

School Board Business Meeting Highlights

April 17, 2023

*Great Valley School District,
Office of the School Board Secretary*



To view presentations and attachments, please view the [agenda](#) on BoardDocs.

During the April 17, 2023, Business Meeting

The April 17, 2023 business meeting was called to order by President David Barratt. Present: Tricia Chasinoff, Stephen Dittmann, Rachel Gallegos, Samantha Jouin, Wendy Litzke, and Neha Mehta. Absent: Jennifer Armstrong and Andrea Rizzo. Administrators present: Daniel Goffredo, Charles Peterson, Joanna Wexler, Stephen O'Toole, Andrea Dinsmore, Jennifer Blake, Edward Souders, and Heidi Capetola.

Presentations

Recognition

Shannon Maroney-Garrett, the President of Neighbors in Black and White, Inc., recognized nine Black History Poster contest students named first through third place winners. The elementary-level winners are Shivansh Ahuja (3) in third place, Ashwika Dash (3) in second place, and Aiden Scott (5) in first place. The middle school winners are Atharva Singh (8) in third place, Faridah Ismaila (7) in second place, and Emily Charsha (7) in first place. The high school winners are Evan Koup (11) in third place, Celine Cui (9) in second place, and Erika Crane (12) in first place. Shannon also recognized Jason Scholz, who researched and recommended a non-profit, Young, Black, & Lit for the Neighbors in Black and White, Inc. to partner with.

Mr. Whitelock, GVMS Student Council Advisor, recognized the Middle School Student Council, with the award of the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils Distinguished Keystone Council Award. The officers of the Student Council that accepted the award on behalf of the entire council are Anirudh Vankatesh (8), Atharva Singh, Austin Janofsky (8), Charan Vijay (7), Chathura Ramprasad (7), John Sullivan (7), Rohan Kundra (8), and Shaurya Mathur (7).

Mr. Search, Middle School Music Teacher, recognized the sixteen Great Valley Middle School students selected to represent the GVMS Schuylkill Valley Area Honors Band Festival. Those students are Tommy Ames (8), William Coetzee (7), Imani Cunningham (8), Fiona Davis (8), Zachary Evans (8), Hanna Giber (8), Aubrey Horton (8), Shrinikha Kalaivanan (7), Del Lighton (8), Saamya Mehta (8), Nicolas Opielski (8), Joshua Phillips (8), Alex Pianelli (8), Leala Schestok (8), Carter Sugzdinis (8), Devyn Werkeiser (8).

Dr. Capetola recognized Layne Cofield (11), Rosemarie White (12), and Song Min (11) as finalists in the Wharton Esherick Museum Printmaking Competition.

Dr. Goffredo recognized **Jennifer Blake** and **Corey McDonough**, who won three Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association (PenSPRA) awards. Those awards are for Excellence in Education Communications Contest for multiple awards. Excellence for Writing: Welcome from the Superintendent, Award of Excellence for Video: Building a New 5/6 Center Series, and two Awards of Honor for Video: Great Valley Minute and Welcome Back to the 2022-2023 School Year.



Presentations

(Continued)

Student Council Reports

Members of the student council from Kathryn D. Markley Elementary School and Great Valley Middle School reported on their buildings' events. Some events at K. D. Markley were making cards for veterans at the VA hospital in Coatesville. They held a spirit day and another mindful day to greet each student with music and cheers in the morning. At the Middle School, the students raised money to donate to Doctors Without Borders to help the communities affected by the Earthquake in Syria and Turkey. They also held a Spring Dance and a spirit week. In the coming weeks, 6th Grade Student Council elections will occur, and a movie night for the 6th Grade class.

Student Representative to the Board

Suhani Mathur, alternate student representative to the board, shared that the Desmond Student Achiever Banquet is scheduled for April 23. The spring play *Chicago* will take place April 27- 29, and the Boys' Track and Field team are the 2023 Ches-Mont Champions.

Mr. Barratt reported that the board met in Executive Session to discuss informational and personnel items.

Secretary's Correspondence

Mr. Barratt asked **Mr. Peterson** if there was any Secretary's Correspondence. There was none.

Chester County Intermediate Unit Report

Dr. Rizzo was absent, so there was no report.

Legislative Report

Ms. Litzke reported that during the March 22 Chester County School Board Legislative Council meeting, they discussed the governor's proposed budget, the democratic party has the majority in the house, the upcoming legislative breakfast, and the school board survey, in which the results should be shared soon.

Council for Diversity and Inclusion Report

Ms. Chasinoff shared that the administration continues to work with the Delaware Valley Consortium for Equity and Excellence (DVCEE) to finalize the report. Additional information was requested from the DVCEE to complete the report. Ms. Chasinoff also stated that High School students will present their reflections from the Delaware Valley Consortium of Excellence and Equity student forum. The next meeting is scheduled for April 26.

The Great Valley School District Education Foundation Report

Ms. Gallegos stated that on May 10, there is a Jazz Night, a business partner breakfast on May 12, and the Harlem Wizards event in March was a great success.

Communications Committee

Ms. Litzke shared that during the March 28 meeting, a preview of the website and the communication plan of the new website were shared. The communications plan of the 5/6 Center and the 7/8 program were also discussed.



Presentations

(Continued)

Policy Committee

Ms. Jouin shared that the policy committee met on April 13, and the policies discussed will be available at the May Board Meeting.

Superintendent's Update

Dr. Capetola, Ms. Lutz, and various High School students reported on the Delaware Valley Consortium of Excellence and Equity (DVCEE) Student Forum. The students shared their continued plans to communicate their findings from the DVCEE Student Forum with the High School staff, and the feedback from the staff after the students presented at faculty meetings was also shared.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

The following residents made public comments:

M. Baer – property taxes for senior citizens

Consent Agenda Items

The board voted 7 to 0 to approve the following Agenda Items.

Routine Approvals

Minutes of March 20 and March 27, 2023

Invoices

Treasurer's Report and Tax Collectors' Report

Financial Approvals

Educational Services Contracts with LearnWell to provide educational services for students 270384, 280178, and 240128. This is for 10 hours of education per week at a rate of \$51.00/hour.

LifeTouch Photography contract for the 2023-2024 school year.

Contract with IXL Learning to provide site licenses in Math, ELA, and Science for students grades Pre-K-12 for 3 years for a total of \$10,159.00

Authorization for a two-month health and RX insurance payment holiday, including an MOU, for the District and participating employees.

Annual renewal licenses for all of our Microsoft products for the 2023-2024 school year, at a total cost of \$71,520.

Authorization for the Superintendent and Director of Business Affairs to co-authorize change orders for the District Office construction project, up to \$20,000.00 per change item. Ratification of the authorization by the Board of School Directors will occur for each authorized change. The Board of Directors reserves the right to provide further limits or modifications to the authority provided during the course of the project.

Chester County Intermediate Unit Core and Occupational Budget resolutions for 2023-2024. The estimated cost to the Great Valley School District for the Core Budget is \$47,615, and the Occupational Budget is \$987,852. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 7 to 0.



Financial Approvals

Mr. Peterson reviewed the Preliminary Budget and Final Budget Notice, the 2023-2024 PDE 2028, and the Budget Presentation. During the Budget Presentation, **Mr. Peterson** shared the total expenditures, capital plan summary, preliminary budget, and the upcoming items to monitor.

Mrs. Armstrong made a motion, with a second by **Dr. Mehta**, to approve the preliminary budget resolution setting the preliminary budget with a real estate tax increase of 3% for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, where the Act 1 index allows up to a 4.1% increase. The millage rate would increase from 22.92 mills to 23.61 mills. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 7 to 0.

Personnel Approvals

The following personnel items were approved by a vote of 6 aye (Chasinoff, Dittmann, Gallegos, Jouin, Litzke, Mehta) to 1 nay (Barratt)

Termination

Support Staff

Robert Dutter, full-time custodian, Great Valley High School, effective March 27, 2023.

Resignations

Professional Staff

Michelle Leininger, Language Arts teacher, Great Valley Middle School, for the purpose of retirement, effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

Support Staff

Evelyn Thomas, part-time aide, General Wayne Elementary School, for the purpose of retirement, effective March 7, 2023.

Leaves

Professional Staff

Kelsey DeMarcantonio, Special Education Learning Support teacher, Great Valley High School, requests FMLA from approximately August 16, 2023 to November 10, 2023.

Support Staff

Ed Brown, Head Custodian, Charlestown Elementary School, requests intermittent FMLA from approximately March 31, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

Appointments

Professional Staff

Katy Oh, full-time professional employee English Language Development (ELD) Specialist, Great Valley Middle School/Great Valley High School, (new), effective approximately May 1, 2023 (or when released from current school district, pending completion of all administrative and legal requirements and contingent on satisfactory background checks).

Molly McKinney, full-time grant funded temporary professional employee Differentiated Literacy Support, General Wayne Elementary School/K. D. Markley Elementary School, (new), effective March 20, 2023, (pending completion of all administrative and legal requirements and contingent on satisfactory background checks).



Personnel Approvals

(Continued)

Appointments – Continued

Professional Staff

Jennifer Eckert, Extended School Year (ESY) teacher, Great Valley School District, effective approximately June 19, 2023.

Kelly Quinn, Extended School Year (ESY) teacher, Great Valley School District, effective approximately June 19, 2023, pending completion of all administrative and legal requirements and contingent on satisfactory background checks).

Sara Riemer, Extended School Year (ESY) teacher, Great Valley School District, effective approximately June 19, 2023, pending completion of all administrative and legal requirements and contingent on satisfactory background checks).

Olivia Robb, Extended School Year (ESY) teacher, Great Valley School District, effective approximately June 19, 2023, pending completion of all administrative and legal requirements and contingent on satisfactory background checks).

Aubrey Bucha, full-time one-year grant funded temporary professional employee Literacy and Math Support, K. D. Markley Elementary School, effective August 22, 2023.

Grace Bucha, full-time one-year grant funded temporary professional employee Literacy and Math Support, General Wayne Elementary School, effective August 22, 2023.

Elena Ciarrocchi, full-time one-year grant funded temporary professional employee Literacy and Math Support, Charlestown Elementary School, effective August 22, 2023.

Caroline Collins, full-time one-year grant funded temporary professional employee Literacy and Math Support, Sugartown Elementary School, effective August 22, 2023.

Brielle Dickson, full-time one-year grant funded temporary professional employee Literacy and Math Support, Great Valley Middle School, effective August 22, 2023.

Jennifer Fuentes, full-time one-year grant funded temporary professional employee Intervention Specialist, K. D. Markley Elementary School, effective August 22, 2023.

Lindsey Keys, full-time one-year grant funded temporary professional employee Literacy and Math Support, K. D. Markley Elementary School, effective August 22, 2023.

Molly McKinney, full-time one-year grant funded temporary professional employee Differentiated Literacy Support, K. D. Markley Elementary School/General Wayne Elementary School, effective August 22, 2023.

Kimmie Di Nhong, full-time one-year grant funded temporary professional employee Executive Functioning and Mentoring Support, Charlestown Elementary School, effective August 22, 2023.

Caitlin Vandevander, full-time one-year grant funded temporary professional employee Literacy and Math Support, Great Valley Middle School, effective August 22, 2023.

Alexandra Walters, full-time one-year grant funded temporary professional employee Literacy and Math Support, Sugartown Elementary School, effective August 22, 2023.

Extra Duty Responsibilities, 2022-2023 school year (F – Faculty, NF – Non-Faculty)

High School Coaching

Scott Gee, Fitness Monitor, (.33), F.

Taylor Barna, Softball, Assistant Girls' Coach, NF.

Middle School Coaching

Christopher Medaglia, Lacrosse, 8th Grade Boys' Coach, NF



Personnel Approvals

(Continued)

Appointments – Continued

Extra Duty Responsibilities, 2022-2023 school year (F – Faculty, NF – Non-Faculty)

Athletic Workers for 2022-2023 Great Valley High School/Great Valley Middle School

Scott Whiteside

Aly Crabtree

Brinton Myers

Marjorie Orlowski

Matt Weiner

Megan Ambrogi

Salary Adjustments

Part-time Staff for Additional Service

Juana Herman, (.7), Total Hours – 2.5 (3/21/23)

Post Season Play

Swimming, GVHS

Ashlyn Marabella, 3 days

Alex Venarchik, 3 days

Girls' Basketball, GVHS

Paul Girone, 4 days

Meghan Daney, 4 days

Todd Frederick, 4 days

Danny DeSanto, 4 days

Winter Track, GVHS

Nicole Jones, 7 days

Andrew Le, 12 days

AP Computer Science Principles (CSP) Training, per diem rate, mileage

Jessica Protesto

Homebound Instructors

Megan Druckenmiller

Emily O'Connor

Laura McDonald

Marjorie Orlowski

Aura Lester

CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) Training

Keith Johnson

**Personnel Approvals**

(Continued)

Summer Services

ESY (Extended School Year) Teachers, 8:00-2:30 p.m. for 24 days. Two additional days for preparation.

Elena Ciarrocchi

Taylor Geiser

Lauren Marabella

Maria Stamato, (Speech Therapist)

Roseanna Fabii, substitute

Jackie Furia, substitute

Molly McKinney, substitute

Staff Conference Requests

PA Association of Educational Office Professionals (PAEOP), Annual Spring Conference, Camp Hill, PA, Wednesday, April 19 – Friday, April 21, 2023.

Ann DiMedioi, Administrative Assistant, Great Valley Middle School

PA Music Education Association, Region and Band Festival, Pennridge High School, Perkasio, PA, Thursday, March 23 – Friday, March 24, 2023.

Katherine Dinuzio, Music teacher, Great Valley High School

Women's Caucus of PASA, Annual Conference, Hershey, PA, Sunday, May 21 – Tuesday, May 23, 2023.

Dr. Heidi Capetola, Principal, Great Valley High School

Dr. Karen Taratuski, Supervisor of Clinical Services, District Office

Dr. Joanna Wexler, Assistant Superintendent, District Office

Andrea Dinsmore, Director of Student Services, District Office

New Positions for 2023-2024

Multi-Lingual Family Liaison, (12-month Support Staff position)

Policy Approvals

The following policies were accepted by a vote of 7 to 0 for the 2nd Reading and adoption:

- 103.2 Nondiscrimination -- Qualified Students with Disabilities
- 201 Admission of Beginners & AG
- 206 Assignment Within District
- 223 Use of Bicycles and Motor Vehicles & AG
- 228 Student Government
- 236.1 Threat Assessment & AG
- 338 Professional Development Leaves & Sabbaticals for Restoration of Health & AG
- 815 Acceptable Use of Technology & AG, Attachment A, Attachment B
- 823 Naloxone
- 833 District Wide Safety Program & AG
- 913 Nonschool Organizations/Groups/Individuals



Facilities/Transportation/Food Service/Technology Approvals

The Board approved alternate #2 to replace the auditorium seating. The current seating must be removed to install the new acoustical clouds and to refinish the floor at a total cost of \$207,000. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 5 aye (Barratt, Chaisnoff, Dittmann, Gallegos, Litzke) to 2 nay (Jouin, Mehta).

The Board motioned to approve alternate #2 to replace the auditorium seating. The current seating must be removed to install the new acoustical clouds and to refinish the floor at a total cost of \$207,000. The motion failed by a roll call vote of 4 aye (Chaisnoff, Dittmann, Gallegos, Litzke) to 3 nay (Barratt, Jouin, Mehta).

The Board approved the purchase of a stage extension to the auditorium stage at a cost of \$109,000. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 7 to 0.

The Board approved the purchase of a stage extension to the auditorium stage at a cost of \$109,000. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 7 to 0.

The Board approved change order #1 to the contract with Balton Construction, Inc., the General Contractor for 100 Lindenwood, at a cost of \$2,729.79, to be paid with Bond Funds. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 7 to 0.

Dr. Goffredo gave a brief update on the 5/6 Center with photos of the construction project, and he also shared that the project is still ahead of schedule.

Public Comments

There were no public comments on other items.

Adjournment

Seeing no further comments or questions, the board voted 7 to 0 to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.