

**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, JUNE 12, 2017

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

Present: Baker, Grant, Lewis, Matias, Ross, Schottke, Slade, President Falb – 8

Absent: Flores - 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

Mr. John Helmholdt and Mr. Rusty Merchant presented a legislative update to the Board. The main focus has been on budget and the Michigan Public Schools Employees Retirement System (MPERS). Mr. Merchant stated that the House and the Senate agreed that MPERS was the big issue they wanted done prior to leaving for their summer break. The Governor did not find this as urgent. There was a situation where the legislature began to have budget meetings without the Governor. Essentially they will do the budget and send it to the Governor. Ultimately, the House and the Senate set targets without the Governor and have proceeded to pass conference reports on a number of budgets, including budgets on K – 12. Based on the numbers we are seeing it is an increase of \$3.7 million. As of last Wednesday, the House, Senate and the Governor have agreed on a framework for MPERS. Dr. Baker arrived at 4:40 p.m. Nothing is in bill form yet. With MPERS there will be no changes for current employees but new employees would be under a 401K system or may opt out for hybrid system which is less generous. Details are still being flushed out. This is so far a very positive budget. The bills that passed out of the House is the substitute teachers changing from 90 to 60 hours to sub and retired teachers coming back to sub. The tourist industry is against the pre-Labor Day start. This is dead right now and not going anywhere right now. The prohibited subject is sitting on the House floor along with a few other bills.

Ottawa Hills, Roosevelt Project, and Teacher Academy – Innovation Central Updates

Superintendent Neal shared that through the Transformation Plan we talked about redoing all schools. She shared that she is totally committed to Ottawa Hills and has no thought of closing it or just letting it go. We are well on our way to working with Historically Black Colleges and increasing these scholarships for students. We are creating middle college at Ottawa and currently have 37 students enrolled. This initiative is being led by Jane DeGroot. Half of Ottawa will remain a comprehensive high school and half will be centered on career and apprenticeships type of school. We will have about five or six small schools, such as:

- Homeland Security
- Advance Manufacturing
- Design/Arts using Technology
- Cosmetology
- All Things Sports

We are working on selecting a team for Ottawa Hills and being very intentional. We will be working to make this a reality for Ottawa over the next couple years. Bond dollars have been set aside for this project. A question was raised regarding what were the struggles at Ottawa. Superintendent Neal stated that the achievement is no better/worse than other schools, perceptions is a problem, believe race is a factor, communities interest to help is not as great as at other schools, there are several things that are involved. Superintendent Neal shared with the Board that she is completely committed to Ottawa Hills. We have thought of who we will target for the program and we will do a full out press just as we have done for other schools. We will focus on being successful, which we have done across the district. We are doing two things at Ottawa Hills. We have been very intentional with the feeder pattern and the second is having the principal of the high school work closely with the feeder pattern. We need to build the muscle to help our students succeed.

We have been working for about a year now on Project Roosevelt. This is a first for us where we are partnering with Housing, Mercy Health, Habitat for Humanity and others. It is very exciting and we are working to have a Southwest Community Campus High School in this project so the students will not have to go to Union, but students will still have an option. Mr. Helmholdt shared that the high school expansion was new to the project. Met with neighborhood/residents and they have had a voice in the project. Five versions of the concept were shared in order to arrive at a final site plan. Now we are getting into the fine details and need to put together the MOU's and bring to the City Commission. We hope the site plan would be approved this fall. There are a lot of moving parts. As far as a timeline, fall of 2019 is ambitious, fall of 2020 is more realistic. This high school will fit into the description of a small school. Enrollment would happen through application along with neighborhood attendance area. The high school should help retain students and may have the opportunity to draw others as well.

Superintendent Neal shared that we have a teacher shortage and it is not just Grand Rapids Public Schools (GRPS). GRPS continues to work on this problem and have interest from universities to help us grow our own. Ferris State has agreed to help us with the program. We have had several meetings and visited another program to look at how it works. Dr. Baker was able to get Ferris to work with us. Dr. Gorman shared that there have been a couple trips to visit other schools that are doing the same type of program. He shared how the programs are laid out for students. We are looking at a four year process for the program and by year four the student would actually do some teaching under the supervision of a master teacher. After high school the students would attend Ferris and then come back to GRPS to begin teaching. Dr. Baker shared that it would start in the fall of 2018 at Innovation Central. It is designed understanding the barriers why students do not go into teaching. The student could get seven hours of education credits through the program. They would get three more hours through Ferris, so now they are at ten education credits. This is huge.

MAP Assessment Review

Dr. Gorman provided data on our NWEA/MAP assessments (hard copies of the information were provided to the Board). MAP is administered three times a year at the elementary level to show where our students are and twice at the secondary level. He shared charts that compared student growth percentile beginning in 2013 – 2014 through 2016 – 2017, in reading and math and the percent of students at or above the 50th national percentile.

2017 – 18 Budget / Q & A

Superintendent Neal addressed concerns she was hearing regarding the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program. The Board was provided with a hard copy of information which included the budget for many years of RIF and the job description. This program started many years ago. Ms. Kribs provided budget data going back to 2008. This shows we were very good at managing this budget. We will continue to support reading materials through many avenues such as libraries, Overdrive Resources, Parent Portal and many others. Anyone who had a position under RIF will have an opportunity to apply for other positions that are open. Superintendent Neal again shared that we do not have any more RIF dollars and would love if we could partner with someone to keep it going. We are partnering with Kalamazoo Public regarding culturally sound reading materials for our students. Ms. Pitts shared that we have really enhanced our digital library. We have culturally relatable materials for our students. What we will continue to do is work with

SAF and other businesses to get physical books into the hands/homes of our students. They also get books through their schools as well.

No other questions arose regarding the budget.

Dr. Falb asked about our lay off situation and Superintendent Neal shared that she does not have an answer at this time regarding the best/worst case scenario. This also depends on enrollment. Ms. Pitts shared that we do not anticipate laying off any teachers this year. We have had some administrators resign and need to fill a couple positions. Since the Board agreed to pay insurance through the summer for those who resign/retire ahead of time we do not have a flood last minute resignations. This is a big help for the start of schools. We did have the principals from Shawmut and City resign.

Board Calendar

The board calendar is in draft form so there is a need to review and confirm. We know that we need to have the MSTEP assessment review moved to the month of September. A high level review of MAP assessments can remain in June. The question was raised whether it should be a working document or put in policy. Dr. Falb would like it to be worked on through the policy committee and then brought back to the Board for final approval.

Superintendent Evaluation Update

Mr. Ross shared a summary of the activity taken so far around the superintendent's evaluation (hard copy was shared). It was decided that the School Advance tool would be used for the evaluation. Many districts use this tool. Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA) will train the board on the use of the evaluation and will stand by the board if any legal ramifications should arise. He shared that we need to talk about the evaluation period due to board elections. We will have a work session in August to set the goals. Mr. Ross and Superintendent Neal met with Ms. Tina Kerr, Deputy Executive Director of MASA. Ms. Kerr has agreed to facilitate the goal discussion. Ms. Kerr shared that the evaluation has 30 plus characteristics of the rubric but the intention is to cover these over the course of three years. Next steps were shared and we will see if she is available to attend the retreat for goal setting on August 3. Mr. Ross shared that he will have training on STAGES which is used to manage components of the evaluation. Student growth data will include 2016 – 17 SAT, 2016 – 17 MSTEP and 2017 – 18 NWEA, is there any other data/elements needed in other areas? There will be a superintendent report out prior the Board voting. It is important to have full Board participation for the superintendent's evaluation. Superintendent Neal shared that she is very pleased with this evaluation process and what it does do is that it makes every Board member accountable.

Dr. Baker brought up Board Docs and where we are with this. President Falb shared that we will look at this at the retreat. She has requested for budget details of the Board's finances. We have discussed Board Docs but not a consensus or true vote. Superintendent shared that we have looked at it in its entirety and Julie has been gathering all the information. Ms. Pitts has used this system when she was in Atlanta. Dr. Baker would like the version to be useful to the public as well as the Board. Superintendent Neal, Dr. Baker and Julie will get together to review the options and make a decision.

ACTION ITEMS

Policy Review, First Reading

Bylaw # 1150 Board Officers

Motion by Mr. Ross, supported by Ms. Slade, that Bylaw #1150 Board Officers first reading be approved.

Carried. Yeas: Baker, Flores, Grant. Lewis, Matias, Ross, Schottke, Slade, President Falb – 9.

Nays: - 0.

Blanket Order Approval

Motion by Ms. Slade, supported by Rev. Matias, that the Blanket Orders be approved.

Carried. Yeas: Baker, Flores, Grant. Lewis, Matias, Ross, Schottke, Slade, President Falb – 9.

Nays: - 0.

Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center Resolution – Board of Directors

Resolution of the Board of Education of the Grand Rapids Public Schools Establishing Method of Selection, Length of Term, and Number of Members of Board of Directors of the Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center (Public School Academy)

WHEREAS, the Grand Rapids Public Schools, pursuant to the Michigan Revised School Code, as an authorizing body, has entered into a contract on June 5, 2017, reauthorizing and conferring the status of a public school academy on the Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center (GRCDC); and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Revised School Code requires an authorizing body to adopt a resolution establishing the method of selection, length of term, number of members, a qualification of members, the procedure for removal of members, the names of the Academy Board, and a requirement that each member of the Academy Board must be a citizen of the United States subject to its jurisdiction;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Grand Rapids Public Schools establishes the following requirements for appointment as a member of the Board of Directors of the GRCDC:

1. Method of Selection: The Board of Directors of the corporation shall nominate a list of potential members for filling any of the vacancies on the Board. Provided the Board of Directors submits a list of nominees at least twenty days before the Board of Education regular meeting, the Board of Educations shall select members from the list of nominees at its next regular meeting. When the nominations are forwarded to the Board of Education, they shall be accompanied by the nominee's resume and each nominee shall be available for interview by the Board of Education or its designee.
2. Length of Term: The term of each member of the Board of Directors shall be for three years.
3. Number of Directors: The number of Board of Directors of the corporation shall be not fewer than three and not more than nine.
4. Procedure for Removal of Members: Any Director may be removed with cause by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors of the corporation.
5. United States Citizen: Academy Board of Directors must be United States citizens.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following six candidates for Board of Directors of the GRCDC and the expiration of their terms of office meet the above requirements and have been approved:

- a. Jon Beer – Term expires June 30, 2018
- b. Andrew Brower – Term expires June 30, 2018
- c. Lisa Heyne – Term expires June 30, 2018
- d. Jason Ferenczi – Term expires June 30, 2019
- e. Theodore Jauw – Term expires June 30, 2019
- f. Abby Sutter – Term expires June 30, 2019

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I, the undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of the Grand Rapids Public Schools, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the Grand Rapids Public Schools, of Kent

County, Michigan at a regular meeting held on the 19th day of June 2017, the original of which is on file in my office, and that public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976.

Dated this the ___th day of _____, 2017.

Jen Schottke, Secretary
Board of Education
Grand Rapids Public Schools

Motion by Mr. Ross, supported by Dr. Baker, that the Grand Rapids Child Discovery Resolution – Board of Directors be approved.

Carried. Yeas: Baker, Flores, Grant. Lewis, Matias, Ross, Schottke, Slade, President Falb – 9.

Nays: - 0.

Consent Agenda

Policies for Second Reading, Final Adoption

The following Board Bylaws were presented for second reading, final adoption:

- a. Bylaw # 1030 Elections and Membership
- b. Bylaw #1160 new Member Orientation
- c. Bylaw # 1162 Board member Development Opportunities
- d. Bylaw # 1168 Reimbursement of Expenses
- e. Bylaw # 1300 Meetings
- f. Bylaw # 1310 Closed Sessions
- g. Bylaw # 1370 Public Participation

Motion by Mr. Ross, supported by Dr. Baker, that Policies for Second Reading, Final Adoption be approved.

Carried. Yeas: Baker, Flores, Grant. Lewis, Matias, Ross, Schottke, Slade, President Falb – 9.

Nays: - 0.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

db

Secretary