

**GREENSBURG SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING May 20, 2020**

**PRESENT**

Mr. Brian Conway  
Mr. Frank Gazze  
Miss Lynn Jobe  
Mr. Ronald Mellinger, Jr.  
Mr. Jeff Metrosky  
Mr. Jon O'Brien  
Mrs. Robin Savage  
Mrs. Lynna Thomas  
Mr. Stephen D. Thomas

**ABSENT**

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

Dr. Gary Peiffer, Superintendent  
Mr. James Dzurica, Business Manager and School Board Secretary  
Mr. John Scales, Solicitor  
Mr. Lee Demosky, Solicitor

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Dr. Kenneth Bissell, Coordinator of Secondary Education and Instruction  
Mr. Michael Burrell, Athletic Director  
Mrs. Lisa Giacomo, Greensburg Salem Education Association Representative  
Mr. Adam Jones, Principal, Greensburg Salem Middle School  
Mr. Todd McMillen, Coordinator of Student Services  
Dr. Lenni Nedley, Coordinator of Elementary Education, Federal Programs and Instruction  
Mr. David Redinger, Associate Principal, Greensburg Salem Middle School  
Mrs. Lindsay Scarpo, Associate Principal, Amos K. Hutchinson Elementary School  
Mr. Matt Sofran, Greensburg Salem Education Association Representative  
Mrs. Kristin Williams, Greensburg Salem Education Association Representative  
Ms. Jessica Zahorchak, Greensburg Salem Education Association Representative

**NEWS MEDIA**

Mr. Jacob Tierney, *Greensburg Tribune Review* Newspaper Reporter

Approximately one hundred ninety-four (194) citizens of the community

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Ronald Mellinger, Jr., School Board President, called the ZOOM Meeting to Order at 7:35 P.M. Mr. James Dzurica called the Roll, which is indicated above.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

An Executive Session of the Board was held for legal and personnel matters beginning at 7:03 P.M. The Regular School Board Meeting of May 20, 2020 reconvened at 7:19 P.M.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

No student representatives were present.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Ms. Natalie Nicholas spoke about the importance of band and music. Ms. Sara Deegan spoke in favor of saving the librarian positions.

**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2020**

A motion was made by Metrosky/O'Brien to approve the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of April 8, 2020 as presented.

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

SEE ATTACHMENTS 1-7

**SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 27, 2020**

A motion was made by Gazze/L.Thomas to approve the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of April 27, 2020 as presented.

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

SEE ATTACHMENTS 8-9

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

A motion was made by Gazze/O'Brien to approve the following financial reports for April: Bank Reconciliation; Capital Projects Fund; Tax Report; Student Activity Funds; Year-to-Date Expenditure Function Totals – General Fund; Year-to-Date Revenue Function Totals – General Fund; Year-to-Date Expenditure Function Totals – Capital Project Fund; Year-to-Date Revenue Function Totals – Capital Project Fund; Year-to-Date Expenditure Function Totals – Cafeteria Fund; and Year-to-Date Revenue Function Totals – Cafeteria Fund.

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

SEE ATTACHMENTS 10-17

**DISBURSEMENTS MADE SINCE LAST MEETING/BILLS TO BE PAID**

A motion was made by Gazze/Conway to approve the following: Disbursements Made Since Last Meeting: General Fund - \$3,155,495.39; Disbursements Made Since Last Meeting: Cafeteria Fund - \$124,048.43; Disbursements Made Since Last Meeting: Capital Improvement Funds - \$44,355.61; and Bills to be Paid: General Fund - \$3378,316.00.

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

SEE ATTACHMENTS 18-81

**ADDITIONAL DISBURSEMENTS MADE/BILLS TO BE PAID SINCE LAST MEETING**

A motion was made by Gazze/O'Brien to approve the following: Additional Disbursements Made Since Last Meeting: General Fund - \$28,470.91.

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

SEE ATTACHMENTS 1-8

**ESEA TITLE I, II, AND VI**

Dr. Lenni Nedley shared that updated allocations will be available next month.

**BOARD REPORTS**

**Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center Board** – Mrs. Robin Savage shared that the Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center passed their 2020-2021 budget on May 19, 2020 with a slight increase due to a rise in fixed costs and COVID-19. Also, the search for a new Executive Director will continue

**Westmoreland Intermediate Unit** – No report at this time.

**Greensburg Salem Education Foundation** – Mrs. Lynna Thomas announced that the Distinguished Alumni Dinner is being postponed, the Golf Outing has been cancelled and the All Alumni Picnic is scheduled for October 3, 2020.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Buildings and Grounds** – Mr. Ronald Mellinger noted that the new roof project has begun. Next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, June 17, 2020.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

No report at this time.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

All appointments and additions to the substitute lists under the Personnel Report are pending receipt of governmental clearances, certification records, and physical and tuberculin test, where applicable.

**RETIREMENTS**

A motion was made by Conway/O'Brien to approve the following retirements: Carol Bishop, Kindergarten Teacher at Dr. Robert F. Nicely Elementary School and Roger Pechart, Technology Teacher at the Senior High School effective at the end of the day on June 3, 2020.

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

**RESIGNATION**

A motion was made by Savage/Conway to approve the resignation of Megan McIntyre, Head Girls' Tennis Coach, effective May 20, 2020.

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

**APPOINTMENTS**

A motion was made by Savage/L.Thomas to approve the appointment Alison Cox, Jaime Derbish and Lacey Weiner as Extended School Year Teachers effective for Summer 2020, salary set at the supplemental hourly rate as per the negotiated Agreement.

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

**APPOINTMENTS**

A motion was made by Metrosky/Gazze to approve the appointment of Marisa Edwards, Jessica Justicia and Georgeanne Trask as Extended School Year Classroom Instructional Assiants effective for Summer 2020, salary set at \$22.10 per hour as per Board policy, dependent upon the needs of the students in the virtual classroom environment.

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

**APPOINTMENT**

A motion was made by Conway/O'Brien to approve the appointment of Dan Anderson, Head Boys' Soccer Coach effective beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, salary set at the supplemental contract rate as per the negotiated Agreement ,contingent on 1) the receipt of an official announcement from the PIAA that identifies the authorized dates of the soccer season; 2) clearance from the

**APPOINTMENT (cont'd)**

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that school districts are permitted to hold practices during the summer and participate in games as per any social distancing directives provided to us by the CDC and the Department of Health of our Commonwealth; and 3) In the event the season is cancelled due to exigent circumstances the appointee shall agree to accept a prorated amount of compensation based on the ratio of games worked prior to the cancellation as compared to the total number of days comprising the season. It is specifically noted that the appointee is not an employee of the GSSD until the above entities, being the Commonwealth and the PIAA, WPIAL authorize the said sports program. Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

**ADVERTISE POSITIONS**

A motion was made by L.Thomas/Savage to advertise the following professional position: K-12 Guidance Counselor, effective for the 2020-2021 school year. Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

**ADVERTISE POSITIONS**

A motion was made by Metrosky/Savage to advertise the following supplemental contract position effective beginning with the 2020-2021 school year: Girls' Head Tennis Coach. Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

**PRELIMINARY GENERAL FUND BUDGET**

A motion was made by S.Thomas/Gazze to adopt the preliminary general fund budget for fiscal year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 with total expenditures of \$46,705,566.00 and total revenue of \$45,915,162.00 as submitted on PDE-2028 with millage remaining at 89.72 mils for the second year. Voting Aye: Conway, Gazze, Mellinger and S.Thomas. Voting Nay: Jobe, Metrosky, O'Brien, Savage and L.Thomas. Abstaining: No one. Absent: No one. Motion failed.

SEE ATTACHMENTS 9-34

**HIGHMARK HEALTH BENEFITS AND DENTAL RATES**

A motion was made by Savage/O'Brien to approve the Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield PPO Plan A, PPO Plan E, PPO Plan G and dental rates for the 2020-2021 school year as presented. Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.

SEE ATTACHMENT 90

**VISION, DISABILITY AND LIFE INSURANCE RATES**

A motion was made by Gazze/O'Brien to approve the vision, disability and life insurance rates for the 2020-2021 school year as presented.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative  
SEE ATTACHMENTS 90

**ITEM VII, B.5. DISTRICT DEPOSITORY WAS NOT PRESENTED FOR A VOTE.**

**DISTRICT TREASURER**

A motion was made by Gazze/Savage to appoint Mr. Paul Puleo, First National Bank as Treasurer for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

**PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP**

A motion was made Savage/Metrosky to table the motion to continue the District's membership to Pennsylvania School Boards' Association (PSBA) 2020-2021 All-Access Package at a total cost to the District of \$13,979.01.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.  
SEE ATTACHMENT 92

**PROPERTY TAX REFUND**

A motion was made by Gazze/L.Thomas granting approval to issue a refund for property taxes paid for Tax Map No. 57-12-00-0-078 in the amount of \$53,375.23 as per Court Order No. 5098 of 2018.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.  
SEE ATTACHMENTS 93-95

**PROPERTY TAX REFUND**

A motion was made by Savage/O'Brien granting approval to issue a refund for property taxes paid for Tax Map No. 57-13-00-0-1-014 in the amount of \$12,952.87 as per Court Order No. 5448 of 2018.

Section 508 vote: All nine Board Members present voted in the affirmative.  
SEE ATTACHMENTS 96-98

**INVESTMENT GRADE AUDIT**

A motion was made by Conway/O'Brien to extend invitations to Sitelogiq and Brewer-Garrett to perform an Investment Grade Audit of the Greensburg Salem

**INVESTMENT GRADE AUDIT (cont'd)**

School District, at no cost to the District, to determine the feasibility of a Guaranteed Energy Savings Project.

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

**RESCIND MOTION TO PURCHASE BAND UNIFORMS**

A motion was made by Conway/Metrosky to table the motion to rescind the March 11, 2020 motion to approve the expenditure of \$51,028.00 to Demoulin Brothers for the purchase of band uniforms due to the budget shortfall caused by the COVID-19 pandemic contingent upon confirmation that the Greensburg Salem School District has not expended any funds to date and has no contractual obligation to pay any funds in the future.

Voting Aye: Conway, Jobe, Mellinger, Metrosky, O'Brien, Savage, L.Thomas and S.Thomas.

Voting Nay: Gazze.

Absent: No one.

Abstaining: No one.

Motion passed.

**WORKER'S COMPENSATION COVERAGE**

A motion was made by Savage/Conway to table the motion to approve the District's Workers' Compensation coverage through Brickstreet (formally Highmark Casualty Insurance Company) for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost of \$130,765.00.

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

SEE ATTACHMENTS 35-46

**RESOLUTION TO INCUR INDEBTEDNESS**

A motion was made by approve the Resolution of the Board of School Directors of the Greensburg Salem School District to incur indeptedness for the purpose of replacement of the Senior High School roof.

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

SEE ATTACHMENTS 47-56

**STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT**

A motion was made by Gazze/O'Brien to approve the Stipulation of Settlement to be filed with the Westmoreland County Court of Common Pleas at Docket No. 6191 of 2019 (J.W. Consolidated Foundation) to have property included within the list of taxable properties in Westmoreland County. The property is known as 221-

**STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT (cont'd)**

227 South Main Street and is located in the City of Greensburg (identified at Westmoreland County Tax Map No. 10-04-03-2-027) and this action changes the assessed value from \$35,000.00 effective January 15, 2020 to \$1,008.00). (Purpose: to have the property listed as a property subject to taxation and to reflect the current applied fair market value of \$7,000.00 to formulate the applicable tax assessment for the parcel containing a dilapidated department store and to have the property considered for future tax assessment adjustments.

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

SEE ATTACHMENTS 57-64

**LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH WESTMORELAND CASEMANAGEMENT & SUPPORT, INC.**

A motion was made by L.Thomas/Savage to approve the Letter of Agreement between Westmoreland Casemanagement & Support, Inc. and Greensburg Salem School District to cooperate in the development and ongoing operation of the Student Assistance Program (SAP), effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 as presented.

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

SEE ATTACHMENTS 99-102

**AGREEMENT WITH MERAKEY GREENSBURG**

A motion was made by Shaw/L. Thomas granting approval to enter into an Agreement with Merakey Greensburg School to provide services to children with autism and/or emotional disturbance on an as needed basis effective beginning August 1, 2020 through and including July 31, 2020 as presented.

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

SEE ATTACHMENTS 103-115

**ADDITIONAL PSYCHOLOGICAL HOURS**

A motion was made by Savage/Gazze to table the motion to renew the Agreement with Charlotte Hicks for additional psychological hours for the 2020-2021 school year at \$400.00 per day, based on eight (8) hours, not to exceed ninety (90) days as presented.

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

SEE ATTACHMENTS 116-121



**ESSA TITLE I, TITLE IIA AND TITLE IV FUNDS**

A motion was made by L.Thomas/O'Brien granting approval for the proper officers of the District to apply to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for ESSA Title I, Title IIA and Title IV funds.

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

**LIST OF GRADUATING SENIORS**

A motion was made by Savage/O'Brien to approve the list of seniors who will be awarded diplomas provided they satisfy any remaining requirements and/or obligations as presented.

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

SEE ATTACHMENTS 122-132

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

A motion was made by S.Thomas/Gazze to approve the settlement for Student #3111727 et al vs. Greensburg Salem School District in which the District will contribute \$20,000.00 to the overall settlement. This settlement releases the school district of all claims filed in this matter in federal litigation and the underlying due process.

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

SEE ATTACHMENTS 133-142

**BUDGET WITH LIBRARIAN POSITIONS AND ELEMENTARY BAND POSITION INCLUDED**

A motion was made by S.Thomas/Gazze to approved the 2020-2021 budget with librarian positions and elementary band position included.

Voting Aye: Gazze, L.Thomas and S.Thomas.

Voting Nay: Conway, Jobe, Mellinger, Metrosky, O'Brien and Savage.

Absent: No One.

Abstaining: No One.

Motion failed.

**REINSTATE PURCHASE OF BAND UNIFORMS.**

A motion was made by Conway to reinstate the purchase of uniforms for the marching band with the District making the purchase and the Greensburg Salem Band Parents reimbursing the District at 50% of the cost. Motion withdrawn due to lack of a second.

**BIDS FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

A motion was made by Savage/Conway to seek competitive bids including advertising costs for Workers' Compensation Insurance for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

**Superintendent Dr. Gary Peiffer announced that the Board Discussion Meeting for June will be held as a ZOOM Meeting on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. The Regular School Board Meeting for June will be held as a ZOOM Meeting on Monday, June 29, 2020 at 7:30 P.M.**

**The Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. in the Administration Conference Room.**

Mr. Mellinger asked if anyone in the audience had questions. Ms. Laura Nepple and Ms. Autumn Jevicky expressed support for keeping the libraries and librarians. Mr. Tom McGuire, President of the Band Parents' Association addressed the band uniform issue.

**RECESS MEETING**

A motion was made by Savage/O'Brien to recess the meeting and reconvene as a ZOOM Meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 7:30 P.M. .

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, May 20, 2020, beginning at 7:35 P.M. as a ZOOM Meeting was recessed at 9:35 P.M.

ATTEST:

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James R. Dzurica, School Board Secretary