

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

Regular Voting Meeting

September 9, 2024

A moment of silence was observed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, prior to the meeting being called to order by the President, Mr. Douglas Gerwick, at 7:16 p.m. in the board room. Board members and the public participated either in person or remotely.

The following members were present:

Mr. Douglas Gerwick	Mr. August Hurst
Mr. Ryan Thomas	Dr. Constance Nichols
Mr. Randy Arnold	Dr. Jeffrey Tedford
Dr. Erik Bardy	Ms. Patty Wilson
Mrs. Karen Hazy Bishop	

Others present were: Atty. Evankovich, Dr. Finch (remotely), Dr. Weaver, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Winger, Mr. Breitenbach (remotely), 2 guests in person and no guests remotely.

An Executive Session was held at 6:30 pm prior to the voting meeting in regard to the superintendent and assistant superintendent evaluations and a student discipline matter.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

There were no Board recognitions.

BOARD
RECOGNITIONS

There were no public comments

PUBLIC
COMMENTS

A motion was made by Mr. Gerwick and seconded by Dr. Nichols to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2024 Board Voting Meeting and the September 4, 2024 Work Session Meeting.

VOTING MEETING/
WORK SESSION
MEETING
MINUTES
APPROVED

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

Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

President's Report:

- There was nothing to report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent's Report:

- Dr. Finch updated the Board concerning efforts being made to change a Pine Township Zoning Ordinance in an effort to allow Wesley Family Services to build a facility to offer specialized student services in Mercer County.
- Dr. Weaver announced the new District's website should be ready to launch September 10, 2024.
- Dr. Weaver announced the latest newsletter should be published within the next few days.
- Dr. Weaver stated the fundraising event for the new Fitness Center is going very well.

SUPER-INTENDENT'S REPORT

Solicitor's Report:

- There was nothing to report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

MCCC and MIU4 Report:

- Ms. Wilson spoke about student enrollment and programs at the Mercer County Career Center.

MCCC & MIU4 REPORT

A motion was made by Dr. Tedford and seconded by Mr. Hurst to approve the Financial Statement for August 2024.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT APPROVED

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

Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

A motion was made by Dr. Tedford and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve the Bills Payable for September 2024.

LIST OF BILLS PAYABLE APPROVED

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

*Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

*Mr. Gerwick voted with exception to the payment to Blackhawk Neff due to son's employment at Blackhawk Neff.

A motion was made by Dr. Tedford and seconded by Ms. Wilson to re-appoint Mark C. Turnley, CPA, as the district auditor for the 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years.

DISTRICT
AUDITOR
APPROVED

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

Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

A motion was made by Dr. Tedford and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve the Interim HealthCare of Pittsburgh, Inc. agreement from August 2024 through August 2025 (contingent upon review and approval of the district solicitor).

INTERIM
HEALTHCARE OF
PITTSBURGH, INC
AGREEMENT
APPROVED

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

Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

A motion was made by Dr. Tedford and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve the 2024-25 Hope Academy Full-time Special Education Placement Agreement.

2024-25
HOPE ACADEMY
AGREEMENT
APPROVED

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

Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

A motion was made by Dr. Tedford and seconded by Mr. Hurst to approve rescinding the authorization of the 2025 Real Estate Tax Assessment Appeals Program that was approved at the August 12, 2024 School Board Voting Meeting.

2025
REAL ESTATE TAX
ASSESSMENT
APPEALS
PROGRAM
RESCINDED

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

Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

A motion was made by Dr. Tedford and seconded by Dr. Nichols to authorize the Administration to work with PFM Financial Advisors LLC, as Independent Financial Advisor, Dinsmore & Shohl LLP, as Bond Counsel, and the Solicitor to proceed with the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2024 in the approximate amount of \$9,995,000, via a competitive internet auction, the proceeds of which will be used towards funding the High School project.

GENERAL
OBLIGATION
BONDS,
SERIES 2024
APPROVED

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

Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

A motion was made by Mr. Arnold and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve the following student travel request:

- Cross Country students and 2 chaperones to travel to Hershey, PA for the Foundation Race on September 20-21, 2024 at a district cost of \$649.34

STUDENT TRAVEL
REQUEST
APPROVED

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

Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

A motion was made by Mr. Arnold and seconded by Dr. Nichols to approve closing the following inactive student activity accounts and transfer the remaining funds totaling \$1,877.51 to the high school student council activity account:

- GJR Life Skills
- GJR Food Service
- Hillview Student Council
- Hillview Art Club
- Maker Club

CLOSING OF
INACTIVE
STUDENT
ACTIVITY
ACCOUNTS
APPROVED

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

Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

A motion was made by Dr. Nichols and seconded by Mr. Hurst to approve the following staff conference requests:

STAFF
CONFERENCE
REQUESTS
APPROVED

- Beth Harris – PASBO Course – The PA School Funding Model: Local and State Revenues online – October 21 – November 17, 2024 at a district cost of \$125.
- Dr. Jeffrey Finch, Connie Nichols and Doug Gerwick – PASA-PSBA Annual Conference – October 6-8, 2024 at a district cost not to exceed \$4,500.
- Elsie Williams, Todd Yeager, Abigail Gorczyca and Jackie Adams – Safety Care Training at Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV – September 24-25, 2024 at a district cost of \$175/person.
- Amber Fitch – The 3 R’s of School Social Work: Roles, Responsibility and Reflection, PASSWP at the University of Pittsburgh – November 4, 2024 at a district cost of \$125
- Jennifer Blanker, Rebecca Trinchese, Tiffany Thompson, Kevin Persch and Abigail Reddick – Safety Care Training at Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV – September 12, 2024 at a district cost of \$105/person.
- Susyn Klingler, Rebecca Mertz, Robin Hanna and Tina Deliere – Safety Care Training at Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV – October 17, 2024 at a district cost of \$105 /person.

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

*Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	*Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

*Mr. Gerwick and Dr. Nichols voted with exception to the PASA-PSBA Annual Conference item due to being the requestees.

A motion was made by Mr. Hurst and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve hiring the following: subject to the receipt and approval of clearances and District required paperwork.

J. GUINEY
M. ANDERSON
M. DOANE
J. WHEELER
HIRED

- Jessica Guiney – Hillview Part-time Aide (Dept. B-II – Step 1 – Year 1) at \$14.31 per hour, plus .94¢ advanced education rate – retroactive to August 20, 2024.
- Molly Anderson – Part-time Cafeteria Worker – at an hourly rate of \$13.00 (Dept. C-II) – effective date September 10, 2024.
- Misty Doane - High School Full-time Aide (Dept B-II – Step 1 – Year 1) at \$14.31 per hour, plus .94¢ advanced education rate – effective date September 10, 2024
- Jennifer Wheeler - Hillview Full-time Custodian – at \$14.00 per hour – effective date September 16, 2024

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

Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

A motion was made by Mr. Hurst and seconded by Dr. Nichols to approve the change in status for the following:

- Todd Yeager – Part-time to Full-time Aide – Dept. B – II – Step 1 Year 1 plus .94¢ advanced education rate – retroactive to August 20, 2024.

CHANGE IN STATUS APPROVED

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

Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

A motion was made by Mr. Hurst and seconded by Ms. Wilson to approve the following additional substitutes: subject to the receipt and approval of clearances and District required paperwork.

- Kelly Finley – LPN
- Rebecca Graham – Emergency substitute
- Jason Updegraff – Emergency substitute
- Traci Swogger – Emergency substitute
- Jayna Palumbo – Emergency substitute
- Shelley Bowser – support

ADDITIONAL SUBSTITUTES APPROVED

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

Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

A motion was made by Mr. Hurst and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve the following:

The Board of School Directors have conducted the Assistant Superintendent’s evaluation and performance assessment using the Superintendent’s recommendation and the evaluation standards as set forth in the Assistant Superintendent’s contract. The Board of School Directors agree that the Assistant Superintendent has attained satisfactory performance. This information will be posted on the District’s website.

ASSISTANT SUPER-INTENDENT’S EVALUATION APPROVED

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

Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

A motion was made by Mr. Hurst and seconded by Dr. Nichols to approve the following:

The Board of School Directors have conducted the Superintendent’s evaluation and performance assessment using the evaluation standards as set forth in the Superintendent’s contract. The Board of School Directors agree that the Superintendent has attained satisfactory performance. This information will be posted on the District’s website.

SUPER-INTENDENT’S EVALUATION APPROVED

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

Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	nay	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

A motion was made by Mr. Hurst and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve the request from Tom Wise to rescind his sabbatical leave for the 1st and 2nd semesters of 2025.

RESCINDED SABBATICAL LEAVE REQUEST APPROVED

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

Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

A motion was made by Mr. Hurst and seconded by Dr. Nichols to approve the following District Employees that are eligible to provide transportation support in District owned vehicles, conditional on the completion and approval of required paperwork and driver’s license verification:

DISTRICT EMPLOYEES TRANS. SUPPORT APPROVED

- Emily Minter
- Ella Schepp
- Laurie Lewis
- Karyn Senita
- Lisa Ebel
- Beth Scullo

- Tiffany Thompson
- Rozalyn Bonanni
- Robin Hanna
- Brian Buchan
- Ann Lansheak
- Greg Mulato
- Ron Yoder
- Annette Eccles

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

Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

A motion was made by Mr. Hurst and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve the additional 2024 Fall Coaches – subject to the receipt and approval of clearances and District required paperwork:

- Jeff Burkhardt – Football 7-8 Assistant Coach – ½ pay - \$2,254.90
- Joey Kosick – Football 9-12 Assistant Coach ½ pay - \$3,214.00

2024
ADDITIONAL
FALL COACHES
APPROVED

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

Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

A motion was made by Mr. Hurst and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve the following resignations/retirement as well as any necessary documentation as to terms and conditions to finalize the employees' separation from the District employment.

- Shelley Bowser – Full-time Hillview Aide – retirement effective May 30, 2024
- Rhonda Sankey – Full-time High School Aide – resignation effective August 19, 2024
- Shannon Merriman – Part-time Cafeteria Worker – resignation effective August 9, 2024
- Adam Jury – High School Physical Education Teacher – resignation effective August 20, 2024
- Caleen Bell – Part-time Cafeteria Worker – resignation effective August 27, 2024

DISTRICT
RESIGNATIONS/
RETIREMENT
APPROVED

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

Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

A motion was made by Mr. Gerwick and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve the first reading of the following policy:

- 339 – Uncompensated Leave (recommended updates from PSBA)

POLICY 339
FIRST READING
APPROVED

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

Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

A motion was made by Mr. Gerwick and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve the final reading of the following policy:

- 801 – Public Records (recommended updates from PSBA)

POLICY 801
FINAL READING
APPROVED

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

Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

A motion was made by Mr. Gerwick and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve the unopposed slate of PSBA Candidates for 2025 as presented on their website and direct the board secretary to cast the vote on behalf of the Board.

2025
PSBA
CANDIDATES
APPROVED

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

Mr. Gerwick	aye	Mr. Hurst	aye
Mr. Thomas	aye	Dr. Nichols	aye
Mr. Arnold	aye	Dr. Tedford	aye
Dr. Bardy	aye	Ms. Wilson	aye
Mrs. Hazy Bishop	aye		

Ms. Wilson – Subject of Commentary

- Discussed the success of this year’s United Way “Stuff the Bus” event and would like to encourage more Board members to get involved in the future.

Dr. Nichols – Subject of Commentary

- Congratulated the Boys Cross Country team on their win against North Allegheny and the successful season so far this year.

Mrs. Hazy Bishop – Subject of Commentary

- Commended the Administration, School Board members and High School staff for the decision to incorporate the block scheduling platform and the opportunities it is affording our students.

Mr. Hurst – Subject of Commentary

- Commended the Administration on the work that was accomplished over the summer to make the first few weeks of the new school year run as effectively as possible.

Future scheduled business meetings:

- Educational Services and Personnel Committee Meetings – Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 8:15 a.m.
- Work Session Meeting – Monday, October 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
- Board Voting Meeting – Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth Harris
Board Secretary

djw