

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

OFFICIAL

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING/WORK SESSION/RETREAT
ROOM 143, GRPS UNIVERSITY
1400 FULLER AVENUE, NE**

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2017

Meeting called to order at 8:15 a.m. by President Falb.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Falb asked for a motion to approve the agenda as written. There being none, the agenda is approved as written.

Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Board 101

Dr. Rodney Green from Michigan Association of School Boards presented on Board and Superintendent Roles and Relationships – Board Governance. Dr. Green provided a PowerPoint with all the information (hard copy to the board members). This served as a refresher for our standing members and an orientation for our new board members.

Mr. Green shared what the roles of the Board and Superintendent should be. He shared that the Board decides the “what” and the Superintendent decides the “how”. The Board and Superintendent must have a trusting relationship. The Board needs to trust the system.

The Board, by law, generally is responsible for all school programs and operations. The Board delegates authority to the Superintendent. The Superintendent provides assurances back to the Board and keeps the Board informed.

The reinstatement process was brought forth and President Falb stated that we will put this as an agenda item at one of our work sessions. She shared that we did have an extensive discussion a few years ago and the superintendent had suspension/expulsions on her evaluation.

Dr. Green shared information on communication between the Board and the Superintendent. After reviewing the structure of good communication he presented, it was noted that this is what we are doing. He shared with the Board how to handle complaints. The Board should listen but not give advice. The Board should realize that there is always another side to the story, so don't get caught up in believing the only side you have heard. The complaint/issues should be brought to the Superintendent, who will then bring it to the appropriate level and report back on the findings.

Dr. Green shared the role of the Board President, the development of the board agendas, board meeting norms, and meeting protocols. He spoke to building capacity, standards of practice and board self-evaluation.

Ms. Lewis asked how appropriate it is for a board member to visit schools. It was shared that the visit should be scheduled and that you not just show up.

Board Docs Presentation

The Board had a representative from Board Docs, Ms. Michelle Cooper; join them in conference call/demo on LT Plus Board Docs product.

Finance

Mr. Larry Oberst, Chief Financial Officer, shared a report on school finance. He shared some terminology and its meaning for better understanding of the types of funds the district uses. He shared how our foundation revenue is calculated. There are two components with are local property tax collections and state aid. The State uses property taxable value information submitted by Kent County to calculate the portion of our foundation allowance that will be received through local property tax collections. The State then subtracts this calculated property tax collection amount from the total foundation revenue to determine the amount that will be

paid as state aid. Graphs were shared regarding the foundation allowance and revenue trends (per student). Enrollment is the key factor in foundation allowance. A question was raised regarding if we have a survey to see why students leave or do not attend GRPS. Mr. Helmholdt did state that we do have a process in place to try to collect such data. He shared student count trends for in and out of district students. A comparison of revenue trends, foundation allowances and general fund expenditures of peers was shared along with retirement rate history. Mr. Oberst also provided information on staffing in the district. He gave a grant overview and the allowable use of such dollars and bond fund uses. Mr. Oberst also provided a 2017 – 18 budget timeline for the district. Hard copy of his Mr. Oberst presentation was given to the Board. President Falb stated that she felt Mr. Oberst did a great job in providing the budget overview.

Negotiations

Ms. Sharron Pitts, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and General Counsel, shared information on the negotiations process.

Superintendent Evaluation

Mr. Raynard Ross shared information regarding the choices the Board has in choosing an evaluation tool. There is a tool from Michigan Association of School Boards and one from Michigan Association of School Administrators. The Board will have to identify which tool and work in collaboration with the Superintendent to set the goals. Ms. Pitts shared that the Education Commission recommends the Advance Ed tool. It was decided to form an Ad Hoc Superintendent Evaluation Tool Review committee. The first meeting will be held on February 2 at 10:00 a.m. The committee will consist of the following members: Mr. Raynard Ross, Dr. Tony Baker, Ms. Kristian Grant and Ms. Sharron Pitts. If the Board has any suggestions/thoughts regarding the tool they should e-mail them to Mr. Ross's attention to bring to the committee.

Special Education Cross Indicator Analysis

Superintendent Neal shared that there was an audit around special education and it was noted that all of our IEPs were not submitted. She wanted the Board to be aware of the issues and stated that we are in the process of correcting this. We have developed a process so this will not happen in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Secretary

/db