

GROVE CITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
GROVE CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Reorganization and Voting Meeting

December 7, 2020

A moment of silence was observed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, prior to the meeting being called to order by Atty. Evankovich at 7:01 p.m. via Zoom.

The following members were present:

Mrs. Heather Baker	Dr. Armando Sciullo
Mr. Lee McCracken	Mr. Douglas Gerwick
Dr. Constance Nichols	Ms. Patty Wilson
Mr. Ryan Thomas	Mr. Ray Abplanalp
Mr. Scott Somora	

Others present were: Atty. Evankovich, Dr. Finch, Dr. Weaver, Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Dennis and approximately 20 guests.

Atty. Evankovich asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. Mr. Gerwick made a motion to add to the agenda, before item number 13, a motion to create a COVID-19 Ad-hoc Committee that would be comprised of the chairpersons from the Personnel, Finance and Educational Services Committees for a duration of 12 months. Mrs. Baker seconded the motion to add this item to the agenda.

ADDITIONS/
DELETIONS TO
THE AGENDA

The motion carried; 6 ayes, 3 nays, with the voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	nay	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciullo	aye
Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Abplanalp	nay
Mrs. Baker	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mr. Somora	nay		

Atty. Evankovich announced that there were no public comments relative to the agenda.

PUBLIC
COMMENTS

A motion was made by Mr. McCracken and seconded by Dr. Nichols to open nominations for Temporary President to chair the meeting. The motion carried.

Atty. Evankovich asked for nominations. Mr. McCracken nominated Mr. Somora. There were no other nominations for Temporary President.

NOMINATION FOR
TEMPORARY
PRESIDENT

Atty. Evankovich asked for a motion to close nominations. A motion was made by Dr. Nichols and seconded by Ms. Wilson to close nominations. The motion carried.

Mr. Somora was named as Temporary President.

MR. SOMORA
ELECTED
TEMPORARY
PRESIDENT

Mr. Somora asked for a motion to open nominations for President of the Board.

A motion was made by Dr. Nichols and seconded by Ms. Wilson to open nominations. The motion carried.

Mr. Somora asked for nominations for President of the Board. Dr. Nichols nominated Mr. Gerwick. Mr. Somora nominated Mr. McCracken. There were no other nominations.

NOMINATOR FOR
PRESIDENT

Mr. Somora asked for a motion to close nominations. A motion was made by Dr. Nichols and seconded by Ms. Wilson to close nominations. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Somora and seconded by Mr. Abplanalp to elect Mr. McCracken as the President of the Board.

The motion failed on a poll vote; 3 ayes, 6 nays, with voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	aye	Dr. Nichols	nay
Mr. Thomas	nay	Dr. Sciullo	nay
Mr. Gerwick	nay	Mr. Abplanalp	aye
Mrs. Baker	nay	Ms. Wilson	nay
Mr. Somora	aye		

A motion was made by Dr. Nichols and seconded by Mrs. Baker to elect Mr. Gerwick as the President of the Board.

After Board discussion, Dr. Nichols made a motion to call to question. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion to call to question.

The motion to call to question carried; 7 ayes, 2 nays, with voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciullo	aye
Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Abplanalp	nay
Mrs. Baker	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mr. Somora	nay		

The motion to elect Mr. Gerwick as President of the Board carried on a poll vote; 6 ayes, 3 nays, with the voting as follows:

MR. GERWICK
ELECTED
PRESIDENT

Mr. McCracken	nay	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciullo	aye
Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Abplanalp	nay
Mrs. Baker	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mr. Somora	nay		

Mr. Gerwick asked for a motion to open nominations for Vice-President of the Board.

A motion was made by Dr. Nichols and seconded by Ms. Wilson to open nominations. The motion carried.

Mr. Gerwick asked for nominations for Vice-President of the Board. Dr. Nichols nominated Mr. Thomas. There were no other nominations.

NOMINATION FOR
VICE-PRESIDENT

Mr. Gerwick asked for a motion to close nominations. A motion was made by Mrs. Baker and seconded by Mr. McCracken to close nominations.

The motion carried; 8 ayes, 1 nay, with the voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciallo	aye
Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Abplanalp	nay
Mrs. Baker	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mr. Somora	aye		

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mr. McCracken to elect Mr. Thomas as Vice President of the Board.

MR. THOMAS
ELECTED VICE
PRESIDENT

The motion carried; 9 ayes, 0 nays, with the voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciallo	aye
Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Abplanalp	aye
Mrs. Baker	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mr. Somora	aye		

Mr. Abplanalp left the meeting at approximately 7:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Baker and seconded by Dr. Nichols to create a COVID-19 Ad-hoc Committee that would be comprised of the chairpersons from the Personnel, Finance and Educational Services Committees for a duration of 12 months.

COVID-19 AD-HOC
COMMITTEE
APPROVED

The motion carried; 6 ayes, 2 nays, with the voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	nay	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciallo	aye
Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Somora	nay
Mrs. Baker	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye

Mr. Gerwick appointed Ms. Wilson as the Representative to the Mercer County Career Center and announced that the appointments of Alternate to the Mercer County Career Center, Legislative Chairperson, PSBA Representative, and Committee Chairs will be done in January after Board members have had the opportunity to express their interest in these positions.

BOARD
APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Somora left the meeting at approximately 7:35 p.m.

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mrs. Baker to set the School Board Voting Meetings to be at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates:

MEETING DATES
& TIMES SET

January 18, 2021	February 8, 2021	March 8, 2021
April 12, 2021	May 10, 2021	June 14, 2021
July – TBD	August 9, 2021	September 13, 2021
October 11, 2021	November 8, 2021	December 6, 2021 (Reorganization and Voting Meeting)

The motion carried; 7 ayes, 0 nays, with the voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciullo	aye
Mr. Gerwick	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Baker	aye		

A motion was made by Dr. Nichols and seconded by Ms. Wilson to set the Work Session Meetings to be at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates:

January 11, 2021	February 1, 2021	March 1, 2021
April 7, 2021 (Wed.)	May 3, 2021	June 7, 2021
July – TBD	August 2, 2021	September 8, 2021 (Wed.)
October 4, 2021	November 1, 2021	

The motion carried; 7 ayes, 0 nays, with the voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciullo	aye
Mr. Gerwick	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Baker	aye		

Mr. Gerwick asked for the approval of the minutes from the November 9, 2020 Voting Meeting.

VOTING MEETING
MINUTES
APPROVED

A motion was made by Mrs. Baker and seconded by Dr. Nichols to approve the minutes.

The motion carried; 7 ayes, 0 nays, with the voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciullo	aye
Mr. Gerwick	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Baker	aye		

The Board discussed the draft of the 2021-22 School District Calendar which was included in the packet.

2020-21 SCHOOL
DISTRICT
CALENDAR

Superintendent's Report:

- Dr. Finch gave a public update on the status of returning to in class instruction and winter sports.

SUPER-
INTENDENT'S
REPORT

An executive session was held on Wednesday December 2, 2020 regarding student and staff COVID-19 safety issues and a personnel matter related to a potential employee resignation.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve the financial statement for November 2020.

FINANCIAL
STATEMENT
APPROVED

The motion carried; 7 ayes, 0 nays, with the voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciullo	aye
Mr. Gerwick	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Baker	aye		

A motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Dr. Nichols to approve the List of Bills Payable for December 2020.

LIST OF BILLS
PAYABLE
APPROVED

The motion carried; 7 ayes, 0 nays, with the voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciullo	aye
Mr. Gerwick*	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Baker	aye		

*Mr. Gerwick voted with exception to any payments to George Junior Republic

A motion was made by Dr. Nichols and seconded by Mr. Thomas to give permission to pay November's monthly recurring bills, normally paid in December.

PERMISSION TO
PAY NOVEMBER
MONTHLY
RECURRING BILLS

The motion carried; 7 ayes, 0 nays, with the voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciullo	aye
Mr. Gerwick*	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Baker	aye		

*Mr. Gerwick voted with exception to any payments to George Junior Republic

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mrs. Baker to approve the Budget Transfers for December 2020.

BUDGET
TRANSFERS
APPROVED

The motion carried; 7 ayes, 0 nays, with the voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciullo	aye
Mr. Gerwick	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Baker	aye		

A motion was made by Mrs. Baker and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve the MOU for Translation Services with Allegheny Intermediate Unit.

MOU FOR
TRANSLATION
SERVICES
APPROVED

The motion carried; 7 ayes, 0 nays, with the voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciullo	aye
Mr. Gerwick	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Baker	aye		

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Dr. Nichols to approve the joint purchasing agreement with Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV. Contingent upon review and approval of the district solicitor.

IU4 JOINT
PURCHASING
AGREEMENT
APPROVED

The motion carried; 7 ayes, 0 nays, with the voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciullo	aye
Mr. Gerwick	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Baker	aye		

A motion was made by Dr. Nichols and seconded by Mr. McCracken to approve the tax resolution which states the District will not increase taxes above the Act I Adjusted Index for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

2021-22 TAX
RESOLUTION
APPROVED

The motion carried; 7 ayes, 0 nays, with the voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciuillo	aye
Mr. Gerwick	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Baker	aye		

A motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Ms. Wilson to approve the renewal of the Pitney Bowes agreement for leasing the postage meter at a reduced quarterly rate of \$509.58 down from \$525.00.

PITNEY BOWES
AGREEMENT
APPROVED

The motion carried; 7 ayes, 0 nays, with the voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciuillo	aye
Mr. Gerwick	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Baker	aye		

A motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Ms. Wilson to approve the final reading of the following policies:

- 113.1 – Discipline of Students with Disabilities (recommended updates from PSBA)
- 113.2 – Behavior Support (recommended updates from PSBA)
- 113.4 – Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information (recommended updates from PSBA)

FINAL READING
OF POLICIES 113.1,
113.2 AND 113.4
APPROVED

The motion carried; 7 ayes, 0 nays, with the voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciuillo	aye
Mr. Gerwick	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Baker	aye		

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mrs. Baker to approve the GCASD Resolution to comply with the updated orders of the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

GCASD HEALTH
RESOLUTION
APPROVED

The motion carried; 7 ayes, 0 nays, with the voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciuillo	aye
Mr. Gerwick	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Baker	aye		

The Board discussed the annual review of Policy 345 – School Police – Use of Force and Weapons.

REVIEW OF
POLICY 345

A motion was made by Dr. Nichols and seconded by Ms. Wilson to approve hiring additions to the substitute list, subject to the receipt and approval of clearances and District required paperwork:

ADDITIONAL
SUBSTITUTE
APPROVED

- Anna Williams – Pre-Graduate 20 days and aide

The motion carried; 7 ayes, 0 nays, with the voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciullo	aye
Mr. Gerwick	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Baker	aye		

A motion was made by Dr. Nichols and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve hiring the following supplemental positions:

ADDITIONAL
SUPPLEMENTAL
POSITIONS
APPROVED

- Jared Henshaw – Building Level Tech Support - \$1,800
- Rob Haggart – Building Level Tech Support - \$1,800
- Corrie Timko – Building Level Tech Support - \$1,800
- Katie Stewart – Building Level Tech Support - \$1,800
- DJ Puskar – Building Level Tech Support - \$1,800
- Dwayne Lettie – Building Level Tech Support - \$1,800

The motion carried; 7 ayes, 0 nays, with the voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciullo	aye
Mr. Gerwick	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Baker	aye		

A motion was made by Mrs. Baker and seconded by Ms. Wilson to approve the acceptance of the following resignations as well as any necessary documentation as to terms and conditions to finalize the employee’s separation from District employment:

RESIGNATIONS
ACCEPTED

- Rae Lin Howard – High School Principal – effective December 18, 2020
- Courtney Essa – Guidance Counselor – effective December 31, 2020

The motion carried; 7 ayes, 0 nays, with the voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciullo	aye
Mr. Gerwick	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Baker	aye		

A motion was made by Mr. McCracken and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve Dr. Brendan Smith as Interim High School Principal, effective December 21, 2020 through June 30, 2021 at a prorated salary of \$113,500.00.

B. SMITH
APPROVED AS
INTERIM HIGH
SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL

The motion carried; 7 ayes, 0 nays, with the voting as follows:

Mr. McCracken	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Sciallo	aye
Mr. Gerwick	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Baker	aye		

The Board recognized the retirement of the following:

RETIREMENT
ACCEPTED

- Nels Mattson – Custodian – effective June 30, 2021

Dr. Nichols – Subject of Commentary

MOMENT FOR
MISSIONS

- Thanked the teachers for their hard work in keeping things as normal as possible for the kids and thanked families for their support and effort to keep kids learning

Future scheduled business meetings:

- Work Session – January 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
- Voting Meeting – January 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Buchanan
Board Secretary

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