

**Official Proceedings of the GOVERNOR MIFFLIN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Monday, June 5, 2023 - Education Center**

**Board Members in Attendance** - Mrs. Elizabeth Adams, Mrs. Caryn Friedlander, Mr. Jeffrey Haggerty, Mrs. Dawn Palange, Mr. Andrew Pannafino, Dr. Lisa Peterson, Dr. Michele Roby, Mr. James Ulrich, Mrs. Christina Worley - 9. Absent - 0.

**Administrators in Attendance** - Mr. William McKay, Superintendent; Dr. Lisa Hess, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Diane Richards, Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Stephanie Seifrit, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Chris Killinger, Director of Teaching & Learning; Mrs. Kelly Price, Controller; Mrs. Ashley Shannon-Huembes, Director of Communications & Community Relations; Mr. Tim Ziegler, Director of Operations; Mr. Pat Tulley, Athletic Director; Ms. Laura Gudikunst, Food Service Director; Mrs. Nicole Pagan, Principal, Brecknock Elementary; Ms. Carissa Harley, Associate Principal, Intermediate School; Mr. Thomas Miller, Associate Principal, High School. Being Appointed at this meeting: Dr. Mary Libby, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Brian Bell, Director of Student Services.

**Others in Attendance** - Ms. Sharon Patton, Board Recording Secretary; professional staff and citizens.

The Meeting was **Called to Order** at 7:00pm by Mr. James Ulrich, Board President, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call. Mr. Ulrich announced that the Board held an **Executive Session** prior to the meeting for receipt of the annual school safety & security report and discussion of personnel matters.

**Presentation**

A discussion was held around the upcoming Phase 3 of the secondary campus building project, which involves renovations and reconfiguration of learning spaces to the Middle School and High School buildings. Bids are expected to go out in late Fall/early Winter. Also discussed was the need for PP&L poles to be moved for the new GMACC building, with the Board needing to decide whether they preferred overhead wiring or underground wiring. The Board chose overhead wiring, as it would be less costly.

There were no **Citizens Requests** to address the Board.

## **BOARD BUSINESS**

The Board received its monthly update on the progress of the new GMACC construction project. Mr. Brian Shaffer, of SitelogIQ, shared current photos of the processes and noted the listing of change orders brought to the Board for approval/ratification.

Motion by Friedlander and second by Palange to move this month's Voting meeting from June 19th to June 26th, in recognition of the Juneteenth federal holiday.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## **PERSONNEL**

Dr. Lisa Hess presented the Board with her **proposal for a new Director of Safe Schools & School Culture**. This would be a full-time, 12-month Act 93 Administrative position and will appear as an action item on the June Voting agenda.

Motion by Friedlander and second by Roby to **Appoint Dr. Mary Libby as Assistant Superintendent**; four-year contract term is July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027; salary for 2023-2024 is \$143,000 (replacing Dr. Lisa Hess - position change), as presented

**MOTION CARRIED. (Pannafino abstained; Worley dissented)**

- Mr. Pannafino: "I am abstaining from my vote on Dr. Mary Libby as Assistant Superintendent due to a lack of adequate transparency in the recruiting and interviewing process as opposed to other administrative positions."
- Mrs. Worley: "I am uncomfortable making a governance decision affecting the district as I was excluded from the search process. The decision to hire our top administrators was placed in the hands of a few select board members and administrators. All other board members did not have the opportunity to review resumes or interview candidates. These were times when inclusivity really mattered and it did not happen. For this reason, I will vote no on the selection of the assistant superintendent."

Motion by Friedlander and second by Roby to **Appoint Mr. Brian Bell as Director of Student Services**; three-year contract term July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026; salary for 2023-2024 is \$130,000 (replacing David Argentati - retirement), as presented

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Motion by Friedlander and second by Roby to **Appoint Mrs. Nicole Pagan as Brecknock Elementary Principal**; effective July 1, 2023; Full-time 12-month Act 93 Administrative salary for 2023-2024 is \$106,584 (replacing Aaron Kopetsky - resignation)

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION**

Mr. Mike Kurtz, Social Studies Department Chair, shared background with the Board on the selection of a **new Genocide Studies Holocaust Textbook** to be used at the high school level.

Motion by Roby and second by Friedlander to Adopt the **Amplify Science K-8 Curriculum Resource**, effective for the start of the 2023-2024 school year, as presented at the May 15th Voting meeting

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **PROPERTY**

Motion by Peterson and second by Worley to Approve **GMSD stadium bleacher repairs**; repairs are needed on the structural steel of the stadium bleachers, per inspections by a structural engineer; repairs to be made to the structure per the provided approved engineer plan and associated testing; cost of \$105,000, to be paid from the Capital Reserve Fund, as presented

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Motion by Peterson and second by Worley to Approve the following **Buildings & Grounds Use Requests**

GM Wrestling Club

Elementary Wrestling Practices

HS Wrestling Room

Tuesdays, 6:00pm - 7:30pm; 6/13/23 - 9/26/23

No Charge

Fleishman Hillard

Gatorade Youth Football Camp

GM Multipurpose Field

6/25/23; 1:00pm - 6:00pm

Rental Fees Apply

GM Education Foundation

HS Final Tour & Events/Food Trucks

HS building and grounds

Saturday, 8/26/23; 8:00am - 5:00pm

No Charge

High School Key Club

Miller Keystone Blood Drive

HS Main Gym

10/18/23, 12/20/23, 2/14/24, 4/24/24

5:00am - 3:00pm

No Charge



C the Light Foundation

3v3 Youth Basketball Tournament & Alumni Game

GMACC Gym or GMIS Gym

11/04/23; 6:00am - 9:00pm

No Charge (pending exempt status confirmation)

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Prior to adjournment, the following Board members spoke:

- Mrs. Worley re-visited the topic of the free COVID test kits that were kept in each of the six nursing offices during the past school year and made available to anyone requesting one. She inquired as to how many test kits might still remain in each nurse's office and said she would like an answer.
- Mr. Ulrich noted that the Board is scheduled to adopt the final budget for 2023-2024 at the next Voting meeting and, with the date being moved from June 19th to June 26th, polled the Board as to how many could be in attendance on the 26th. Seven (7) Board members confirmed their ability to attend, which will be sufficient for voting.
- Dr. Peterson re-visited the concerns of both Mrs. Worley and Mr. Pannafino, who were of the opinion that the hiring process for the Assistant Superintendent position was not conducted properly. The ensuing discussion clarified that the process was, in fact, conducting according to appropriate laws, policies and procedures.
- Mr. Pannafino commented on the flurry of positive, celebratory year-end events, specifically noting that \$171,350 in scholarships was awarded at the Senior Awards event. This, he said, spoke very highly of our students' accomplishments.

Motion by Roby and second by Peterson to **Adjourn the Meeting** at 8:17pm



Sharon L. Patton  
Board Recording Secretary