

GREENWOOD SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

August 12, 2021

The Greenwood School Board met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, August 12, 2021 in the Administration Building. Members present were Brad Johnson, Cliff James, Greg Hasley, Kelli Henning, Stephanie Griffith, Rozanne Sterling and Superintendent John Ciesla. Jeff Turner was absent from the session.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President, Brad Johnson. The Board and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance. (6:00 p.m.)

II. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was approved as submitted. (6:01 p.m.)

III. ACT 1120 RESOLUTION

Mr. John Ciesla, Superintendent requested approval of the Act 1120 of 2013 Resolution. Act 1120 requires the board of directors approve a resolution verifying the eligibility and approval of all employees whose salary increased or decreased by more than five percent (5%) from one year to the next. **On a motion by Dr. Kelli Henning and a second by Mrs. Rozanne Sterling, the Board voted 6-0 to approve the Act 1120 Resolution.** (6:02 p.m.)

IV. 2020-2021 TEST SCORES

The Greenwood administrative team (Faith Short, East Pointe Elementary, Kim Gill, Westwood Elementary, Beth Fincher, East Hills Middle School, Josh Nation, Greenwood Jr. High School, Amanda Maxwell, Greenwood Freshman Center, and Josh Ray, Greenwood High School) presented test scores for the 2020-2021 school year. (6:39 p.m.)

V. COVID 19 LEAVE

Mr. John Ciesla, Superintendent asked for a continuance of the Covid Emergency Leave policy for employees for the 2021-2022 school year. **On a motion by Mrs. Rozanne Sterling and a second by Mrs. Stephanie Griffith, the Board voted 6-0 to approve the Covid Emergency Leave policy for the 2020-2021 school year.** (6:41 p.m.)

VI. CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN

Mr. John Ciesla, Superintendent updated the Board on the updates to 2021-2022 Covid 19 Guidance for Schools received from the Arkansas Department of Education and the Arkansas Department of Health. Due to changes in the Covid 19 Guidance, updates are needed to the Greenwood Continuity of Services Plan.

Dr. Brad Johnson explained process to the audience of working toward a decision on the mask policy. The board would set the policy, he would lead the board discussion, then he reviewed the status and legalities of Act 1002.

Mr. John Ciesla reviewed quarantine information from last year. The district had a 1.2% infection rate for student quarantines and 0% infection rate of staff quarantines. Students missed 14,701 days with Quarantine time (7.9 days average per quarantine case) and Staff missed 751 days (8 days average per quarantine staff)

Dr. Brad Johnson asked Mr. Ciesla to review the updated guidance from the Department of Health and the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regarding this year's quarantine procedures versus last year.

Mr. John Ciesla read from the recently released guidance document that states if a student is exposed to a COVID positive person and both the positive person and person exposed are correctly wearing a mask, the only person who will be quarantined is the COVID positive individual.

Dr. Brad Johnson asked Mr. Ciesla if he had visited with staff regarding their input on a mask policy and the updated COVID guidance from the state.

Mr. John Ciesla reviewed his process of visiting with Personnel Policy Committees, administrators, and all activity sponsors regarding the new guidelines and their input on masks. Mr. Ciesla stated none wanted to wear a mask, but all could support the wearing of masks due to the new quarantine guidelines in an effort to keep kids in school. They also wanted an "exit ramp" and guideline on when masks could be lifted.

Dr. Brad Johnson opened discussion among board members.

Mr. Cliff James stated that the test data proved that students being out of school was a detriment to our educational quality and that if masks helped keep students from being quarantined, he felt the decision to wear masks was a duty they were charged with.

Mr. Greg Hasley asked questions about the ACHI data and if that data allowed the local board to make decisions based on what is happening in our local community rather than state wide cases. Mr. Ciesla explained we would have local data from that report that is updated every two weeks.

Mrs. Rozanne Sterling read the guidance document regarding quarantine and said she supported masks if this was the quarantine guideline we had to follow whether you agree with masks or not.

Dr. Brad Johnson stated that he was in favor of the wearing of masks if it kept students in school.

The board discussed whether to forego board policy and allow audience members public comment time, but Mr. Hasley made a recommendation that the board forego public comments and stay with the board policy.

Dr. Brad Johnson made a motion to implement a mask policy for all students, staff, and visitors on school campuses and on school buses. All outdoor areas will not require a mask. Students can remove their masks indoors when appropriately social distanced, when being taught direct reading/speech instruction, and when eating lunch or snacks.

Mr. John Ciesla asked that the policy be for “Indoors only and only when social distancing can’t be maintained”. Dr. Johnson added that to this motion. **On a motion by Dr. Brad Johnson and a second by Mr. Cliff James, the Board voted 6-0 to implement a mask policy for all students, staff, and visitors on school campuses and on school buses. The policy is indoors only and only when social distancing cannot be maintained.** (7:11 p.m.)

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board retired to Executive session. Upon return to the open meeting, the Board voted to approve the following personnel items:

On a motion by Mr. Greg Hasley and a second by Mr. Cliff James the Board voted 6-0 to accept the resignations of Janet Crockett, Angela Jones, Lynn McElroy and Bonna Unger. (7:34 p.m.)

On a motion by Mr. Greg Hasley and a second by Mr. Cliff James the board voted 6-0 to hire Katie Holland as a paraprofessional, Maria Sosebee as a teacher, to hire food service staff as presented and bus drivers as presented. (7:34 p.m.)

ADJOURNMENT

The Board voted 6-0 to adjourn on a motion by Mr. Cliff James and a second by Mrs. Rozanne Sterling. (7:35)

President

Secretary