

GAYLORD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Organizational Meeting
Monday, January 9, 2023
6:30 PM

Minutes

APPROVED

Rachel Davis: Present
Katie Drzewiecki: Present
Sara Gapinski: Present
Jeff Gorno: Present
James Vanderveer: Present
Kari Visser-Robel: Present
Jeff Wieber: Present

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Roll Call
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Moment of Silence for our Armed Service Personnel
- D. Items to be added/changed to the agenda
- E. Board Appreciation Month - Food prepared by the GCS Culinary Arts students.

II. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Election of Officers

1. Office of President

Motion to approve Jeff Wieber as the nomination for President of the Gaylord Community School Board. This motion, made by Jeff Gorno and seconded by Katie Drzewiecki, Passed.

Rachel Davis: Nay
Katie Drzewiecki: Yea
Sara Gapinski: Yea
Jeff Gorno: Yea
James Vanderveer: Yea
Kari Visser-Robel: Nay
Jeff Wieber: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 2

- Rachel Davis:
 - Great job to Jeff Wieber.
 - There are four women currently on the Board and it's time for a change in leadership. Rachel would like to see a woman in that position.
- Kari Visser-Robel:
 - Does not support the nomination for Jeff Wieber
 - Served on the Board for a long time and provided his services
 - Kari feels that Jeff is on his way off of the Board and may be leaving in June or at the end of the year. Jeff commented that his leaving was inaccurate.

Katie Drzewiecki

- Kari feels his time at GCS could be better serviced in a Vice President role and someone else serving as the President.

2. Office of Vice President

Motion to approve Sara Gapinski as the nomination for Vice President of the Gaylord Community School Board. This motion, made by James Vanderveer and seconded by Jeff Gorno, Passed.

Rachel Davis: Yea
Katie Drzewiecki: Yea
Sara Gapinski: Yea
Jeff Gorno: Yea
James Vanderveer: Yea
Kari Visser-Robel: Yea
Jeff Wieber: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

3. Office of Secretary

Motion to approve KD as the nomination for Secretary of the Gaylord Community School Board. This motion, made by Jeff Wieber and seconded by Sara Gapinski, Passed.

Rachel Davis: Yea
Katie Drzewiecki: Yea
Sara Gapinski: Yea
Jeff Gorno: Yea
James Vanderveer: Yea
Kari Visser-Robel: Yea
Jeff Wieber: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

4. Office of Treasurer

Motion to approve JVa as the nomination for Treasurer of the Gaylord Community School Board. This motion, made by Sara Gapinski and seconded by Katie Drzewiecki, Passed.

Rachel Davis: Yea
Katie Drzewiecki: Yea
Sara Gapinski: Yea
Jeff Gorno: Yea
James Vanderveer: Yea
Kari Visser-Robel: Yea
Jeff Wieber: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

B. Set Meeting Dates, Time and Place

It is recommended that the Board of Education establish the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. as the regular meeting time and the Board Room at the Board of Education Building as the regular meeting place, as presented.

Motion to establish the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. as the regular meeting time and the Board Room at the Board of Education Building as the regular meeting place, as presented. This motion, made by Katie Drzewiecki and seconded by Sara Gapinski, Passed.

Rachel Davis: Yea

Katie Drzewiecki: Yea
Sara Gapinski: Yea
Jeff Gorno: Yea
James Vanderveer: Yea
Kari Visser-Robel: Yea
Jeff Wieber: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

C. Designation of Depositories

It is recommended that the Board of Education name Huntington National Bank, and MILAF as the depositories for all Gaylord School Funds, as presented.

Motion to approve Huntington National Bank, and MILAF as the depositories for all Gaylord School Funds, as presented. This motion, made by Jeff Gorno and seconded by James Vanderveer, Passed.

Rachel Davis: Yea
Katie Drzewiecki: Yea
Sara Gapinski: Yea
Jeff Gorno: Yea
James Vanderveer: Yea
Kari Visser-Robel: Yea
Jeff Wieber: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

D. Authorization of Signatures

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent, Board President, and Board Treasurer's signature as authorized paymaster signatures for the accounts, as presented.

Motion to approve the Superintendent's, Board President, and Board Treasurer's signature as authorized paymaster signatures for the accounts listed on the attached page, as presented. This motion, made by Sara Gapinski and seconded by Jeff Wieber, Passed.

Rachel Davis: Yea
Katie Drzewiecki: Yea
Sara Gapinski: Yea
Jeff Gorno: Yea
James Vanderveer: Yea
Kari Visser-Robel: Yea
Jeff Wieber: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

E. Appointment of Deputy Secretaries

It is recommended that the Board appoint the Superintendent and the Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, as deputy secretaries for the Board of Education. Their function is primarily to handle the election procedures and to record meeting minutes.

Motion to appoint the Superintendent and the Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, as deputy secretaries for the Board of Education. Their function is primarily to handle the election procedures and to record meeting minutes. This motion, made by James Vanderveer and seconded by Katie Drzewiecki, Passed.

Rachel Davis: Yea
Katie Drzewiecki: Yea
Sara Gapinski: Yea
Jeff Gorno: Yea
James Vanderveer: Yea
Kari Visser-Robel: Yea
Jeff Wieber: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

F. Appointment of Designated Electronic Funds Officer

It is recommended that the Board appoint the Director of Finance to serve as the designated electronic funds officer.

Motion to appoint the Director of Business and Finance to serve as the designated electronic funds officer. This motion, made by Katie Drzewiecki and seconded by Rachel Davis, Passed.

Rachel Davis: Yea
Katie Drzewiecki: Yea
Sara Gapinski: Yea
Jeff Gorno: Yea
James Vanderveer: Yea
Kari Visser-Robel: Yea
Jeff Wieber: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

G. Appointment of FOIA Coordinator

It is recommended that the Board appoint the Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent to serve as the FOIA Coordinator.

Motion to appoint the Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent to serve as the FOIA Coordinator. This motion, made by Katie Drzewiecki and seconded by Jeff Gorno, Passed.

Rachel Davis: Yea
Katie Drzewiecki: Yea
Sara Gapinski: Yea
Jeff Gorno: Yea
James Vanderveer: Yea
Kari Visser-Robel: Yea
Jeff Wieber: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

H. Appointment of Title IX Officer

It is recommended that the Board appoint the Human Resources Director to serve as the Title IX Officer.

Motion to appoint the Human Resources Director to serve as the Title IX Officer. This motion, made by Jeff Gorno and seconded by Kari Visser-Robel, Passed.

Rachel Davis: Yea
Katie Drzewiecki: Yea
Sara Gapinski: Yea
Jeff Gorno: Yea

James Vanderveer: Yea

Kari Visser-Robel: Yea

Jeff Wieber: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

I. Board Memberships

It is recommended that the Board continue membership for 2023 in the following association: Michigan Association of School Boards

Motion to continue membership for 2022 in the following association: Michigan Association of School Boards. This motion, made by Sara Gapinski and seconded by James Vanderveer, Passed.

Rachel Davis: Yea

Katie Drzewiecki: Yea

Sara Gapinski: Yea

Jeff Gorno: Yea

James Vanderveer: Yea

Kari Visser-Robel: Yea

Jeff Wieber: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

J. Board Committees

It is recommended that the Board establish standing committees for the following areas: Technology/Curriculum, Personnel/Finance/Negotiations, Policy/Student Discipline (as a need only basis), and Building/Grounds/Transportation, as presented.

Motion to establish standing committees for the following areas: Technology/Curriculum, Personnel/Finance/Negotiations, Policy/Student Discipline (as a need only basis), and Building/Grounds/Transportation, as presented. This motion, made by Katie Drzewiecki and seconded by Rachel Davis, Passed.

Rachel Davis: Yea

Katie Drzewiecki: Yea

Sara Gapinski: Yea

Jeff Gorno: Yea

James Vanderveer: Yea

Kari Visser-Robel: Yea

Jeff Wieber: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

K. Appointment of School Legal Counsel

It is recommended that the Board approve Thrun Law Firm, PC and Clark Hill Law Firm; as Legal Counsel for Gaylord Community Schools for 2023, as presented.

Motion to table Legal Counsel until next meeting. This motion, made by Kari Visser-Robel and seconded by Rachel Davis, Failed.

Rachel Davis: Yea

Katie Drzewiecki: Nay

Sara Gapinski: Nay

Jeff Gorno: Nay

James Vanderveer: Nay

Kari Visser-Robel: Yea

Jeff Wieber: Nay

Yea: 2, Nay: 5

Motion to approve Thrun Law Firm, PC and Clark Hill Law Firm; as Legal Counsel for Gaylord Community Schools for 2023, as presented. This motion, made by Katie Drzewiecki and seconded by Jeff Gorno, Passed.

Rachel Davis: Abstain (With Conflict)

Katie Drzewiecki: Yea

Sara Gapinski: Yea

Jeff Gorno: Yea

James Vanderveer: Yea

Kari Visser-Robel: Nay

Jeff Wieber: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 1, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

- Sara Gapinski: What does it mean if we table the agenda item?
 - Response - Jeff Wieber: it will be voted on at the next Board meeting.
 - Response - Kari Visser-Robel: longer time to investigate different opportunities
- Jeff Wieber: GCS would not have approved legal counsel for an active lawsuit.
- Kari Visser Robel: Under the impression that GCS is not under contract with Clark Hill and we do not need a contract, and they don't require a retainer.
- Jeff Wieber: If GCS does not approve legal counsel, then we will not have any legal counsel
- Kari Visser-Robel: If GCS does not approve legal counsel, then GCS would not have legal counsel for a month?
 - Response - Jeff Wieber: Correct
- Rachel Davis: The school board policy states that the school may appoint qualified individuals or firms to represent GCS. If we are not under a retainer, is it the threat that Clark Hill would not represent GCS any longer?
 - Response- James Cracraft: They couldn't.
- Rachel Davis: Is this a vote to fund legal counsel?
 - Response- James Cracraft: Formal approval.
 - Response - Jeff Wieber: Its approval of who we use and does not have to do with funding.
 - Response: Katie Drzewiecki: An agreement of the Board.
- Rachel Davis: Do we have a contract with Thrun?
 - Response - James Cracraft: Thrun requires a retainer
- Rachel Davis: Is that retainer used for legal services for Thrun? Clark Hill does not require a retainer?
 - Response - James Cracraft: No, the \$2500 is deposited to retain Thrun as legal counsel. Some attorneys at Clark Hill require a retainer, but currently we do not pay a retainer.
- Rachel Davis: Why would our legal service stop with Clark Hill if there is no written contract?
 - Response - James Cracraft: understanding that Clark Hill would not represent GCS if not approved. Currently, Clark Hill is representing the District in a lawsuit. Clark Hill requires that GCS approves them as a law firm.
 - Response - Jeff Wieber: If we complete the lawsuit, we can have another motion to remove them for legal services.

- Rachel Davis: Clarification, there is no written contract with Clark Hill?
 - Response: James Cracraft: No, not that I am aware of, there is not a written contract only that we retain them.
- Kari Visser Robel: Is there a reason we combine them for legal counsel?
 - Response - James Cracraft: It is not uncommon for districts to have two different legal counsel. Some prefer to use them for different reasons and their expertise. Currently, we are being sued by a group and Clark Hill is representing us. We discussed the optics that one of our Board members is one of the plaintiffs, and the District is the defendant, and it could put the district in violation of the school code and our own Board policy.
- Rachel Davis: Clark Hill is in violation of their ethical behavior by not disclosing their connection to the Governor in a lawsuit with a mask mandate from the Health Department that reports to the State that reports to the Governor. They should have disclosed that information and all its public record.

L. Board Member Stipend

It is recommended that the Board approve the continuation of Board member stipends of \$35 per Board meeting and \$25 per Committee meeting, as presented.

***NOTE:** The GCS Board of Education approved the Board meeting rate increase from \$30 to \$35 per meeting in January 2020. The GCS policy was not updated to reflect that increase at that time.*

Motion to approve the continuation of Board member stipends of \$35 per Board meeting and \$25 per Committee meeting, as presented. This motion, made by Sara Gapinski and seconded by James Vanderveer, Passed.

Rachel Davis:	Yea
Katie Drzewiecki:	Yea
Sara Gapinski:	Yea
Jeff Gorno:	Yea
James Vanderveer:	Yea
Kari Visser-Robel:	Yea
Jeff Wieber:	Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

III. Summer Tax Resolution

It is recommended that the Board approve the 2023 summer tax collection, as presented.

Motion to approve the 2023 summer tax collection, as presented. This motion, made by James Vanderveer and seconded by Rachel Davis, Passed.

Rachel Davis:	Yea
Katie Drzewiecki:	Yea
Sara Gapinski:	Yea
Jeff Gorno:	Yea
James Vanderveer:	Yea
Kari Visser-Robel:	Yea
Jeff Wieber:	Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

IV. PUBLIC INPUT

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Organizational Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. This motion, made by Kari Visser-Robel and seconded by Jeff Gorno, Passed.

Rachel Davis: Yea

Katie Drzewiecki: Yea

Sara Gapinski: Yea

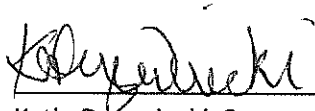
Jeff Gorno: Yea

James Vanderveer: Yea

Kari Visser-Robel: Yea

Jeff Wieber: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0



Katie Drzewiecki, Secretary