

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

**OFFICIAL**

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

**MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2017**

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

Present: Flores, Grant, Ross, Schottke, Slade, President Falb – 6

Absent: Baker, Lewis, Matias - 3

**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**

Mr. John Helmholdt and Mr. Chris Glass shared legislative updates with the Board. A power point was provided.

There are three big ticket items regarding the budget proposal:

- Foundation Grant - \$128 million
- At-Risk - \$150 million (\$34 million Out of Formula District/OFD)
- MPSERS 147a - \$48.9 million

Ms. Katherine Lewis arrived – 4:34 p.m.

What makes the budget challenging for the legislature and others is that the Governor did put in extra dollars in some areas but took out dollars from other areas. Now the challenge is to find dollars to make up the reductions taken from the other areas. For instance Shared-Time reduction is \$55 million, Cyber Foundation reduction is \$16 million, and program eliminations at \$22 million. There is no new money. In order to cover the reduction in programs, the legislature will have to find \$115 million.

Mr. Glass shared the early legislative differences:

- Some desire to increase the foundation dollars.
- At-Risk increase will likely be less. Out of formula districts will take the biggest hit.
- Likely Shared-Time will be restored.
- High school supplemental is on the chopping block (\$50 for each high school student)
- Cyber school foundation reduction not likely to stay.
- Senate and House proposing smaller budgets. One reason is that revenue estimates were lower in May than in January and the state may be trying to fund an income tax reduction.
- Budget Stabilization Fund Deposit (\$260 million rainy day fund)?
- Legislative budgets likely to be presented at the end of March.
- Budget passage will happen in early June.

Dr. Baker arrived at 4:45 p.m.

One high point is that there may be a \$150 million increase in 31a At-Risk and fully funds the categorical 11.5%. It may also expand eligibility to out-of –formula districts. There is a new At-Risk definition: At-risk students are those who are identified as economically disadvantaged as reported to CEPI. At-risk relies on prior year counts. There are also new At-Risk goals:

- Pupils are proficient in third grade ELA, eighth grade math, and college and career readiness. In addition students attend school regularly.
- Up to 5% of funds can be used for professional development.

Mr. Glass shared the top 30/bottom 30 analysis:

- Proportion of ED and ELL in the bottom 30% does not exceed proportion of non-ED in the bottom 30% in grade 3 ELA, grade 8 math.
- Also requires 65% of pupils in grades 9 – 12 have enrolled in CTE, AP IB or Dual Enrollment and 80% have completed the course – some concern here.
- Department will report annually.

Reporting expenditures:

- Each district using funds shall report to MDE by July 15 what the funds were used for.
- From the report MDE shall publish a summary of programs that demonstrate significant improvement.

Right now there is a lot of talk going on regarding potential school closures. Schools must come up with 3 – 5 goals to meet in order to stay in operation. Mr. Glass wanted to give kudos to Senator Pavlov for taking a look at the top to bottom list and how we should be rating schools.

Mr. Helmholdt talked about the accountability system and wants the Board to consider taking a position against the A-F report card and to support the dash board. There are things that we believe are stacked against high poverty schools with the report card. Mr. Helmholdt will draft a communication regarding the support of the dash board as opposed to the report card to the Board for approval at the next meeting.

### **Draft Calendar**

President Falb shared a draft calendar for the full Board regarding agenda items by the month. This draft came out of the AdHoc Calendar committee. President Falb asked if there were any concerns or contributions to the calendar. The question was raised if we would insert this in policy. Ms. Pitts shared that we could bring this to the AdHoc Policy committee and create a policy regarding the calendar for Board purposes. The other items that need to be determined are the updated State Priority School list and process deadlines for the superintendent evaluation. Mr. Ross shared that the Board spoke to the timing of changing the evaluation to spring instead of January. President Falb requested that Mr. Ross work on the evaluation deadlines and present to the Board at a future meeting. President Falb shared that the draft calendar represents high level items, by the month, for the Board's information. Ms. Grant raised a concern regarding the timing of the priority list and how it would be worded in policy and thought it would have to be very broad. Ms. Pitts stated that the Board should put the subject into policy without the month listed and keep the calendar as an internal document and that way whoever represents the Board can decide what month the information will be reviewed. You then would not have to change policy each year because you would not be tied to a specific month to review the information as we know the state can change dates/timing of information whenever they choose. Dr. Baker wanted to have in the policy that the Board would review state measures and budgets twice a year. The Policy committee will submit a draft policy to the full board for review.

### **Academic Report**

Dr. Ron Gorman shared an Academic Report with the Board. The following items were reviewed with the Board:

- Academic achievement data
- Graduation Rates
- Graduation rate trends
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade reading – M-Step data
- Theory of action (The Big 3)
- Monitoring and support plan for schools
- Looking into the future
- Historic count day

Dr. Gorman shared this information via a power point and a hard copy was also shared with the Board.

### **Special Education Report**

Mr. Jeff Butler, LaPointe & Butler, P.C., shared his findings regarding the comprehensive Program Review of the Grand Rapids Public Schools (GRPS) Special Education system. This review was initiated by GRPS in response to issues and concerns that had been raised by parents, school staff and members of the Grand Rapids Public Schools community to the Superintendent and/or the Board. The Executive Summary highlights the key elements of the Special Education Program Review, the key findings of the special Education Program Review Team and included a complete set of the recommendations made by the Program Review Team, as prepared and presented by the Special Education Program Review Consultant. A Special Education review Team was developed as a “steering committee” to provide focus areas. The process was designed in a manner that would ensure that the findings and recommendations were data-based and properly reflected broad and genuine stakeholder input and collaboration through a variety of input methods. The Program Review Report was offered and the recommendations at the conclusion of the Report were made with the knowledge and understanding that GRPS is in the midst of implementing several multi-year district-wide initiatives, plans and reforms. The review was conducted over a period of one-year. The Review Team consisted of 28 members of stakeholders from GRPS Administration, staff and parents who were selected on a volunteer basis through an open invitation. Two separate surveys were developed by the team and implemented with the assistance of the Grand Valley State University Statistical Consulting Center. Mr. Butler shared the recommendations with the Board. The Board received a hard copy of the report in its entirety to review at their leisure.

Dr. Baker asked how this report would be communicated to staff. Superintendent Neal shared that she will create a strategic communication plan. Superintendent Neal also let the Board know that this report would be shared with the other superintendents at the KISA retreat. Mr. Butler will present the findings at the retreat. Ms. LaMore shared that Mr. Butler will help with the implementation/rollout of the report.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

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Secretary

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