

**GREAT MEADOWS REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF TUESDAY JANUARY 28, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Great Meadows Regional Board of Education was held on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at the Great Meadows Middle School Media Center, Independence Township. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Douglas Smith-President. A statement was read that adequate notice of the meeting had been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Flag Salute was led by President Smith.

ROLL CALL:

Present:

Susan Cullen, Alison DeMarco, Daria Hill, Tim Koeller, Giles Stuber, Courtney Wenthon, Heather Wulf, Douglas Smith

Absent: William VonderHaar.

Administration / Other:

David C. Mango-Superintendent; Mr.Mark Toscano, Esq.-Comegno Law Group as Board Attorney, Debra Grigoletti-Director of Curriculum, Kevin O’Leary-Director of Special Services, Israel Mamolejos-Principal of GMMS and Michael Mai-Principal of GM Central.

Approximately 25 members of the public.

Correspondence None

Minutes

Discussion :

Draft minutes as originally posted were corrected. The corrected minutes have been posted on the website. Mrs. Moyer apologized for oversight with not having copies at the table for review.

December 19, 2019 minutes:

- An “aye” vote was not stated for Courtney Wenthon on Stipend Transportation Coordination although the vote tally was correct.

January 2, 2020 minutes:

- Nomination of Douglas Smith for president was corrected to reflect Daria Hill as the nominator.
- Statement of Courtney Wenthon “elected” as Vice President was originally stated as nominated.

Motion moved by Susan Cullen, seconded by Courtney Wenthon.

To approve the minutes, inclusive of executive session, as corrected for the December 28, 2019 meeting.

Roll Call: Susan Cullen- abstain; Alison DeMarco- abstain; Daria Hill- abstain; Tim Koeller-aye; Giles Stuber- abstain; Courtney Wenthon-aye; Heather Wulf- abstain and Douglas Smith- aye.

Summary: Ayes – 3; Nays -0; Abstentions -5.Motion Carried.

Motion moved by Susan Cullen, seconded by Courtney Wenthon.

To approve the minutes as corrected for the meeting January 2, 2020 Annual Organization.

Roll Call : Susan Cullen- aye ; Alison DeMarco- aye; Daria Hill- aye; Tim Koeller-aye; Giles Stuber- aye; Courtney Wenthon-aye; Heather Wulf- aye and Douglas Smith- aye.

Summary: Ayes – 8; Nays -0; Abstentions -0.Motion Carried.

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Committee Reports: The following members summarized their committee reports:

Governance - Susan Cullen

- Transportation policy is posted on line. One way traffic appears to be helping.
- Strategic plan scheduled for next year.
- Policy on Committee Template will be updated.

Education – Alison DeMarco

- Noted all new membership on this committee.
- Utilized the meeting to update current status, process & procedure.
- Focus needed on differentiated instruction.
- Goal to establish consortium teams; peer professional sharing opportunities, articulate with same level area programs.
- 3rd grade testing to be scheduled as late as possible due to transition of staff.
- Utilization of Rubicon and Google Docs for curriculum .

Human Resources - Courtney Wenthen

- Job descriptions up for final approval this evening.
- To be posted and staff review within ten days.
- Director of Security responsibilities will be transitioned 6/30/2020.
- State Aid effects on staffing.
- Shared services options reviewed.
- Request the operations and governance committee review effects options.
- Shared Services joint committee meeting with Hackettstown is on Feb 13th.
- Next HR committee meeting Feb 10th.

Operations Committee - Tim Koeller

- Transportation optimization study will look at one bell schedule for MS.
- Security gate will be installed at Liberty pending no objection from emergency or police.
- Long range projects to be considered in the budget proposed Central School roof (3 yr project) and boiler replacement utilizing funds from capital reserve.
- Next meeting set for February 10th.
- If placed in the budget the boiler would be a summer project with an absolute on line timeline 10/15/20.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Mango provided the Board and Public with an update on various topics:

- ✓ Students of Month: Short video presentation, administrative words of recognition and congratulations to: Gavin Edwards- Central School and Kayla Mezina - Middle School.
- ✓ Ethics Training was presented by NJSBA. A comprehensive power point presentation by Kathleen Helewa followed by brief question and answer opportunity.

Public Comment (Agenda Items)

- None

Close of Public Comment

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Action Items

Motion moved by Douglas Smith, seconded by Susan Cullen
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve
Section A-Operations items A-1 through A-17
Section B- Human Resources items B-1 through B-6
Section C –Education/Governance items C-1 through C-2
inclusive of all amendments and revisions.

Discussion:

- Representatives / Delegates: Susan Cullen volunteered for WCSBA & NJSBA representative and NJSBA Delegate; Courtney Wenthon volunteered for Delegate alternate and Daria Hill volunteered for MCEC representative.
- A-14 Review of carry over funds and maximums.
- Susan Cullen commented boiler and wastewater plant was budgeted in 2005 not completed.

President Smith highlighted the A-17 Rescheduling of Election is on the table for discussion:

- Susan Cullen indicated she attended the joint meeting of the townships and it is her opinion you should never take away the vote.

President Smith opened the floor to the public on this topic

- Dan Grover stated the public understands the blight of the school, but expressed concern that the rescheduling would lose the support of the townspeople.
- Jeff Cullen expressed his concern and stated it would leave a bad taste.
- Bonnie Kelsey expressed her concern the townships were not informed.
- Stacy Smith expressed her support of Board and their choice to reschedule.
- Kathy Ascolese stated should the budget vote take place in April and fail it takes a joint resolution
- Dan Grover indicated the townships are looking for more understanding, more involvement and he shares the position on never take away the vote.

At this time President Smith closed public comment. A-17 discussion continued.

- Tim Koeller expressed concern for the loss of state aid and supports the 2% growth.
- Mark Toscano reviewed the three options for setting the election date and reviewed the timelines for the decision and notification to Election Officials.
- Dan Grover stated the Board's 2% equated to 8% tax rate increase for Liberty.
- President Smith noted it is newly elected board. Brief discussion about possible second question process should state aid be drastically reduced once again.

Bill List Inquiry

- Daria Hill inquired concerning two families receiving AIL that had moved out of district. Mrs. Moyer indicated the two public schools had confirmed the change in address and the families moved out of our district. Mrs. Moyer briefly reviewed the timeline for the applications which starts in January for the next school year.

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Roll Call Vote

Susan Cullen-aye (except: nay on A-17; abstain on A-1 & C2) ; Alison DeMarco-aye (except: abstain on C2); Daria Hill-aye (except: abstain on C2); Tim Koeller-aye; Giles Stuber-aye (except: abstain on C2), Courtney Wenthen-aye (except: abstain on A6 & A17): Heather Wulf-aye (except: nay on A-17; abstain on C2) and Douglas Smith- aye.

Summary	A-1	Ayes 7; Nays 0; Abstain 1
	A-6	Ayes 7; Nays 0; Abstain 1
	A-17	Ayes 5; Nays 2; Abstain 1
	C-2	Ayes 3; Nays 0; Abstain 5

Motions carried by roll call vote.

SECTION A

- A-1 Approval of Check Register – BE IT RESOLVED:**that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approves the bill lists:

Jan Payroll; Benefits & Annual Bond (Electronic)		\$1,316,893.70
Interim Bills (Jan 1–17th)	Checks #54651-54667	\$ 28,992.31
January Bill List	Checks #54668-54790	\$ 957,940.03*

*Voids 54672&54683(\$1,500)

ATTACHMENT A-1(a-b-c)

- 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 check #2553 \$70.00 for parent refund / duplicate payment on line system.

- 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 of December, 2019. **ATTACHMENT A-3(a-b)**

- 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 December 31, 2019, 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 2019-2020 school year.

- A-5 Approval of Transfers – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, to approve the transfers as of January in the amount of \$58,803.00. **ATTACHMENT A-5**

- A-6 Approval of Facility Use Report – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approves the attached anticipated facility use report subsequent to appropriate building level approval as needed. (*Please note that in some instances requests have been submitted and the space has been “reserved” however the formal application cannot be approved until a current COI has been received.*) **ATTACHMENT A-6**

- A-7 Approval of Fundraisers – BE IT RESOLVED:**that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approves in accordance with Policy #5830 the following district wide fundraising events at GMRSD as attached: **ATTACHMENT A-7**

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- A-8 Adoption of Delegates and Representatives, as determined by the board president:**
BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Board President, approves delegates and representatives of the board as follows:
County School Boards Association:
New Jersey School Board Association
New Jersey School Board Association Delegate
District Representative to Morris County ESC
- A-9 Approval of SEMI Waiver Submittal – BE IT RESOLVED:** that
Whereas, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district’s participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2019-2020 school year, and

Whereas, the Great Meadows Regional Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that there would be fewer than 40 Medicaid eligible classified students.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Great Meadows Regional Board of Education hereby authorizes the chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Warren an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A23A-5.3 as part of the budget preparation process for the 2020-2021 school year.
- A-10 Approval of Acceptance of CAFR as of 6/30/2019 - BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator accept the Great Meadows Regional Board of Education Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019 as prepared by William M. Colantano, Jr. Public School Accountant No CS 0128.
- A-11 Approval of Corrective Action Plan (CAP) - BE IT RESOLVED:**that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator is not required to submit a Corrective Action Plan for the 2020-21 fiscal year as no recommendations requiring action have been found as a result of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019.
- A-12 Approval of Home Instruction – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education approved tuition agreement for home instruction with the following providers for students placed in temporary situations:
Union County ESC/Trinitas Regional Medical Center \$68/hr
Saint Clare’s Hospital \$55/hr.
- A-13 Approval of Vacation / Sick Pay – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education approves payment of unused sick days and accumulated vacation days to Joseph Kiley, staff member who retired January 1, 2020:
\$1,922.00 vacation pay (10 days)
\$ 205.00 sick pay (10.25 days)
- A-14 Approval of ESEA Grant Amendment – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approves the amendment of the FY20 ESEA consolidated grant and accepts additional funds as presented and budgets as per attached:

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TITLE	Original	Add'l/Carryover	Total
Title I	\$ 71,147	\$8,485	\$79,632
Title II	\$ 17,504	\$ 748	\$18,252
Title IV	\$ 10,000	\$3,686	\$13,686

ATTACHMENT A-14

A-15 Approval Head Start Cooperative Agreement – BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education hereby approves the continuation of a cooperative working relationship with NORWESCAP Head Start and Central School to ensure collaboration of appropriate services through the Child Find Program for the 2019-2020

A-16 Approval of Aid in Lieu – BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approve aid-in-lieu of transportation payment to parent/guardian of Great Meadows Regional School District student in the amount of \$ 527.25 for a student attending Pope John XXIII High School beginning 1/22/2020.

A-17 Adoption Resolution Re-establishing the Election –

WHEREAS, P.L. 2011, c. 202, authorized the changing of the election date of school board members from the third Tuesday in April to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November (hereinafter the “General Election”); and

WHEREAS, for reasons previously expressed, the Great Meadows Regional School District Board of Education took appropriate action on January 17, 2012 through the adoption of a resolution as set forth in , P.L. 2011, c. 202 and N.J.S.A. 19:60-1.1, to move the election date of its board members from the third Tuesday in April to the General Election; and

WHEREAS, the election date for the members of the Great Meadows Regional School District Board of Education have been held on the General Election since November 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Great Meadows Regional School District Board of Education previously received notice that at a Special Joint Meeting on March 5, 2019 the Committees of the Townships of Independence and Liberty, respectively, would be discussing and taking action on a resolution to move the election date for the members of the Great Meadows Regional School District Board of Education from the General Election to the third Tuesday in April beginning in April 2020; and

WHEREAS, at the Special Joint Meeting on March 5, 2019 the Committees of the Townships of Independence and Liberty, respectively, took action to approve a resolution to move the election date for the members of the Great Meadows Regional School District Board of Education from the General Election to the third Tuesday in April beginning in April 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Great Meadows Regional School District Board of Education subsequently received notice from the Committees of the Townships of Independence and Liberty, respectively, of the passage of the resolution at the Special Joint Meeting on March 5, 2019 to move the election date for the members of the Great Meadows Regional School District Board of Education from the General Election to the third Tuesday in April beginning in April 2020; and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2011, c. 202 and N.J.S.A. 19:60-1.1 provides that a board of education may move the election date of school board members from the third Tuesday in April back to the

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General Election through the adoption of a resolution at a duly advertised and convened public meeting and by providing appropriate notice of any such resolution to the County Clerk not less than sixty (60) days before the third Tuesday in April to take effect for that year's election; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 19:60-1.1 requires that a change in the election date of school board members from the third Tuesday in April back to the General Election shall remain in effect for at least an additional four years;

WHEREAS, for the reasons originally set forth in the resolution approved by the Great Meadows Regional School District Board of Education on January 17, 2012, and especially in light of the drastic reductions in State Aid allocated and provided to the Great Meadows Regional School District through the passage and implementation of Senate Bill 2 (S-2), the Great Meadows Regional School District Board of Education believes that the students, parents/guardians and constituents of the Great Meadows Regional School District are better served by continuing to have the election date for the members of the Great Meadows Regional School District Board of Education have been held on the General Election as opposed to on the third Tuesday in April;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202 and N.J.S.A. 19:60-1.1, the Great Meadows Regional School District Board of Education changes the annual election date for its school board members from the third Tuesday in April back to the General Election beginning in November 2020 and that such change shall remain in place for at least an additional four years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202 and N.J.S.A. 18A:13-12, the annual organization meeting of the Great Meadows Regional School District Board of Education will continue to take place in the first week of January; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202, members of the Great Meadows Regional School District Board of Education whose terms would have expired by May 2020 will continue to serve in office until the January 2021 organization meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary of the Great Meadows Regional School District is authorized to immediately transmit and provide a certified copy of this Resolution to the following officials and governing bodies:

- The Municipal Clerks of the Townships of Independence and Liberty, respectively;
- The Warren County Clerk;
- The Warren County Board of Elections;
- The Warren County Superintendent of Elections;
- The Executive Superintendent of Warren County;
- The New Jersey Department of State; the Division of Elections;
- The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services;
- The New Jersey School Boards Association; and
- The New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

SECTION B

B-1 Approval of New Staff – BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the new staff for the 2019-2020 school year, attached by reference
ATTACHMENT B-1

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- B-2 Approval of Unpaid Leave of Absences – BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the unpaid leave of absences for the 2019-2020 school year, attached by reference. *ATTACHMENT B-2*
- B-3 Approval of Additional Co-Curricular/Title I Appointments - BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve additional co-curricular/Title I appointments for the 2019-2020 school year, attached by reference. *ATTACHMENT B-3*
- B-4 Approval of Observation Hours- BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves observation hours for the 2019-2020 school year, attached by reference. *ATTACHMENT B-4*
- B-5 Approval of Revised District Job Descriptions– BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised district job descriptions for the 2019-2020 school year, attached by reference. *ATTACHMENT B-5*
- B-6 Approval of Substitutes - BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve substitutes for the 2019-2020 school year, attached by reference. *ATTACHMENT B-6*

SECTION C

- C-1 Approval of Workshop Attendance - BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve workshop attendance for the 2019-2020 school year, attached by reference. . (ATTACHMENT)
- C-2 Acceptance of December 2019 HIB Report - BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, acceptance of the December HIB Report for the 2019-2020 school year

Other Business

- Courtney Wenthien as the liaison to the recreation committee stated there are still concerns with gym time scheduling.

Hackettstown Report

Courtney Wenthien update included:

- School day being extended fifteen minutes.
- Accepting Bids for the work passed in referendum.
- Spoke about success for “Smiles for Molly” campaign.
- Final Strategic Planning meeting was held. Next phase is goal setting.
- March 9th-Administrators will discuss the budget proposals with the Board in open meeting.

Mr. Mango spoke further about the extension of instructional time over the past several negotiations. Negotiations resulted in county average in salary increases which were offset by concession in benefit cost. It was noted that the Lens program will be discussed at the March 19th meeting.

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Independence Report

- Bonnie Kelsey reported they are currently working on the FY2020 budget. Currently the tax effect is expected to be \$16 on a \$216,000 assessment. The municipal court is being moved from Allamuchy to Independence.
- Inquiry concerning the new law on sprinkler systems effect on school buildings or grandfather status.

Liberty Report

- Re-organization of the board was taken and a new member was sworn in.
- The road has been completed and is now open.
- Nine years of 0% increase in taxes and goal is for tenth.

Public Comment

- Dan Stroessenreuther, representative of the Colonial Little League, stated they are replacing fencing on the pit field and inquired if the Board needed any information or required any action. None was necessary.

Executive Session

Motion moved by Douglas Smith seconded by Tim Koeller

To adjourn to executive session at 9:10 pm for discussion of student HIB matters, personnel matters, discussion of which may or may not be made public upon return to public session.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Return to Open Session

Motion moved by Douglas Smith seconded by Heather Wulf to return to public session at 10:54 pm.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Adjournment

Motion made by Giles Stuber, seconded by Daria Hill, to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 pm.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Moyer
Board Secretary