

# GAYLORD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Special Board Meeting (Workshop)

Monday, July 10, 2023

12:00 PM

## MINUTES

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

**APPROVED**

### I. CALL TO ORDER

### II. BOARD MINUTES

It is recommended that the Board approve the June 12, 2023, Regular Board Meeting minutes, as presented.

Motion to approve the June 12, 2023, Regular Board Meeting minutes, as presented. This motion, made by Jeff Gorno and seconded by Katie Drzewiecki, Passed.

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

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

### III. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

#### A. Discussion of the Board of Education Ethics

Motion to adopt the Clark Hill Code of Ethics, as presented. This motion, made by Kari Visser-Robel and seconded by Sara Gapinski, Failed.

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

Yea: 1, Nay: 5, Absent: 1

Motion to adopt the Thrun Law Code of Ethics, as presented. This motion, made by Kari Visser-Robel and seconded by Rachel Davis, Failed.

Rachel Davis: Nay

Katie Drzewiecki: Nay

Sara Gapinski: Nay

Jeff Gorno: Nay

James Vanderveer: Absent

Kari Visser-Robel: Nay

Jeff Wieber: Nay

Yea: 0, Nay: 6, Absent: 1

- Jim Cracraft read Board policy/bylaws regarding the Board Code of Ethics.
- Rachel: Ethics are subjective; Read Michigan election law and state constitution (office of oath). Does not feel it is constitutional to include the Board Code of Ethics in the GCS policy/bylaws. School Board members are elected by the public and are accountable to the public. Questioned if Jim had signed a separate Code of Ethics. How does the Board work toward consensus/how is it measured? The documents are meant to censor and intimidate.
- Kari: Recommended to amend the policy/bylaws regarding Board ethics or simplify the Board of Ethics.
- Katie: The Board of Ethics is meant to be subjective.
- Sara: Recommended to simplify the Board of Ethics.
- Jeff Wieber will contact MASB (Brad Banasak) to discuss concerns and seek clarification if all Board members have to sign the document and if there are any ramifications.
- Jeff Gorno: Board member ethics are going to be different. Board members have discussions and may not always agree.
  1. Clark Hill Proposed Board of Education Ethics
  2. Thrun Law Firm Proposed Board of Education Ethics

#### B. GCS Summer Projects Update

- Jim provided updates on the GCS summer building projects.

#### C. GHS Softball Team

- The GCS softball team will be recognized at the August Regular Board meeting.

#### D. Professional Development

- Jim provided a PD update.

#### E. Special Board Meeting (Retreat)

Jay Bennett, MASB

Proposed Dates: Monday, January 22 or Monday, January 29.

- Board members need to agree on a date for the retreat so Jay Bennett can be scheduled.

#### F. Alpenfest - GCS Breakfast, July 14, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.

- The board was invited to participate in the Alpenfest breakfast sponsored by Gaylord Community Schools.

#### **IV. FINANCE**

##### **A.**

General Fund & Athletic Fund bills in the amount of \$3,124,589.39

Cafeteria Fund bills in the amount of \$123,353.96

Sinking Fund bills in the amount of \$554,334.32

Prior Period Adjustments in the amount of \$0.00

##### **B. Audit Timeline**

- Joe Hart provided an audit timeframe.

#### **V. PERSONNEL**

- No discussion.

##### **A. New Hires**

SME Special Education Teacher - Tammy Sehl

GHS Math Teacher - Kelsey Hubbard

Bus Driver - Ed Henry

Bus Driver - Doug Hempenstall

JV Girls' Basketball Head Coach - Jenna Backlund

Freshman Girls' Basketball Coach - Kevin Foster

##### **B. Resignations**

GHS Teacher - Robert Innis

##### **C. Retirement**

NOE Secretary - Amy Campbell

##### **D. Leave of Absence (20%) for the 2023-2024 School Year**

NOE Teacher - Sarah Abraham

#### **VI. STAFF REPORTS**

##### **A. 98B Report - Dennis Keck**

- GCS is required by law to update the public on student growth in February and at the end of the school year.

#### **VII. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **A. Food Service Milk Award Bids**

Prairie Farms and Cedar Crest

- Motion for the July 10, 2023, Regular Board meeting.

##### **B. Food Service Pizza Award Bids**

Little Caesars and Jet's Pizza

- Motion for the July 10, 2023, Regular Board meeting.

##### **C. NCMC Lease Agreement Amendment**

- Gaylord Community Schools and NCMC were able to compromise on the lease agreement.
  - NCMC will be charged for only the rooms that they utilize.
- Motion for the July 10, 2023, Regular Board meeting.

### VIII. OTHER

Sara

- Read a written letter to the Board members and the public (copy of letter attached to the minutes).
- Recommends making a motion to hold a Special Board meeting to discuss legal counsel as the best way to protect all students in today's quickly changing social climates.

Jeff Gorno:

- Would like to limit the Special Board meeting to only the use of GCS attorneys.

Rachel

- Applauds Sara for bringing up the topic.

Motion to hold a Special Board meeting to discuss with legal counsel (Andrew Richner, Clark Hill; David Kallman, Kallman Legal Group; and GCS attorneys) to discuss the best way to protect all students in today's quickly changing social climates. This motion, made by Sara Gapinski and seconded by Rachel Davis, Failed.

Rachel Davis: Yea

Katie Drzewiecki: Nay

Sara Gapinski: Yea

Jeff Gorno: Nay

James Vanderveer: Absent

Kari Visser-Robel: Yea

Jeff Wieber: Nay

Yea: 3, Nay: 3, Absent: 1

Motion to talk to Andrew Richner and David Kallman (if he agrees to participate) to discuss the best way to protect all students in today's quickly changing social climates. This motion, made by Sara Gapinski and seconded by Rachel Davis, Passed.

Rachel Davis: Yea

Katie Drzewiecki: Yea

Sara Gapinski: Yea

Jeff Gorno: Nay

James Vanderveer: Absent

Kari Visser-Robel: Yea

Jeff Wieber: Nay

Yea: 4, Nay: 2, Absent: 1

- Rachel:

- Did GCS get an update on the TNB vs Department of Health?
- Feels the email regarding the court decision violated OMA
- Recommends that GCS get an update from the attorney regarding TNB
- Email was not labeled " confidential".
- Personal aspect: should not have been included in the email, felt bullied by the comments.
- Feels TNB is relevant to the GCS case.

**IX. PUBLIC INPUT**

- Sue Moore
  - New hires and personnel, teachers do not feel respected
- Maureen Derenzy
  - Board code of ethics
- Jennifer Thompson
  - Board members' comments regarding:
    - Time frame of a meeting (length)
    - Lawsuit
    - Board of ethics vs students safe in GCS and hiring legal counsel
- Larry Corell
  - Robert rules
  - Public comment concerns
  - Agendas should be available to the public prior to the meeting
  - Book issue: Follett update
  - Sex Education Board: requesting dates, procedures and how to apply to be on the Board

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

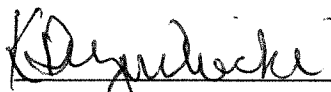
Motion to adjourn the Special Board meeting at 1:17 p.m. This motion, made by Katie Drzewiecki and seconded by Jeff Gorno, Passed.

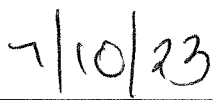
- Rachel Davis: Yea
- Katie Drzewiecki: Yea
- Sara Gapinski: Yea
- Jeff Gorno: Yea
- James Vanderveer: Absent
- Kari Visser-Robel: Yea
- Jeff Wieber: Yea

XI. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XII.

***Submitted by Cindy Huff for Katie Drzewiecki (Board Secretary)***

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Katie Drzewiecki, Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date