

Gardner Community Consolidated Grade School
District 72-C
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Thursday, March 16th 2017
7:00 PM
Board Minutes

The school board meeting was held on Thursday, March 16th 2017. Brian Hansen called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Roll call

Members Present:

Denny Christensen, Dave Hahn, Brian Hansen, Toni Johnson,
Lauren Vitko, Jamie Wilkey

Absent:

Kelly Steichen

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Visitors : Verna Morecraft, Jessica Wilson, Rachel Partilla, Linda Tyler and Mike Cornale

Motion to approve minutes from February 2017 board meeting.

1st Wilkey, 2nd Johnson,

Aye: Wilkey, Johnson, Christensen, Hahn, Hansen, Johnson

Abstain: Vitko

Absent: Steichen

Motion passes

Audience/Visitor Participation

Mrs. Morecraft came in to share and express on behalf of the support staff regarding the recent suspension of the support staff handbook. She shared some information regarding how she obtained the support staff handbook, and some history. She was initially given the handbook last year 2015-2016 by Mr. Whiston. She expressed she was surprised to be paid for holidays, which is outlined in the handbook which was recently suspended last month. She expressed on behalf of the support staff they feel devalued, and were unaware of the contents of the handbook. She then thanked the BOE for her time. Mr. Cornale shared he was given the support staff handbook when he was hired by the superintendent Mrs. Linda Dvorak. Brian Hansen shared with the staff it was suspended as a means to further investigate the origination of the document. It would be easier to make it right at a later time as compared to trying to recover monies paid to employees. Mrs Morecraft asked when moving

forward they are provided a handbook which outlines their expectations, and clearly stipulates any benefits provided with their employment. Mrs. Linda Tyler explained her circumstances as it relates to holidays since she only works three days a week. She further explained her responsibilities/help during the lunch time.

Mrs Jessica Wilson asked if the BOE was expecting to pay back any holiday pay already given. She was informed there would be no intention to attempt recouping what has already been paid. She expressed she understands if the change is paying holiday pay is taken away, only suspended to provide ample time to investigate the handbook.

Financial Business

Motion to approve payment of bills for the month of February 2017

1st Hahn 2nd Hansen

Aye: Hahn, Hansen, Christensen, Johnson, Wilkey

Abstain: Vitko,

Steichen-entered the meeting at 7:36pm

Motion passes

Motion to approve payroll In the amount of \$90,364.40

1st Wilkey, 2nd Hahn

All Ayes: Wilkey, Hahn, Christensen, Hansen, Johnson, Steichen, Vitko

Motion passes

Motion to approve the treasurer's report for February 2017

No Action taken

Motion to approve "RIF"/Reduction in Force notices for the 2017-2018 school year for the following staff: Jessica Wilson, Betsy Hennessy, Rachel Partilla, Morgan Kociss, and Kara Kremnitzer.

1st Hansen, 2nd Christensen

All Ayes: Hansen, Christensen, Hahn, Johnson, Steichen, Vitko, Wilkey

Motion passes

Mr Harris shared information:

Average Daily Attendance- There is an 3.17% increase over last year.

TIF (Tax Increment Financing) update on disbursements- This spreadsheet shows the dates and amounts of our TIF distributions, totaling \$366,850.25. This is approximately \$3,000 less than we anticipated in the original revenue when preparing the annual budget. We will not be receiving any further TIF payments this year. All of the TIF funds were deposited into Fund 20/O&M.

Discussion with Mike Vezzetti from Vezzetti Capital Management related to possible future investments opportunities. Mr. Harris has recently met with a few different bank managers and spoke with Mr. Johnson and some other districts about investing. Mr Harris strongly encourages the board to switch gears in terms of our investment philosophy and use Vezzetti Capital Management LLC to assist us in

our investing for the future. Mr. Hahn, along with Mr. Wilkey and Mr. Harris met with Mr Vezzitti Monday night and he shared with us how his operation works. I believe we have greatly missed out on investment returns in the past years and could increase our interest returns on investing greatly, to a point where it could even fund the salary of a teacher for a year. Further, I spoke with the First Midwest Bank regarding the use of a sweep account, which I again feel strongly we should consider using this option to again maximize our investments and interest income. **Discussion related to the possibility of providing tuition support for a staff member to retain an ELL endorsement.** This will be with the intent to be in compliance with endorsement requirements related to services provided to ELL (English Language Learners). A motion will be forthcoming at the April BOE meeting.

Business/Superintendents Report

Motion to approve the proposed 2017-18 school calendar (matches up with neighboring districts BES & GSW)

1st Hahn, 2nd Hansen

Aye: Hahn, Hansen, Christensen, Johnson, Steichen, Wilkey, Vitko

Motion passes

GGs Student Discipline Report

Mr. Harris will get this to the BOE members within the next week.

School Security-the Gardner Grade School main entrance has been wired and set to stay locked and visitors/parents/staff are required to be “buzzed in”. This can be on a full-time basis or on an “as needed” basis.

The BOE decided that the outside doors will be locked and the main office will buzz people in.

School safety issues brief

- 1.) Stormy weather during a recent volleyball tournament. Mr. Harris explained what the spectators and players did during a recent storm that blew in during the tournament. All spectators and players were safe in the building.
- 2.) Gas “flow-back” (from boiler) due to wind on Wednesday’s early dismissal, requiring the staff to evacuate during their meeting. The fire dept came and checked things out and cleared the building. Mike Cornale explained the difference between trouble and alarm. The BOE decided they want ALL alarms to be tied in together.

Board Vacancy Update

There are going to be two seats that will need to be appointed after the April 4th election. The BOE wants to advertise for two weeks in The Paper about these vacancies. They have asked that anyone interested to contact the GGS office. They will then go through an interview process and appoint the new members at the May meeting.

8th grade students

A letter was sent home to the parents of 8th grade students informing them with specifics on qualifications/criteria to participate in the end of the year trip. The students were asked to complete 5 hours of community service hours.

Letter sent home to all parents with details regarding our “Veteran Pledge Dedication” The response has been great.

Survey Results- From the most recent Parent/Teacher Conferences and the second GGS staff survey on Mr. Harris.

Mr. Harris shared with the BOE the results of those survey’s. All were very positive.

Motion to adjourn into closed session to consider information regarding the appointment, employment or any permissible matter under the open meetings act 5 ILCS 120/(2)(1) **TIME: 9:43**

1st Hahn, 2nd Wilkey

Aye: Hahn, Wilkey, Christensen, Hansen, Johnson, Steichen, Vitko

Motion to adjourn closed session and return to open session **TIME: 10:18**

1st Hahn, 2nd Vitko

Aye: Hahn, Vitko, Christensen, Hansen, Johnson, Steichen, Wilkey

Motion to act on any business discussed in closed session.

Motion made to abolish the current “support staff handbook”. This is based on lack of documentation of this handbook being approved by this, or any previous Board in a formal meeting, thus disallowing the expenditures of costs associated with working outlined in the handbook. A staff handbook will be devised and approved by the BOE prior to the start of the 2017-18 school year.

1st Christensen, 2nd Hahn

All Ayes: Christensen, Hahn, Hansen, Johnson, Steichen, Vitko, Wilkey

Motion Passes

Other items of discussion to include on regular BOE meeting agenda set for Thursday, April 20th 2017 at 7:00pm. Or comments/concerns brought to light from members of the Board.

- Can we get a financial report monthly from the high school for both the music/band boosters and also the sports boosters.
- Who oversees the cafeteria to ensure they are following the appropriate protocols, food temperatures, storage limits ect...

- Any time aides take off its written down for vacation vs time off without pay. Mark “time without pay” vs “vacation or personal day”.
- Can you put in the board packet a sealed envelope for any information that will be discussed in closed session.
- Call around to accounting firms in order to get some help straightening out the current financial information.

Motion for adjournment: Time 10:42

1st Christensen, 2nd Hansen

Aye: Christensen, Hansen, Hahn , Johnosn, Steichen, Vitko, Wilkey