

GREAT MEADOWS REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF Tuesday, November 28, 2017

The regular meeting of the Great Meadows Regional Board of Education was held on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at the Great Meadows Middle School Media Center, Independence Township. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Ed O'Melia, President. A statement was read that adequate notice of the meeting had been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Jamie Cicerelle, Susan Cullen, Dawn Frost, Joe Mailloux, Dave Schmitz, William Vonder Haar and Ed O'Melia.

Absent: Lori Prymak and Agatha Wilke (arrived @ 7:03).

David C. Mango, Superintendent, Timothy Havlusch School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Debbi Grigoletti Director of Curriculum, Israel Marmolejos Principal of GMMS, and Kathy Gesurmaria Shared Director of Special Services were also present.

There was also approximately 40 member of the public in attendance.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence reported.

Minutes

Motion by Ed O'Melia seconded by Dave Schmitz to approve the minutes from October 17th, 2017, as amended. (Regular & Executive Session)

Motion carried in a voice vote with Ed O'Melia abstaining.

Motion by Ed O'Melia seconded by Susan Cullen to approve the minutes from November 21st, 2017, as amended. (Special Meeting)

Motion carried in a voice vote.

Committee Reports

The HR Committee reported meeting and discussing the Shared Security Director job description that was on tonight's agenda.

The Operations Committee reported meeting and was questioned as to specific topics of discussion during their meeting.

The Education Committee was questioned as to specific topics of discussion during their meeting as well.

The Governance Committee discussed Policy #2340 and was questions about the upcoming approval of the MOA between local school districts and law enforcement.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent provided the Board and public with an update on various topics:

- ✓ Presentations were made for the Student of the Month for Central, Liberty and Middle School for the month of November 2017.
- ✓ Kathy Gesumaria gave a presentation on the Twilight Program currently running at Hackettstown High School and it benefits to students within the district.
- ✓ The public was given an update on the designation of School Safety Specialist, as required by the Department of Education as it relates to current staff within Great Meadows and Hackettstown.

This concluded the Superintendent's report.

Public Comment – Agenda Items Only

No comments at this time

Close of Public Comment

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SECTION A

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion by Ed O'Melia second by Susan Cullen, to approve the following **OPERATIONS** items A-1 through A-14.

There was an explanation provided on item A-5 as it relates to districts ability to transfer funds from the Bilingual Program in the budget due to staff changes made after the 2017-18 budget was finalized. There was also an explanation provide on the proposed change in the providing of the same Health Benefits to employees by transferring out the NJSEHB plan and dealing with Horizon BC/BS directly. Clarification was also provided that as of today an issue of building use for space at Liberty School had been worked out to the satisfaction of Independence Recreation. Clarification was also provided on the 14% increase to AIL payments mandated by the Department of Education after the 2017-18 Budget had been finalized and approved by the Department of Education.

Motion carried in a roll call vote with William Vonder Haar abstaining from Check(s) #51775 and #51816 on item A-1 and voting nay to item A-5.

- A-1 Approval of Check Register(s) – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approve the bill list from October 18, 2017 through November 20, 2017 in the amount of \$1,970,840.69 (Check #'s 51752-51885) **ATTACHMENTS A-1**
- A-2 Approval of Check Register (Cafeteria Account) – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approve the bill list from October 1, 2017 through October 31, 2017 in the amount of \$21,207.66 (Check # 22522) **ATTACHMENT A-2.**
- A-3 Approval of Financial Reports – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator approve the Secretary and Treasurer Reports (**BSR & TSM**) for the month September 2017. **ATTACHMENT(s) A-3**
- A-4 Acceptance of Financial Reports Certification – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, accept the certification of the Board Secretary, and certify: in compliance with NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c), that to the best of our knowledge as of September 30, 2017 no major account or fund has been over-expended and that sufficient funds exist to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school years. **ATTACHMENT(s) A-3**
- A-5 Approval of Transfers -- BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator approve the transfers as of September 30, 2017 in the amount of \$59,925. **ATTACHMENT A-5**
- A-6 Approval of Fundraiser – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approve in accordance with Policy #5830 the following fundraising events at GMMS as attached: **ATTACHMENT A-6**
- A-7 Approval to approve annual submission of M-1 and CMP – BE I RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education approve the annual submission of the M-1 and the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan (CMP) for the school year 2017-2018 to the Warren County Office of Education. **ATTACHMENT A-7**
- A-8 Approval of Facility Use Report – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approve the attached facility use report for the period 12/1/2017 through 1/31/2018 subsequent to appropriate building level approval as needed. **ATTACHMENT A-8**
- A-9 Approval of Tuition Contract Agreement (Receiving), Special Education -- BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator approve the Special Education Tuition Contract Agreement(s) with Hackettstown School District for the purposes of receiving two (2) special education students into district run PSD program at Central at an annual tuition rate of \$14,000.00 and for the purposes of receiving one (1) special education student into district run LLD program at Central at an annual tuition rate of \$20,433 (plus extra services as required by I.E.P.) from the period of September 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

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- A-10 Approval of Aid in Lieu – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approve the attached aid-in-lieu of transportation payments to parent/guardian of Great Meadows Regional School District students in the amount of \$1,000.00 per student that are attending the following private schools during the 2017-2018 school year.

American Christian School	1
Blair Academy	2
The Craig School	1
Gill St. Bernard's School	2
Good Shepherd Christian Academy	1
Morris Catholic High School	3
Morristown-Beard School	1
Notre Dame Elementary	3
Pope John XXIII High School	22
Pope John Middle School	2
Rev. George Brown Memorial School	3
Saints Philip & James School	2
St. Therese School	3

that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approve aid-in-lieu of transportation payments to parent/guardian of Great Meadows Regional School District students in the amount of \$1,000.00 per student that are attending the following charter school during the 2017-2018 school year.

Ridge and Valley Charter School	6
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that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approve aid in lieu transportation payments to parent/guardian of Great Meadows Regional School District students in the amount of \$1,000.00 per student that are attending the following choice schools during the 2017-2018 school year.

Florence M. Burd School	2
Lenape Valley Regional	2

- A-11 Approval of Motion to Authorize Termination of Participation – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator authorize the Business Administrator to notify the NJ School Employee's Health Benefits Plan, that the Board of Education will terminate participation in said plan, effective January 31, 2018 at 11:59pm.
- A-12 Approval of Motion to Accept Proposal – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator approve and accept the proposal for Health and Prescription Drug Benefits from Horizon BlueCross BlueShield of New Jersey as Health and Prescription Drug Insurance Carrier, effective February 1, 2018.
- A-13 Approval of Termination of Participation under the State Health Benefits Program & School Employees' Health Benefits Program – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approve to terminate all participation under the State Health Benefits Program and School Employees' Health Benefits Program (including Prescription Drug Plan and/or Dental Plan coverage).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

1. The Great Meadows Regional School District of Warren County hereby resolves to terminate its participation in the program (Medical Plan, Prescription Drug Plan, and/or Dental Plan coverage) thereby canceling coverage provided by the State Health Benefits Program and/or School Employees' Health Benefits Program (N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.25 et seq.) for all of its active and retired employees.
2. We shall notify all active employees of the date of their termination of coverage under the program.
3. We understand that the Division of Pensions and Benefits will notify retired employees of the cancellation of their coverage.

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4. We understand that all COBRA participants will be notified by the Division of Pensions and Benefits and advised to contact our office concerning a possible alternative health, prescription drug, and dental insurance plan.
5. We understand that this resolution shall take effect the first of the month following a 60-day period beginning with the receipt of the resolution by the State Health Benefits Commission or School Employees' Health Benefits Commission

A-14 Approval of Disposal of Equipment -- BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator approve the disposal of the following equipment at the GMMS in accordance with Board Policy #7300:

- Obsolete & Non-Working Laptop & Component Cabinet(s) no longer in use
- Non-Working Laminator

SECTION B

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion by Ed O'Melia second by Agatha Wilke, to approve the following **HUMAN RESOURCES** items B-1 through B-5.

Clarification was provided on item B-4 as it relates to the mandated directives from the New Jersey Department of Education.

Motion carried in a roll call Susan Cullen voting nay to item B-4 and William Vonder Haar voting nay to item B-4.

- B-1 Acceptance of Resignations – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept resignations for the 2017-2018 school year, attached by reference.
- B-2 Approval of New Staff – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, appoint new staff, for the 2017-2018 school year attached by reference.
- B-3 Approval of School Security Specialist – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, appoint Michael Mai as School Security Specialist for the 2017-2018 school year.
- B-4 Approval of Job Description for Shared Director of Security – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the job description for a Shared Director of Security for the 2017-2018 school year, attached by reference.
- B-5 Approval of Substitute(s) - BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, **upon** the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve substitutes for the 2017-2018 school year, attached by reference.
- B-6 Approval of Substitute Bus Aide - BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Nathan Piserchia as a substitute bus aide as needed for the 2017-2018 school year.

SECTION C

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion by Ed O'Melia second by Susan Cullen, to approve the following **EDUCATIONAL/GOVERNANCE** items C-1 through C-3.

There were comments made on the matter of current Board Policies and how they align with the MOA with local law enforcement to be approved.

Motion carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

- C-1 Approval of 2017-2018 Field Trips - BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve field trips for the 2017-2018 school year, attached by reference.
- C-2 Approval of 2017-2018 Workshop Attendance - BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve workshop attendance for the 2017-2018 school year, attached by reference.

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C-3 Approval of Annual Memorandum of Agreement - BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, re-approve the 2015-2016 Annual Memorandum of Agreement between the District and the Independence Police Department.

Other Business

At this time the Board engaged in a lengthy and in depth discussion of the feasibility study presented last month by former Commissioner of Education David Hespe. Also discussed were the options raised in the report and the timeline going forward as it pertained to the report and possible outcomes arising from the report.

Motion Offered

A motion was put forth by William Vonder Haar and second by Susan Cullen, to approve the following item.

To put forth to the public a binding referendum on the topic of entering into a send receive agreement with the Hackettstown School District for the purposes of receiving any Hackettstown School District students into the Great Meadows Regional School District before any vote or action is taken by the Great Meadows Board of Education relating to the same topic.

Clarification was provided and there was some discussion to the motion on the floor. At which point there was a motion made to call the vote.

Motion did not carry with only Susan Cullen voting aye and William Vonder Haar voting aye.

After the defeated motion, there continued to be an open discussion on the subject. Specifically discussed were timelines and the need to continue to gather information on the subject at hand and all of its ramifications.

Hackettstown Report

HHS would be playing at Met Life Stadium for a State Championship in football this week. Also reported on was the that the makeup of the Executive Committee of the National Honor Society at HHS was entirely made up of GM students.

Independence Township Report

Nothing to report at this time.

Liberty Township Report

It was reported the Colonial Little League would be running Little League Baseball this spring for Liberty residents..

Public Comment/New Business

There various comments and questions from the public relating to the feasibility study and its potential impact as well as other potential issues and outcomes raised as a result of the study which has been made available to the public since November 22nd, 2018. This was a lengthy and in depth period of questions and comments relating to matters before the Board of Education.

Close of Public Comment

Motion for Executive Session

Motion was made by Ed O'Melia, seconded by Jamie Cicerelle to enter Executive Session for the purposes of HIB.

Motion carried in a unanimous voice vote.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 10:34 PM.

Motion Re-Open Public Session

Motion was made by Ed O'Melia, seconded by Dawn Frost to re-open the Public Session at 10:40 PM.

Motion carried in a unanimous voice vote.

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Motion was made by Ed O'Melia, seconded by Dawn Frost to approve the following.

MOTION to acknowledge receipt of Superintendent's H.I.B. Report: Acknowledge receipt of the Superintendent's H.I.B. Report as presented.

Motion carried in a unanimous voice vote.

SECTION A – (ADDENDUM)

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion by Ed O'Melia second by Dawn Frost, to approve the following **OPERATIONS** items A-15.

Motion carried in a voice vote with William Vonder Haar abstaining.

A-15 Approval of Revised Transportation Route for 2017-18 School Year - BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator approve the following revision to following bus route based on the increase/decrease provision as stipulated in the original bid/contract GMR2005 for the amount of less than 3 miles per day and only on the PM run.

GMR2005

M3 Middle School

\$ 1.85

Motion to Adjourn

Motion by Ed O'Melia, seconded by Dawn Frost, to adjourn at 10:42PM.

Motion carried in a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Havlusch