

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**

OFFICIAL

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING/WORKSESSION
ROOM 101, REV. LYMAN S. PARKS ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
1331 FRANKLIN, SE**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017

Meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President Falb.

Present: Ross, Schottke, Slade, Flores, Grant, Matias, President Falb – 8.

Absent: Lewis - 1.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Falb asked if there were any corrections/additions to the agenda. There being none, the agenda is approved as written.

Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Legislative Update

The legislative update was moved to the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Helmholdt and Mr. Merchant provided a legislative update to the Board. They shared that it is pretty early in the legislative session so there is not a ton of new education issues that are up. There is one that is getting a lot of attention and that is around the School Reform Office (SRO). There is legislation to eliminate the office. Senator Pavlov has been holding hearings but if they repeal this, then what. What will replace it is the question. Senator Pavlov has spent a great deal of time talking with schools regarding the SRO. However; the clock is ticking as the SRO is talking about closing schools. Dr. Falb wondered to what extent is this connected with the states version of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)? Mr. Merchant shared that they seem to be siloed. Teresa shared that the SRO presented to the Education Commission and it is just one more strand and is not part of the state's 10 by 10. It is being recommended to remove the SRO and then replace with what. SRO is not part of MDE any longer. One of the top three priorities in the house is pension reform. Mr. Merchant also shared that there are bills in the house to repeal the common core and another on calendar prohibition in collective bargaining. He just wanted to make everyone aware. Mr. Helmholdt shared that we have good representation on the house and appropriations side. It was also shared that tomorrow is Capital Day in Lansing and President Falb, Ms. Slade and Ms. Grant will be attending along with Mr. Helmholdt. Mr. Helmholdt stated that we will share our transformation plan and our three priorities will be budget, SRO repeal and pension reform. Mr. Merchant shared that this Boards commitment has made a difference.

Post Governor's Proposed Budget

Mr. Oberst shared highlights of the Governor's budget and the house and senate will weigh in based on this. No final budget will happen prior to the middle of May or beginning of June. Overall it is pretty good. We did not get inflation again. Since 2011 the total state K-12 appropriations have increased \$1.6 billion and total state funding per pupil has increased by over \$1300 since 2012. Mr. Oberst shared a slide regarding the foundation allowance. Our projected foundation allowance per student looks to be \$7611. Inflation has not kept pace. Mr. Oberst shared the following highlights

K – 12 financing:

- Overall increase in State funding of \$279 million, or 2%
- Foundation Allowance increase of \$50 to \$100 per pupil - \$128 million for GRPS
 - \$100 for GRPS to \$7611/pupil
 - \$1.7 million in additional funding based on current enrollment
- \$22 million in additional per pupil funding for high school students – \$50 per pupil
 - Equates to \$175, 000 for GRPS based on the current high school enrollment
- \$7 Million for declining enrollment districts – GRPS no longer qualifies
- \$243.9 million for Great Start Readiness Programs (GSRP). No change from fiscal year (FY) 2017
 - GRPS to receive approximately \$4.3 million in FY 2017 for GSRP
- At risk funding increases by \$150 million to a total of \$529 million, a 40% increase
 - Potentially an additional \$1million to \$2 million to GRPS
 - Previous accountability standards suspended

- Replaced by 3rd grade ELA, 8th grade Math, Attendance, HS College/Career Readiness
- Bottom 30% comparison – 2020 – 2021
- \$9 million for Early/Middle college program – same as FY 2017
- \$20 million for CTE equipment upgrades
- \$2.5 million for First Robotics program – same as FY 2017
- Foundation Allowance reduced by 20% for virtual schools

Michigan Public Schools Employee Retirement System (MPSERS):

- State funding for MPSERS totals \$1.1 billion
 - Increased \$26 million over FY 2017
- Two year phase in to reduce rate of return on investments to 7.5% from 8%
- Retirement rates on MIP/Basic increases 0.62%
 - An additional \$600,000 expense for GRPS

Other:

- \$1.4 billion for Special Education programs
 - Looks to be approximately \$10 million less than FY2017
- No change in membership blend - 90% fall count/10% spring count
- \$2 million for itinerant funding – two counties qualify for this, we are one of the two
- Concurrent/Dual Enrollment maintained
- Shared-Time capped at \$60 million (currently \$115 million)
 - Will be paid from new categorical, not Foundation Allowance
- Aid to Flint totals \$48.8 million for FY 2018

Mr. Oberst summarized the potential new revenue for a total of \$3,425,000:

- Foundation Allowance increase \$1,700,000
- Additional funding for high school students \$175,000
- Additional At-risk funding \$1, 500, 000 (probably more like \$1,000,000)
- Early/Middle college \$50,000

Based on FY 2017 General Fund Revenue budget of \$206,118,000, this would be an approximate 1.7% increase over FY 2017. Inflation rate in 2016 was 2.1%.

Passing of the enhancement millage would help GRPS very much. It would be in the area of \$3 million. (Dr. Baker arrived at 5:15 p.m.)He also shared the executive recommendation, school aid (hard copy was provided). President Falb shared that she felt this was very helpful.

Projection/Enrollment Update

Superintendent Neal wanted to share that we are anticipating a 50 student increase for next year. Ridgemoor Montessori, that is opening for 2017 – 18, is already full. About half of this enrollment is new to GRPS. Remember we do not receive funds for 3 – 4 year old programs. Superintendent Neal shared that we will keep the Board posted with enrollment updates.

NSBA Advocacy Conference – Attendees Report

Board members that attended the NSBA conference shared feedback with the other members. Rev. Matias, President Falb and Ms. Grant shared that they felt the Equity Symposium was very impactful. Dr. Leslie Fenwick from Howard University, the lunch speaker was awesome.

Superintendent Evaluation Tool Review Committee Update

Mr. Ross shared that at the BOE retreat he was advocating for the MASB tool but after further review and conversation feels the Advance Ed tool would be the better choice. Mr. Ross felt that this tool gave greater opportunity to connect the work and gives more flexibility. The training cost for this is roughly \$1200. The initial training would include Superintendent Neal and Mr. Ross and then would be brought to the entire Board. Mr. Ross shared that about 40% of the districts in this state use this tool. MASB tool has predetermined growth numbers and the committee agreed that some are unreasonable. The Advance Ed tool gives more flexibility to identify goals and measures for our work as a district. Ms. Grant shared that in looking at the MASB tool the committee felt that there was not much flexibility, had a broad range of goals, it did not tie into the duties of the superintendent's work and it was weighted too heavily in some areas. Dr. Falb was very pleased with the work on behalf of the committee. The committee will invite Mr. David Stuit to attend a meeting to begin to look at reasonable goals for the evaluation. Mr. Stuit is with Basis Policy Research and assisted with the present teacher evaluation system that is being used in GRPS. Our current tool is not an option as it is not validated. We need to use a validated rubric for the superintendent's evaluation.

ACTION ITEM

Student Reinstatement

Motion by Ms. Slade, supported by Mr. Ross that the Student Reinstatement be accepted.

Carried: Yeas: Ross, Schottke, Slade, Baker, Grant, Matias, President Falb – 7.

Nays: Flores – 1.

President Falb thanked the members who have stepped up to do the reinstatement hearings.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS (CONT.)

2017 – 18 Calendar

Ms. Pitts shared that we have to comply with the ISD common calendar. The legislature states we need to start school after Labor Day. The ISD applied for a waiver to start two weeks earlier than Labor Day. It was granted. However; GRPS is only requesting to start on week prior. We all wanted to get the two weeks back in December for the holiday break. We are trying the early start gradually and then see if we go with two weeks early the following year. Superintendent Neal shared that we need 75% of our students to show in order to get the dollars. She shared that if students come back early the staff comes back even earlier and Superintendent Neal did not want to make that type of shift right away. She shared that GRPS, Wyoming, Lee and Kentwood decided to do the start date together. We know that suspensions jump just before Christmas and we need the break of two weeks. We need to get the information out into the community. We need the start date for negotiations purposes. No one wants to go deep into June. This will move the graduation dates up. GREA is jumping for joy that we have the two weeks back at Christmas time. It was a main driving point for the early start date.

Lay-Off Resolution

Superintendent wanted to share that there are potential lay-offs coming. We do not have a list at this time. She shared that with the State holding back 20 % of funding from Title I and Title II

we may have to lay-off staff. We also have the Governor's 21st Century Commission and the new Secretary of Education, so we do not know what will be forth coming.

Superintendent went right into the Christian/Catholic Schools who may split from us. The Christian Schools are splitting from Title I & II but will keep shared time. The staff funded by these grants would need to be laid off. Some of the people could have a chance to apply for jobs through GRPS. With the Catholic Schools, only the Catholic Schools may go away all together and if they split that would be a loss of 400 FTE and 100's of employees. This has not been decided as of yet. We have talked about messaging regarding all of this. The message for the Catholic Schools is that we do not want them to leave this partnership as we have been together for 140 years. This is exactly what I told the Bishop in our conversations.

Ms. Pitts stated that we will ask the Board for permission to lay-off if needed and we then will bring you names to the Board. We do have two names we will be bringing to the Board. We do have an internal process in place prior to lay-offs. Superintendent stated the resolution will be a bit loose at this time as we need to get through the budget cycle prior to any lay-offs and get the Catholic Schools decision.

Naming Rights/Capital Campaign

Mr. Helmholdt shared that we continue to work on the Capital Campaign and our remaining goal is \$7.7 million. Our consultant has approached us with the thought of naming rights and the idea is not uncommon around town provided that the donation is of a specific amount. Naming rights would be for areas such as the library, halls, rooms and so forth. Major asks are coming fast and quick and would love to bring this to the table. We could set the precedence of how long the name stays and if there is a renewal. We could bring this to the consultant and ask. Dr. Baker feels that this is a tough position for the Board. He shared that it seems like there may be possible political consequences. The question arose regarding if there is anyone controversial at this time. It was shared that anyone could be controversial. It is a slippery slope. Rev. Matias wondered what our policy says. We do not currently have a policy on this. Dr. Falb shared that this is a common practice. Dr. Falb stated that the request has the blessing to move forward with noted concerns.

Dr. Flores shared that we received information regarding schools and PEP make up. He feels there are patterns there and we need to look at what we can do regarding the patterns that are seen in the report around racially divided schools. We need to think proactively and begin to address this as a long term plan around equity.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Secretary

/db