

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

MINUTES OF THE GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting January 23, 2010

The Grandview Heights City School Board met in special session pursuant to the rules section 3313.16 of the Ohio Revised Code in the Board of Education conference room with President Kathy Lithgow in the Chair. Due notice of this meeting was issued to members of the Board and to the media. This meeting was announced at their regular meeting held on January 12, 2010.

Call to Order: President Lithgow called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Roll Call: The following persons were present:

Members Present: Kathy Lithgow, President
Grant Douglass, Member
Katie Clifford, Member
John Kessler, Member
Joanne Peters, Member (5)

Others Present: Ed O'Reilly, Superintendent of Schools
Kathy Binau, Director of Pupil Services
Katie Maxfield, Director of Curriculum
Cathryn Chellis, District Technology Director
Tammy Rizzo, Assistant Treasurer
Alan Froman, Grandview ThisWeek
Greg Jones, Tri-Village News

District Finances (1): Mrs. Rizzo provided an in depth review of the January 1, 2010 five-year forecast and the underlying assumptions that were adopted by the Board at its organizational meeting. The assumptions do not include any base wage increase for collective bargaining staff members beyond the end of fiscal year 2012 at which time the bargaining agreements expire. Adequate cash balances are projected through the end of Fiscal Year 2012. However, significant deficits are projected to grow very large very fast after June 30, 2012. There are two significant contributing factors for the accelerated deficit projection beginning in fiscal year 2013 and beyond. (1) An anticipated 2% annual reduction in the school foundation revenue, (2) the significant decrease in personal property tax hold-harmless reimbursements from the state that peaks at \$1,436,308 in fiscal years 2010 through 2013 and begins its phase-down in fiscal year 2014 at the level mandated in the original H.B. 66. Mrs. Rizzo demonstrated the impact of various salary increases upon the District's projected General Fund cash balances. She also demonstrated the impact of those increases on property tax levies that could be considered in the future (2010 and beyond).

Special Education Update (2): Mrs. Binau reported to the Board that currently Ohio has 13 categories of disability that are used for identifying special needs students. The District has a total of 154 special needs students, with varying disabilities, ranging from preschool age through twelfth grade. New laws now require districts to provide special needs students with access to the general curriculum. Mrs. Binau said that through professional development sessions special education teachers and regular education

teachers are working together to incorporate the needs of these students into the regular curriculum.

Mrs. Binau also reported to the Board that the District utilizes intervention assistance teams (IATs), which are teams designed to support students, parents, and teachers using a problem-solving process. The team works to identify ways to help students experience greater success and to be part of a system that proves strong school wide instruction to meet the needs of all students. Interventions are required prior to referral for an evaluation of a student, no matter what disability is suspected and these interventions should be research-based.

Mrs. Binau gave a financial report to the Board showing that the special education budget for the 2009-10 school year totals \$2,674,841, which makes up approximately 16.5% of the District's total General Fund budget. Currently the District employs several intervention specialists, totaling 15 FTE's, who are licensed special education teachers to serve the needs of our 154 special education students. Mrs. Binau pointed out that special education tuition and special education transportation costs are two of the largest budget line items for special education.

Technology Update (3): Ms. Chellis reported to the Board the following technology goals for the District:

- Providing and supporting technology tools and resources for teachers, students, and staff as a means of improving teaching, learning, and job performance;
- Applying a systems approach to efficiently and effectively acquire and manage instructional and informational technology tools and resources in a rapidly changing technology environment;
- Maintaining a secure, stable, and adequate network; and
- Evaluating roles and responsibilities of employees as technology and the use of technology evolves.

Ms. Chellis reported that from 1998-2009 the SchoolNet Plus grants and Ohio K-12 Network grants provided approximately \$333,000 in revenue for the District for the purpose of acquiring technology and providing professional development to staff. Both programs ended in fiscal year 2009. She also reported that the same wiring is in place now that was installed in 1999 and that many of the technology tools utilized by the District today are outdated. The challenge for the District is how to sustain the progress of technology and keep up with professional development with a limited technology budget that is funded solely through the General Fund.

In 2002, the District implemented a five-year refreshment plan for the acquisition, maintenance, and replacement of computers through a standard government leasing program. This program has allowed teachers and students to have access to digital cameras, projectors, CD/DVD burners, scanners, iPods, SmartBoard products, and other hardware, as well as various creativity and productivity software applications.

Facilities Issues (4): Mr. O'Reilly started the discussion by stating that the one time federal stimulus money is a great opportunity for the District to build a special education preschool addition onto the elementary school, which would allow preschoolers to be located in the elementary school with instead of the middle school where they are currently located. Mr. O'Reilly

updated the Board as to where we are in the process and informed them that he solicited and received statements of qualifications and proposals from design firms to provide services in connection with the project as required by Ohio Revised Code Section 153.65-.71. The firms were ranked and Mr. O'Reilly is ready to recommend an architectural firm and enter into a contract with said company.

Mr. O'Reilly informed the Board that two said that about \$150,000 remains in current funds and funds yet to be collected under the District's current five-year Permanent Improvement Fund tax levy that expires on December 31, 2010. Any renewal or replacement tax would have to happen before the expiration date. There may be some federal stimulus money available to pay for capital improvements. However, the current assumption should be that we are on our own to fund any capital improvements. The current Permanent Improvement Fund tax levy was approved in November of 2005 for 1.65 mills. Any replacement would probably need to be at least that large or larger. Jarod's Law expenditures have been budgeted for \$150,000 in the District's General Fund for FY-09 but that has been reduced to \$50,000 in subsequent years. Dr. Heydinger said that technology should be considered as part of the District's next P.I. Fund levy. The Ohio School Boards Association has provided preliminary information regarding federal stimulus payments to school districts.

Discussion of Upcoming Negotiations (8): President Lithgow called for a motion to enter into executive session.

MOTION 09-022: Mrs. Keller moved to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing upcoming negotiations and for the purpose of discussing the employment of one public employee.

Dr. Heydinger seconded the motion.

On roll call, the members voted as follows: Heydinger, yes; Keller, yes; Kessler, yes; Lithgow, yes; Peters, yes. 5 yes.

The president declared the motion carried and the meeting entered into executive session at 11:36 a.m.

At this time, members of the Board remained in the conference room to conduct the executive session with Mr. O'Reilly and Mrs. Rizzo. The superintendent and Board discussed upcoming negotiations with the GHEA and discussed the employment status of a teacher. The Board resumed regular session at 1:01 p.m.

Board of Education Policy: Mr. O'Reilly briefly discussed the revision of Board of Education Policy by the Ohio School Boards Association. Home school participation in extracurricular activities will be included as part of the entire Policy revision to be presented by O.S.B.A. in the next several weeks.

Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Education Foundation Liaison: Mr. Kessler agreed to be the Board's liaison to the GH/MC Education Foundation. Members of the Board will personally contribute to the annual Gala.

Adjournment: President Lithgow called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION 09-023: Mrs. Keller moved to adjourn.

Ms. Peters seconded the motion.

On roll call, the members voted as follows: Lithgow, yes; Peters, yes; Heydinger, yes; Keller, yes; Kessler, yes. 5 yes.
The president declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
President

Treasurer