

**GREAT MEADOWS REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Great Meadows Regional Board of Education was held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at the Great Meadows Middle School Media Center, Independence Township. The meeting was call to order at 7:00 PM by Douglas Smith-President. A statement was read that adequate notice of the meeting had been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Flag Salute was led by President Smith.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:**

Susan Cullen, Alison DeMarco, Daria Hill, Giles Stuber, Courtney Wenthen, William VonderHaar, Heather Wulf, Douglas Smith

**Absent:** Mr. Koeller.

**Administration / Other:**

David C. Mango-Superintendent; Mr. Taylor Ruilova, Esq.-Comegno Law Group as Board Attorney, Debra Grigoletti-Director of Curriculum, Kevin O’Leary-Director of Special Services, Israel Mamolejos-Principal of GMMS and Michael Mai-Principal of GM Central School. Approximately 15 members of the public.

**Correspondence** Dr. Lamonte, Interim Executive Superintendent of School – Notification of approval of the District waiver for SEMI program during 2020-2021 fiscal year.

**Minutes**

Motion moved by Courtney Wenthen, seconded by Daria Hill

To approve the minutes as presented for the meeting of January 28, 2020 including executive session.

Discussion :

Vote: Ayes-7; Nays-0. Abstention-1 (W. VonderHaar) Motion Carried.

**Committee Reports:** The following members summarized their committee reports:

Governance - Susan Cullen indicated the committee reviewed the possibility/recommendation to suspend the policy on class size effective 7/1; the committee continues to review various policies for needed revisions. Next meeting is scheduled for March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Education – Alison DeMarco indicated the committee is reviewing available data and the utilization of that data by the administration and staff. Use of technology across the curriculum. Principals will be at the next meeting of the committee to speak on these topics. The committee is also awaiting state guidance to address LBGTQ curriculum and will be reviewing PE requirements.

Human Resources -Courtney Wenthen indicated the Interim BA is available to work with the district through August 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Speirs will be working to ensure the district meets the Alyssa’s Law requirements by April and recommend additional security needs that may be addressed by a grant in the amount of \$34,000. HR committee attended joint committee meeting with Hackettstown on shared services on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Next HR committee meeting is scheduled for March 11<sup>th</sup>.

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Operations Committee – Giles Stuber indicated the committee reviewed the needs of 1968 roof repairs, expect final transportation optimization study report for budget development, reviewed the bills and transfers recommended for action this evening. Additionally due to the budget submission timeline, the committee recommends the March meeting be re scheduled for the 17<sup>th</sup>. William VonderHaar indicated the summary of budget data available in the evening's folders containing information on tax levy cap; banked cap, status based on flat funding. The committee also reviewed the boiler at central and the administration is looking into the possibility of staging the project with the asbestos removal being the first stage.

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Mango presented the students of the month:

- ✓ Bri Buchana – Central School
- ✓ Jason Sarnoski – GM Middle School

Short video was presented and the Principal's Mai and Marmolejos presented certificates to students.

**Public Comment (Agenda Items)**

- Steve Wiseman made inquiries on agenda items A-7 and B-2
- Bob Pace made inquires on Shared Services and Tuition Students

**Close of Public Comment**

**Action Items**

Motion moved by Daria Hill, seconded by Courtney Wenthen

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve

Section A-Operations items A-1 through A-11;

Section B- Human Resources items B-1 through B-4

Section C –Education/Governance items C-1 through C-5

C-4 as revised

Discussion:

- Courtney Wenthen inquired on the timeliness of A-7. Timeliness of board approval as the fundraiser has been completed and concern for possible liability. Also inquiry was made on bills list–final pump out of Liberty Sewage Plant and the roof repairs at central.
- A brief board discussion was held concerning board approval of future fundraisers.

**Roll Call Vote Summary**

Susan Cullen-aye (except abstain B-3); Alison DeMarco-aye; Daria Hill-aye (except abstain B-1); Giles Stuber-aye, William VonderHaar-aye; Courtney Wenthen-aye (except abstain A-6); Heather Wulf and Douglas Smith- aye (except abstain C-2)

Motions carried by following vote: Ayes – 8; Noes -0; Abstentions-0 except:

A-6 : Ayes-7; Noes -0; Abstention-1 (C. Wenthen)

B-1 : Ayes-7; Noes -0; Abstention-1 (D. Hill)

B-3 : Ayes-7; Noes -0; Abstention-1 (S. Cullen)

C-2 : Ayes-7; Noes -0; Abstention-1 (D. Smith)

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**SECTION A**

**A-1 Approval of Check Register – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approves the bill lists:

Feb Payroll & Benefits (Electronic)		\$ 904,248.49
Interim Bills (Feb 1-21)	Checks #54791-54801	\$ 25,112.20
February Bill List	Checks #54802-54868	\$ 836,534.77

***ATTACHMENT A-1(a-b-c)***

**A-2 Approval of Check Register (Cafeteria Account) – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approves the bills as listed:

Check # 2554	Maschio’s Food Serv	December Inv#73569	\$11,419.84
Check # 2555	Maschio’s Food Serv	January Inv# 74089	\$18,092.20

**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 of January 2020.

***ATTACHMENT A-3(a-b)***

**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 January, 2020, 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 2019-2020 fiscal year.

**A-5 Approval of Transfers –BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, to approve the transfers as of January 31st in the amount of \$124,000

***ATTACHMENT A-5***

**A-6 Approval of Facility Use Report – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approve the attached anticipated facility use report for the period 3/1/2020 through 6/30/2020 subsequent to appropriate building level approval as needed. (*Please note that in some instances requests have been submitted and the space has been “reserved” however the formal application cannot be approved until a current COI has been received.*)

***ATTACHMENT A-6***

**A-7 Approval of Fundraisers – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approves in accordance with Policy #5830 the following district wide fundraising events at GMRSD as attached:

***ATTACHMENT A-7a-c***

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**A-8 Approval of Coordinated Transportation Agreement with WCSSSD – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approve the Resolution for Participation in Coordinated Transportation reflecting a 4% administration fee with the Warren County Special Services School District (WCSSSD) for Transportation Services for the 2020-2021 operating year.

**A-9 Approval of Professional Support Services Agreement with ESC of Morris - BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approves the agreement for professional evaluation services at membership rates for the 2019/2020 fiscal year.

**A-10 Approval of IDEA Preschool Grant Amendment – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approves the amendment of the FY20 IDEA Preschool grant and accepts total funding in the amount of \$10,317 for preschool instructional supplies. *ATTACHMENT A-10*

**A-11 Approval of Home Instruction – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education approved tuition agreement for home instruction with the following provider for students placed in temporary situations:

Learn Well/Hoboken University Medical Center \$49/hr

**SECTION B**

**B-1 Approval of New Staff – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the new staff for the 2019-2020 school year, attached by reference. (ATTACHMENT)

**B-2 Approval of Substitute Bus Aides - BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Meghan Bade, at an hourly rate of \$12.50/hour, Nancy Padula at a rate of \$42/hour and Dorothy Buel at a rate of \$42/hour, as Middle School substitute bus aides, on an as needed basis, for the 2019-2020 school year.

**B-3 Approval of Dissolution of Shared Services Agreement- BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Education to dissolve the Shared Services Agreement with the Hackettstown Board of Education for the following positions effective June 30, 2020:

- Confidential Secretary to the Director of Special Services;
- Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent;
- Director of Security;
- Director of Special Services;
- Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and
- Superintendent.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board Secretary is authorized and directed to provide a copy of this resolution to the Hackettstown Board of Education within three (3) days of the Board's action.

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- B-4 Approval of Revised District Job Descriptions– BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised district job descriptions for the 2019-2020 school year, attached by reference. (ATTACHMENT)

**SECTION C**

- C-1 Approval of Workshop Attendance - BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve workshop attendance for the 2019-2020 school year, attached by reference. . (ATTACHMENT)

- C-2 Approval of 2019-2020 Field Trips - BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve field trips for the 2019-2020 school year, attached by reference. (ATTACHMENT)

- C-3 Approval of the 2020-2021 District Calendar - BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the 2020-2021 District Calendar, attached by reference. (ATTACHMENT)

- 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. (ATTACHMENT)

R 2461.01 Special Education/Receiving Schools – IEP Implementation (M) (New)

R 2461.02 Special Education/Receiving Schools – Suspension (M) (New)

R 2461.03 Special Education/Receiving Schools – Student Records (M) (New)

R 2461.04 Special Education/Receiving Schools – Special Education  
& Related Services (M) (New)

R 2461.05 Special Education/Receiving Schools – IEP Compliance (M) (New)

R 2461.06 Special Education/Receiving Schools – Appropriately Certified  
& Licensed Staff (M) (New)

R 2461.07 Special Education/Receiving Schools – Termination of Placement (M) (New)

R 2461.08 Special Education/Receiving Schools – In-Service Training (M) (New)

R 2461.09 Special Education/Receiving Schools – Statewide and District  
Wide Assessment Programs (M) (New)

R 2510 Adoption of Textbooks (New)

R 5130 Withdrawal From School (New)

R 5420 Reporting Student Progress (New)

R 7410 Maintenance and Repair (New)

R 9140 Citizens Advisory Committee (New)

P 8550 Outstanding Food Service Charges (Revised)

- C-5 Acceptance of January 2020 HIB Report - BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, acceptance of the January HIB Report for the 2019-2020 school year.

**Other Business**

- **Meeting Schedule**

President Smith revisited the need to reschedule the March meeting of the Board to meet the budget submission guideline of March 20<sup>th</sup>.

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Motion moved by Courtney Wenthen; seconded by Susan Cullen:

To schedule the regular business meeting of the Board for Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm and to cancel the March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

- **Election 2020**

Mr. VonderHaar proposed that the Board should revisit the action taken to move the school election to November.

Motion moved by William VonderHaar, seconded by Susan Cullen:

To rescind the vote on moving the annual school election to November.

Discussion – a lengthy discussion was held concerning the motion taken in January and the timing of the current motion in relationship to the statutes requiring adequate notice to the County Board of Election.

Vote: No vote was taken as the motion on the floor was deemed invalid due to the statutory timeline.

### **Hackettstown Report**

Courtney Wenthen

- Reported Lens III installation complete at the HS. Includes Morrison Field. Other schools will be fully installed by the end of March. System required some PA upgrades and ability of remote access to LENS. Community outreach meeting will be held for public. Mrs. Thomas is organizing Transition Fair in April for students interested in entering the workforce after high school. Bid approvals completed on the referendum work.

### **Independence Report**

Daria Hill

- Reported the township budget increases taxes by \$11 annually. The township expressed their displeasure with the change in the annual school election date. The township expects to be out of debt within the next two budget cycles.

**Liberty Report** – No report.

### **Public Comment**

- Bob Pace offered statements in reference to the 2% cap translates into greater percentage to the taxpayer. Student population has decreased by 40% but does see a correlating reduction in staff or budget cost.
- Steve Wiseman – offered statement in reference to B-2 bus driver hourly rates. There was a clarification that this in reference to bus aides as the district does not employ bus drivers.
- Kathy Ascolese offered comments for class size suspension as it relates to central school classroom area and historical outcomes of public vote on the budget.
- Jennifer Pandorf – stated that the Liberty Township Police officers were present at the Friday event and the district employed two security guards in addition. It was noted the police officers are not guaranteed to be present at the event and/or ability to stay.

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**Executive Session**

Motion moved by Courtney Wenthon seconded by Giles Stuber.

To adjourn to executive session at 8:15 pm for discussion of student personnel matters, specifically HIB, The Board expects to return from closed session at approx 8:30 and discussion will not be made public or no action to be taken upon return to public session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Return to Open Session**

Motion moved by President Smith; seconded by Susan Cullen to return to public session at 8:26 pm.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

No discussion or action was taken at this time.

**Adjournment**

Motion made by Susan Cullen, seconded by Courtney Wenthon, to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Moyer  
Board Secretary