michelle B. know if you are interested in joining.
C. Superintendent Linda Van Houten presented updates for several District Task Forces and Jen Bowen presented information to the board regarding the benefits of a comfort dog. A draft Comfort Dog Policy was presented and discussed. The Board took action on the proposed policy during the meeting.
D. Assistant Superintendent Michelle Blaszczynski presented the draft 2020-2021 District Calendar. This will be an action item during the regular March meeting. Michelle also presented Mid-Year Student Achievement results.
E. Human Resources Director Lisa Steed provided a staffing update, including some recently received letters of resignation/retirement.
F. Board Committee Chair Members provided a written update regarding a Policy Committee meeting, a Personnel Committee meeting and a Finance Committee meeting that were held since the last Board Committee update.
G. Board President Norice Rasmussen reported minutes from the Executive Committee Meeting would be in next month’s regular board packet. The Montcalm County School Boards Association’s Spring General Membership Meeting will be held Monday, March 23 at Montabella Community Schools. A building tour will begin at 6pm, dinner at 6:30pm and the program will begin at 7pm. Speakers include Ron Koehler from Kent ISD and the Michigan School Finance Research Collaborative.
H. Board Vice President Kire Wierda reported the Education Foundation of Greenville (EFG) is starting the grant and scholarship process. The annual OUR3 concert raised $5,700 for EFG’s Performing Arts OUR3 Endowment Fund, which helps fund grants and scholarships.

Action Items - Generally speaking, these items were discussed at a previous meeting as information items.
A. The Board approved the proposed Comfort Dog Policy.
B. The Board approved the purchase of AP Language Textbooks.
C. The Board approved to adopt the 2020 Refunding Bonds Ratification Resolution.
D. The Board approved to adopt the 2020 School Building and Site and Refunding Bonds Ratification Resolution.
E. The Board entered into closed session for the purpose of negotiations.

Upcoming Dates
A. Finance Committee Meeting       Wednesday, March 4, CSF, 7:00pm
B. Curriculum Committee Meeting    Monday, March 9, CSF, 6:15pm
C. Next Regular Board Meeting      Monday, March 9, 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