

**GREENSBURG SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 13, 2022**

PRESENT:

Mr. Brian Conway
Mr. Frank Gazze
Miss Lynn Jobe
Mrs. Emily Miller
Mr. Jeff Metrosky
Mr. Jon O'Brien
Mrs. Robin Savage
Mrs. Heather Shearer
Mrs. Stephen D. Thomas

ABSENT:

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Dr. Kenneth A. Bissell, Acting Superintendent
Mrs. Joan Wehner, School Board Secretary
Mr. Lee Demosky, Solicitor
Mr. John Scales, Solicitor

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Adam Jones, Principal, Greensburg Salem Middle School
Mr. Todd McMillen, Coordinator of Student Services
Mr. David Redinger, Associate Principal, Greensburg Salem Middle School
Mr. David Zilli, Principal, Greensburg Salem Senior High School
Dr. James Baker, Coordinator of Technology Integration and Student Information
Mrs. Ashley Kertes, Associate Administrator to the Superintendent & Community Outreach

NEWS MEDIA

Mr. Jeff Himler, Greensburg Tribune Review Newspaper Reporter

Approximately twenty-five (20) citizens of the community

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Jeff Metrosky, School Board President, called the Meeting to Order at 7:37 P.M. Mrs. Ashley Kertes called the Roll, which is indicated above.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH DR. BISSELL

A motion was made by Steve Thomas/Jon O'Brien to approve entering a contract with Dr. Kenneth A. Bissell that sets forth the terms and conditions of the office of superintendent of the Greensburg Salem School District.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH DR. BISSELL (cont'd.)

Voting Aye: Conway, Gazze, Jobe, Metrosky, O'Brien, Savage, Shearer, Thomas

Voting Nay: Miller

Abstaining: None

Absent: None

Motion passed; 8:1

Dr. Bissell was administered the oath/sworn in by Judge Christopher Scherer.

SEE ATTACHMENTS 1 - 44

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

An Executive Session of the Board was held earlier in the evening at 6:30 P.M. to discuss personnel and legal matters. The Regular School Board Meeting of April 13, convened at 7:37 P.M.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Brian Conway attended the Critter Cruise that was hosted at the high school by Mrs. Redinger, where they brought in some 4th grade students to introduce them to different animals. It was very well done and seemed like a great program that was enjoyed by both the elementary students and high school students who were presenting.

Emily Miller discussed the recent languages competition where a Greensburg Salem junior took 1st place overall out of hundreds of kids. Mrs. Miller congratulated our language program for supporting our students.

Dr. Bissell reported that Mr. McMillen has been working on the special education report. He will be meeting with a team of parents and teachers next week. That plan will be posted for public view on Friday, April 29 and remain posted for 28 days. The board will have the opportunity to discuss this at the May meeting.

Dr. Bissell added that it's important to announce some changes that are going on in central office administration as well as the district website and social platforms. Mrs. Kertes and Dr. Baker are working behind the scenes to get us reset up for our social media so that we can be much more active and proactive on getting great news out about the district every day. They are still working to clean up some old accounts and cleaning up the website. BoardDocs will be used more and more as an efficient way to get information from the board meetings out to everyone.

VISITORS

The following visitors each spoke on behalf of the group CORES (Communities Organizing for Racial Equality in the Schools).

VISITORS (cont'd.)

Maria DePasquale introduced herself and expressed her concerns regarding inequality at the district. She also introduced the newly formed group, CORES, and shared its mission and vision. Ms. DePasquale thanked the board for caring for our kids and expressed that she looks forward to working together.

Dr. Brandi Slider introduced herself as a member of CORES and spoke about suspension rates at Hutchinson Elementary.

Julie Greathouse, also a member of CORES, spoke of how as a college administrator she focuses on student retention and success and non-standards-based assessment on performance.

Mr. Christopher Davis, CORES member and assistant professor of English at Westmoreland County Community College, spoke more about CORES mission and racial justice/inequality within the Greensburg Salem School District.

Emily Tatro, CORES member and a 2005 graduate of Greensburg Salem, also spoke more about CORES mission and racial justice/inequality within the Greensburg Salem School District.

Ron Garfolo, CORES member and Greensburg Salem resident and graduate added to the other CORES member's remarks.

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2022

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of March 9, 2022 as presented.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

SEE ATTACHMENTS 45 - 57

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION

Principal David Zilli recognized two Greensburg Salem High School students who scored in the top 3% of the Country; Hannah Visnick and Connor Herrington. He also recognized two students from the Central Westmoreland Career & Technology Center students, Sarah Shawl and Logan Fox.

PRESENTATION OF 2022/2023 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Joan Wehner, Business Manager, presented the 2022-2023 Preliminary Budget. She pointed out that prices and rates everywhere are increasing, including the district's expenses.

Summary of revenues: 2021/2022 - \$47.4 million; Anticipated Revenues for 2022/2023 - \$47.8 million; Total revenues: 48.1 million for 21/22, 48.7 million for 22/23; revenue summary: local revenue 25.1 (21/22) preliminary budget is close to 25.2 million;

PRESENTATION OF 2022/2023 PRELIMINARY BUDGET (cont'd)

local revenue is 52.8 percent of overall revenue; state revenue is budgeted at 19.7 – 19.9 budgeted for 22/23; state revenue 41.6 percent of our revenue; federal 2.5 million budgeted, 2.6 for 22/23 expected. 5.6% of overall revenue is federal revenue;

There is no tax increase proposed/no change in millage rate; no movement on charter school reform.

Debt service. 3.7 million 21/22 to 3.2 million in 22/23; total expenditures for 21/22 48.1 million, 22/23 48.7 increase of \$626,000. The largest expenditures are contracts that we are obligated to but there has also been an increase in healthcare rates and retirement costs; cyber insurance rates increase. The last millage increase was in 2019/2020.

FINANCIAL MATTERS: REPORTS

A motion was made by Robin Savage/John O'Brien to approve the following financial reports for March 2022: Treasurer's Report; Tax Collection Report; Capital Project Expenditure Report; Grant Report; Financial Reports for the General Fund; Financial Reports for the Capital Project Fund; Financial Reports for the Food Service Fund; Middle School Activity Fund Report; High School Activity Fund Reports.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

SEE ATTACHMENTS 58 - 75

DISBURSEMENTS MADE SINCE LAST MEETING/BILLS TO BE PAID

A motion was made by Lynn Jobe/Heather Shearer to recommend ratification of: Disbursements Made Since Last Meeting: General Fund - \$4,687,069.06; Disbursements Made Since Last Meeting: Capital Project Fund; - \$14,750.00; Disbursements Made Since Last Meeting: Cafeteria Fund - \$134,970.49; Bills to be Paid – General Fund - \$635,377.14; Bills to be Paid: Capital Project Fund - \$1,925.00

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

SEE ATTACHMENTS 76 - 125

FEDERAL PROGRAMS REPORT

No report at this time.

BOARD REPORTS

Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center Board – Mrs. Robin Savage discussed the details of the March 26th meeting, including the discussion of the comprehensive plan, structure of the school, and programs moving forward. At last week's meeting the board approved the 2022 budget. The CTC National Technical Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be held on May 2, 2023, followed by a senior awards lunch. Our senior recognition ceremony will be held on Monday, May 16, rain or shine at the

BOARD REPORTS (cont'd)

CTC. The grants coordinator secured a supplemental equipment grant for the construction trades program.

Westmoreland Intermediate Unit – Mrs. Heather Shearer announced that the WIU is implementing Americore at the Clearview School and Early Intervention Program. Mrs. Shearer wasn't sure if this was something the district itself could use for social and emotional learning activities, family support, etc. Dr. Bissell added that at one time the district did have Americore volunteers at the middle school and Hutchinson Elementary, but had difficulty filling the positions.

Greensburg Salem Education Foundation (GSEF) – Lynn Jobe thanked everyone who helped to make the GSEF purse bash a success. The Distinguished Alumni Banquet will be held June 17 at Lakeview Lounge. Distinguished alumni they will be honoring are the Class of 1961, Dan Pultz in addition to Linda Dickerson and Dr. Pascal Spino. The Foundation has initiated a Great Teachers Award honoring a teacher from each school. The award winners have been nominated by the students. Also, the Joseph Zahorchak scholarship will be presented along with the Dorothy Stafford award.

Greensburg Community Development Corporation – Brian Conway announced that he was voted in to serve on the Board of Directors last month. The organization has begun a search for a new executive director.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee – Emily Miller presented the items that were discussed at last month's meeting and the meeting earlier this evening. The committee had discussions about Standards Based Grading. There were some concerns about how much work that may add on to teachers. Today's meeting included speakers from Project STEM and the Readiness Institute to discuss what would be involved in a potential AI class. Some parents expressed concern as to whether or not it was going to hit at the right level for students. However, this is a topic that requires additional discussion and analysis. Lynn Jobe added her interpretation of the meeting and explained that it incorporated national and international experts in the field. The meeting explained what AI is why it is important to our kids and how they could end up behind if they don't keep up with what's happening with AI. Lynn though it was a great discussion with great personnel.

Facility Committee – Jeff Metrosky announced that we are looking at two major initiatives right now, including the renovation of the high school locker rooms, adding air conditioning to the second and third floors at the middle school, and adding air conditioning at Hutchinson Elementary. The district will be advertising to find an architectural firm to assist with those initiatives.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (cont'd)

Policy Committee – Emily Miller explained that as the committee looked at some of the policies that were up for review they found that there is a need for technical upgrades. If anyone has any questions about policies Dr. Bissell will be able to answer those questions. Dr. Bissell added that if you go to the board policy manual online, the majority of them are in BoardDocs with a link. If there is a policy that you can't find please send Dr. Bissell an email and he'll get it to you. All of these policies are currently being transferred over to BoardDocs, but will take some time.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report at this time.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

All appointments under the personnel report are pending governmental clearance.

RETIREMENTS

A motion was made by Steven Thomas/Jon O'Brien to approve the retirement of Jackie Gillespie, 5th grade teacher at James H. Metzgar Elementary School AND the retirement of Wendy Jorgensen, Business Computer Information Science teacher at the Greensburg Salem High School, both effective at the end of the day on June 6, 2022.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

RESIGNATIONS

A motion was made by Robin Savage/Heather Shearer to approve the following resignations, leave of absence, and Family and Medical Leaves:

- Resignation of Shannon Moore, Life Skills Teacher at Dr. Robert F. Nicely Elementary School effective at the end of the day on Friday, May 6, 2022.
- Resignation Dana Perry, Nurse Assistant at Amos K. Hutchinson Elementary School effective retroactive to the end of the day on March 22, 2022.
- Family and Medical Leave for Dr. Robert F. Nicely Elementary School Employee #720 effective retroactively beginning April 4, 2022 and continuing for approximately six (6) to eight (8) weeks.
- Unpaid Leave of Absence for Amos K. Hutchinson Elementary School Employee #1136 effective for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Resignation of Robert Armstrong, Middle School Assistant Football Coach effective immediately.
- Family and Medical Leave for Dr. Robert F. Nicely Elementary School Employee #1742 effective retroactive to March 28, 2022 through and including May 6, 2022.
- Family and Medical Leave for James H. Metzgar Employee #1014 effective retroactive beginning March 28, 2022 and continuing for up to twelve (12) weeks.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

APPOINTMENTS

A motion was made by Brian Conway/Emily Miller to approve the following retroactive approval of the appointment of Rachel DeNino, Art Director for the Middle School Musical effective for the 2021-2022 school year, salary set at \$1,041.00 supplemental contract as per the negotiated agreement.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Savage/O'Brien to approve the appointment of the following:

- Summer Success Teachers effective summer 2022, salary set at \$29.50 supplemental hourly rate as per the negotiated Agreement: • Ashley Barker • Morgan Bellush • Amber Bloom • Bernadette Calvino • Maria Cawoski • Dailys Clark • Paige Copper • Alyssa Dempsey • Rachel DeNino • Faith Dent • Natalie Diven • Karen Dopico • Meagan Frantik • Cali Gergely • Lexi Hahn • Kaylee Harris • Lauren Hartner • Samantha Hauer • Kristy Hostetler • Samantha Irvin • Mackenzie Johnson • Sidney Julian • Sarah Kalp • Jillian Kelley • Jenna Kuba • Kaley Kummer • Marina Lagattuta • Grace Leonard • Peydon Linsenbigler • Gabrielle Lucas • Faith McDowell • Megan McIntyre • Amanda McLay • Emily McMichael • Sydney Miller • Alexis Morelli • Olivia Norman • Alison Onega (name correction) • Abigail Petrocelli • Madison Porter • Evan Portman • Sarah Quatse • Seth Stevens • Jenna Stillitano • Shannon Stopa • Kasey Storkel • Shannon Stopa • Ryan Thomas • Jordan Vertacnik • Madison Watson • Mackenzie Whalen • Loralee Yutzy
- Approval of the addition of Kristina Homan to the Lunchroom Supervisor/Substitute Lunchroom Supervisor List at Amos K. Hutchinson Elementary School effective for the 2021-2022 school year, salary set at \$8.00 per hour.
- Approval of the appointment of Kerry Dieter, substitute Activity Van driver, salary set at a supplemental hourly rate of \$20.50.
- Approval of the appointment of Natalie Reusser, volunteer Assistant Softball Coach at the Middle School effective retroactive to March 21, 2022.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

ADVERTISE POSITIONS

A motion was made by Steven Thomas/Lynn Jobe to approve the advertisement of the following positions:

- Approval to advertise for a Special Education Teacher, full-time permanent position effective beginning with the 2022-2023 school, must be certified Special Education PK-12 and/or Special Education PK-8.
- Approval to advertise for a Nurse Assistant, full-time permanent position, salary set at \$23.00 per hour as per the Board Policy for Administrative Assistants, Classroom Instructional Assistants and Nurse Assistants.

ADVERTISE POSITIONS (cont'd)

- Approval to advertise for up to four (4) Writing Coaches for the Greensburg Salem Education Foundation (GSEF) Young Writers' Camp. Stipend to be no more than \$850 per coach, paid by the GSEF.
- Approval to advertise for the position of Accounts Payable & Federal Program Accounting, salary to be set per Board Policy for Administrative Assistants, Classroom Instructional Assistants, and Nurse Assistants.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

FINANCE

A motion was made by Brian Conway/Emily Miller to approve to adopt the Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center 2022-2023 Proposed General Operating Budget with total expenditures of \$8,668,988.00 with a projected cost to the District \$561,277.15. A brief discussion followed.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

SEE ATTACHMENTS 126 - 142

CONTRACTS/CONTRACTED SERVICES

A motion was made by Steven Thomas/John O'Brien to approve the following contracts/contracted services:

1. Approval to recognize Kristina Franklin, Earl Gallery and Grace Newman as additional bus drivers and Amanda Holt as a bus monitor for DMJ Transportation, Inc. for the 2021-2022 school year pending receipt of all governmental clearances, application records, safety training, physical examination and tuberculin test where applicable.
2. Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding by and between Greensburg Salem School District and CCL Technologies to provide an Onsite Student Tech Office Technician from CCL effective for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM Monday through Friday, 180 school days, at a cost of \$3,500.00 per month as contained herein.
3. Approval to enter into an Agreement with Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) to provide the District's administrative software application for the 2022-2023 school year at an approximate cost to the District of \$71,000 as contained herein.
4. Appointment of KEYTEX Energy Solutions LLC as the Buyer's agent for the purposes of obtaining Electric Generation Service.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

SEE ATTACHMENTS 143 - 151

RFQ

A motion was made by Emily Miller/John O'Brien to approve advertisement of a request for quotes for an architect to provide professional consulting services relating to the high school locker room rehabilitation.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Brian Conway/Emily Miller to table item 12.6 - Recommend approval to advertise a request for quotes for an architect to provide professional consulting services relating to the GSSD air conditioning upgrades.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

BOARD POLICIES

A motion was made by Robin Savage/Brian Conway to approve the Addendum to the Board Policy for Support Service Personnel to reflect current positions in this group as contained herein.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

SEE ATTACHMENT 152

A motion was made by Emily Miller/Robin Savage to approve board Policy 305: Substitutes as contained herein.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

SEE ATTACHMENT 153 - 160

STUDENT MATTERS

A motion was made by Robin Savage/Heather Shearer to approve the following items:

1. Approval for Ms. Kelly Clark, a 7th-grade math teacher, to conduct an action research project with her math intervention students as part of her master's degree program at Clarion University of Pennsylvania.
2. Approval of the appointment of Dr. Richard Payha, School Physician effective for the 2022-2023 school year, conducting physical exams for students upon entrance to school and for students in grades six and eleven who did not return private physical reports as well as sports physicals for District athletes, with compensation set at \$1.00.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

SEE ATTACHMENT 161-163

RICHARD K. MELLON FOUNDATION

A motion was made by Robin Savage/Steven Thomas to approve a partnership with Communities in Schools, Pittsburgh & Allegheny County (CISPAC), and the Richard King Mellon Foundation in supporting chronically absent students to reengage with classroom learning. Year one costs of the attendance program are \$170,000 to be paid by the Richard K. Mellon Foundation. Year two costs are \$50,000 to be paid by ESSR funding. The program will start in the

RICHARD K. MELLON FOUNDATION (cont'd)

2022-2023 school year. A brief discussion followed.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

A motion was made by Robin Savage/Steven Thomas to approve the following items:

1. Approval for Mrs. Shawna Berger to attend and present at the NWEA Fusion National Conference, June 28 - 30, 2022 in Phoenix AZ. Registration and fees will be paid by NWEA. Total cost to the District is \$1245.00.
2. Approval for Dr. Taylor Guido to attend the PA Keystone Exams Item Data Review with DRC, September 7-8, 2022 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. The total cost to the District is \$216.00.
3. Approval for Mrs. Barb Garofola to attend the PSSA Ranging for ELA Workshop, June 1-3, 2022 in Lancaster, PA. The total cost to the District is \$0.00.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

SEE ATTACHMENT 164 - 172

FACILITIES/FACILITIES USAGE

A motion was made by Emily Miller/Brian Conway to approve the Westmoreland County Community College Police Academy to use the Senior High School track for testing on Sunday morning April 10 and April 24, 2022 and May 8 and May 22, 2022.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

GENERAL/MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

A motion was made by Robin Savage/John O'Brien to approve permission to accept and distribute up to four (4) free tickets to every student and faculty member of the Greensburg Salem School District for the Jennerstown Speedway Complex for an event night to be determined later.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Robin Savage/Steven Thomas to approve entering a Stipulation of Settlement to resolve the tax assessment case filed at Westmoreland County Court of Common Pleas Docket Nos. 3194 of 2021- Yograj Teneja Julia Taneja, Husband and Wife adjusting the implied fair market value of the subject commercial property identified at Westmoreland County Tax Map No.: 10-04-02-0-601 to \$825,000.00 for tax assessment purposes based on a review of the commercial property appraisal report conducted by the GSSD's commercial property appraiser.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

GENERAL/MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS (cont'd)

A motion was made by Jobe/Miller to approve entering of Grant of Right of Way and Easement with The Township of Hempfield for the construction and improvement of the stormwater drainage system at the GSSD high school. (The condemnation actions filed at Westmoreland County Court of Common Pleas Docket No: 3321 of 2018 and 3322 of 2018 will be ended and discontinued). A brief discussion followed.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

Superintendent Dr. Ken Bissell announced that the Board Discussion Meeting for May will be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. in the Administration Board Discussion Room. The Regular School Board Meeting for May will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 7:30 P.M. at the Middle School in Room 003. There is also a Facility Meeting scheduled for Monday, April 25 at 5:30 pm in the Administrative Offices.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Steven Thomas/Robin Savage to adjourn the meeting.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

The Regular School Board Meeting of the Greensburg Salem School District Board of Education held on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, beginning at 7:37 P.M. at the Middle School in Room 003 was adjourned at 8:54 P.M.

ATTEST:

Joan Wehner, School Board Secretary