

GREAT MEADOWS REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF Tuesday, December 19, 2017

The regular meeting of the Great Meadows Regional Board of Education was held on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at the Great Meadows Middle School Media Center, Independence Township. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Joe Mailloux, Vice-President. A statement was read that adequate notice of the meeting had been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Jamie Cicerelle, Susan Cullen, Dawn Frost, Joe Mailloux, Lori Prymak, Dave Schmitz, William Vonder Haar and Agatha Wilke.

Absent: Ed O'Melia.

David C. Mango, Superintendent, Timothy Havlusch School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Debbi Grigoletti Director of Curriculum, and Kathy Gesurmaria Shared Director of Special Services were also present.

There was also approximately 40 member of the public in attendance.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence reported.

Minutes

Motion by Joe Mailloux seconded by Dawn Frost to approve the minutes from November 28th, 2017, as amended. (Regular & Executive Session)

Motion carried in a voice vote with Lori Prymak abstaining.

Committee Reports

The Education Committee reported that it did not meet.

The HR Committee reported that it did not meet.

The Operations Committee reported meeting and was questioned as to specific topics of discussion during their meeting.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent provided the Board and public with an update on various topics:

- ✓ The Board was provided an update by the Superintendent on the status of the QSAC waiver due to exemplary compliance with established benchmarks.
- ✓ Presentations were made for the Student of the Month for Central, Liberty and Middle School for the month of December 2017.
- ✓ A presentation was given on the current status of the Strategic Plan for Great Meadows Regional.
- ✓ The public was given an update on the designation of School Safety Specialist, as required by the Department of Education as it relates to current staff within Great Meadows and Hackettstown. Specific topics covered included the cost of the position as it relates to the current budget.

This concluded the Superintendent's report.

Public Comment – Agenda Items Only

There were questions from the public as to who Mr. Michael Mai is and his current position within the district as well as other questions and comments regarding the need for the School Safety Specialist. A presentation was made by Mr. Steve Spiers outlining his observations within the district as well as an outline of 30 and 60 day goals to improve the overall approach and awareness to security within Great Meadows Regional. At the conclusion of his presentation Mr. Spiers fielded direct questions as to specific training methods and the integration of proposed implementation strategies in light of the current benefits provided from the local police department. There were additional questions from the public as to specific points that were beyond the scope of current NJ DOE Regulations regarding school security.

Close of Public Comment

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SECTION(s) A, B & C

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, a block motion by Joe Mailloux second by Dawn Frost, to approve the following **OPERATIONS** items A-1 through A-10 as amended, to approve the following **HUMAN RESOURCES** items B-1 through B-3 as amended and to approve the following **EDUCATIONAL/GOVERNANCE** items C-1 through C-4.

Section A

There was an explanation provided on item A-5 as it relates to district's need to transfer funds from specific salary accounts to the line for the professional services for substitute services. Clarification was also provided on the dissolution of the Skylands Education Foundation and how Great Meadows would be receiving back a portion of the funds due to the inactivity of the fund over the last 10 years. Additional information was provided as to the benefits for Great Meadows in participating with NJSIG for certain insurance needs.

Motion carried in a roll call vote with Susan Cullen abstaining from Check #51982 on item A-1 and William Vonder Haar abstaining from Check(s) #51916, #51937 and #51990 on item(s) A-1 & A-9 and voting nay to item A-5.

A-1 Approval of Check Register(s) – BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approve the bill list from November 29, 2017 through December 14, 2017 in the amount of \$1,164,911.78 (Check #'s 51886-51981) **ATTACHMENTS A-1**

A-2 Approval of Check Register (Cafeteria Account) – BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approve the bill list from November 1, 2017 through November 30, 2017 in the amount of \$13,122.28 (Check # 22523) **ATTACHMENT A-2.**

A-3 Approval of Financial Reports – BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator approve the Secretary and Treasurer Reports (**BSR & TSM**) for the month October 2017. **ATTACHMENT(s) A-3**

A-4 Acceptance of Financial Reports Certification – BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, accept the certification of the Board Secretary, and certify: in compliance with NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c), that to the best of our knowledge as of October 31, 2017 no major account or fund has been over-expended and that sufficient funds exist to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school years. **ATTACHMENT(s) A-3**

A-5 Approval of Transfers -- BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator approve the transfers as of September 30, 2017 in the amount of \$59,925. **ATTACHMENT A-5**

A-6 Approval of Fundraiser – BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approve in accordance with Policy #5830 the following fundraising events at GMMS as attached: **ATTACHMENT A-6**

A-7 Approval of Dissolution of Skyland Educational Foundation– BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Public Schools of Warren County, their administration, and Boards of Education recognized that support for the public schools, both financial and philosophical, was necessary to the maintenance of educational programs and,

WHEREAS, The Public Schools of Warren County, their administration, and Boards of Education recognized a need to improve cooperative efforts with business industry and municipal government and,
WHEREAS, The Skyland Education Foundation, Inc. was formed in January 1992 to meet these needs of member school districts and,

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Great Meadows Regional agreed to support the Skyland Education Foundation by adopting the constitution by-laws of the organization and committed a sum of \$3.00 per resident student for organizational costs and,

WHEREAS, It is now necessary to dissolve the Skyland Education Foundation in accordance with the provisions of Article VI of the Certificate of Incorporation and,

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WHEREAS, The assets of the Corporation shall be distributed to the member school districts in proportion to the resident enrollment at the time the Corporation was formed and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of Great Meadows Regional supports the dissolution of the Skyland Education Foundation and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of Great Meadows Regional requests that their proportionate share of the assets of the Skyland Education Foundation be returned to the Board of Education.

A-8 Approval of Join/Renew Membership – BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approve the attached resolution to renew membership with New Jersey School Insurance Group (NJSIG) as attached: **ATTACHMENT A-8**

Section B

There was clarification provided as to the lack of impact of Item B-1 on the Administrative Per Pupil costs since the position being filled is such that it falls outside of the Administrative Per Pupil Cost Calculation.

Motion carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

B-1 Approval of New Staff – BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, appoint new staff, for the 2017-2018 school year attached by reference.

B-2 Approval of Co-Curricular Appointments - BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve co-curricular appointments for the 2017-2018 school year, attached by reference.

B-3 Approval to Write Curriculum - BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve to write curriculum for the 2017-2018 school year, attached by reference.

Section C

There was clarification provided as the policies listed for first reading and missing information.

Motion carried in a roll call vote with William Vonder Haar voting nay to item C-3.

C-1 Approval of 2017-2018 Field Trips - BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve field trips for the 2017-2018 school year, attached by reference.

C-2 Approval of 2017-2018 Workshop Attendance - BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve workshop attendance for the 2017-2018 school year, attached by reference.

C-3 Approval of Equivalency Waiver for QSAC - BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the equivalency waiver for QSAC.

C-4 Approval of 1st Reading of District Policies and Regulations - BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following District Policies and Regulations in a 1st reading:

Video & Surveillance Policy

Other Business

At this time the Board engaged in a continued discussion of the feasibility study presented by former Commissioner of Education David Hespe. The matter of process for continued study and discussion of follow up questions to be put before Mr. Hespe were examined.

At this time a motion was made by Joe Mailloux and second by Dave Schmitz for the creation of a Negotiations Committee made up of members Dawn Frost (Chair), Jamie Cicerelle and Dave Schmitz for the purposes of negotiating a new Collective Bargaining Agreement with the GMREA and furthermore this committee is to be dissolved upon approval of the new Collective Bargain Agreement by the GMRBOE.

Motion carried in a voice vote with William Vonder Haar opposed.

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Hackettstown Report

A comment was made that during the most recent Hackettstown BOE meeting as part of a straw poll only one member of the BOE voted to take the continued exploration of the feasibility study "off the table".

Independence Township Report

A report was given on the hiring of three new police offices as well as the farewell meeting for Councilmen Feula.

Liberty Township Report

Nothing to report at this time.

Public Comment/New Business

There was a question from the public and an update provided on the current status of the tuition imbalance between Hackettstown and Great Meadows as it relates to the send/receive relationship.

There were additional and various comments and questions from the public relating to the feasibility study and its potential impact as well as other potential issues and outcomes raised as a result of the study which has been made available to the public since November 22nd, 2018. This was a lengthy and in depth period of questions and comments relating to matters before the Board of Education and that of a subcommittee that may need to be created to compile specific questions for Mr. Hespe.

At this time a motion was made by Susan Cullen and second by Joe Mailloux to allow Agatha Wilke to keep her BOE nameplate as this would be her farewell meeting on the BOE.

Motion carried in a unanimous voice vote.

At this point and as a continued part of new business for the BOE, there was a lengthy discussion amongst the Board in public as it relates focus, personal attacks and other matters that may cause a reduction in the overall operation of Board.

Close of Public Comment

Motion for Executive Session

Motion was made by Joe Mailloux, seconded by Dawn Frost to enter Executive Session for the purposes of HIB.

Motion carried in a unanimous voice vote.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:40 PM.

Motion Re-Open Public Session

Motion was made by Joe Mailloux, seconded by Susan Cullen to re-open the Public Session at 9:45 PM.

Motion carried in a unanimous voice vote.

Motion was made by Joe Mailloux, seconded by Susan Cullen to approve the following.

MOTION to acknowledge receipt of Superintendent's H.I.B. Report: Acknowledge receipt of the Superintendent's H.I.B. Report as presented.

Motion carried in a unanimous voice vote.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion by Joe Mailloux, seconded by Dawn Frost, to adjourn at 9:46PM.

Motion carried in a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Havlusch