

Greene County Community School District
Regular Meeting
November 18, 2020

The Greene County Community School District Board of Directors met in regular session on November 18, 2020 in the Administrative Building Conference Room. President Steve Fisher called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. and referenced the District Vision/Mission statement. Directors Mike Dennhardt, Steve Karber and Catherine Wilson; Superintendent Tim Christensen and Board Secretary Brenda Muir were all present. John McConnell was absent.

Karber made and Dennhardt seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

During Open Forum, Mike Holden and Darren Jackson addressed the board with concerns about a mask mandate and remote learning.

The consent items were approved on a motion made by Karber and seconded by Dennhardt. Motion carried 4-0. Consent items were: Minutes – October 21, 2020 work session and regular meeting; Bills as presented; Financial Reports – October 2020; Hirings: Sarah Ratliff – Middle School Associate, Dean Lyons – Assistant Varsity Boys Basketball Coach.

Owner's Representative Sam Harding updated the Board on the construction projects.

More discussion on the former Middle School property will be needed but asbestos removal bids have been received. Superintendent Christensen is meeting with Nate Adams and others for demolition specifications, so that can also be put out to bid. A final decision to demo the gym and deed the three story property to Adams has not been formally made.

Superintendent Christensen reported remote learning, which started Monday, November 16, 2020, is going as well as can be expected. It is his hope that in-person learning will be held from November 30 – December 22 with ramped up COVID mitigation. He urged the Board to consider a full mask mandate, referencing both the County and State proclamations. After discussion, Karber made and Dennhardt seconded a motion to mandate masks throughout the district, with the exception of staff isolated in a room by themselves. Motion carried 4-0. It was clarified that this will take effect immediately.

Brief reports were given by Principals Brian Phillips, Shawn Zanders and Scott Johnson, Director of Teaching and Learning Karen Sandberg, Reading Specialist Julie Neal, Math Specialist Audrey Hinote, Activities Director Todd Gordon and Technology Director Brent Gerzema. Director Karber represented the Greene County School Board at the Iowa Association of School Board's Delegate Assembly. He reported it was held virtually but he did participate and he listed legislative priorities passed by the Assembly.

The retiring board adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Superintendent Christensen called the organizational meeting to order at 6:28 p.m. and asked for nominations for President and Vice President.

Fisher nominated Karber as Board President. Dennhardt seconded the nomination. Roll was called and Karber was elected 4-0.

Fisher nominated Wilson as Vice President. Dennhardt seconded the nomination. Roll was called and Wilson was elected 4-0.

Secretary Muir administered the oath of office to Karber and Wilson as officers.

Due to declining enrollment, Superintendent Christensen recommended reinstatement of Board Policy 506.7 - Employee Voluntary Retirement. He reminded the board and staff this is a financial tool and not a guaranteed benefit for any employee, who plans to retire in any given year. Fisher made and Wilson seconded a motion to revise Board Policy 406.7 – Employee Voluntary Retirement with only changes in the submission date and payment dates, and to waive the second reading of the revisions. Motion carried 4-0. Applications for Voluntary Retirement are due on or by January 13, 2021 for employees retiring at the end of the 2020-2021 school year, are age 55 on or before July 1, 2021 and have completed a total of 10 years of service as a full time employee. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion was made by Fisher, seconded by Wilson to authorize the district's administration to submit a request to the School Budget Review Committee in the amount of \$105,264 for Modified Supplemental Amount for open enrolled out students not on the previous year's certified enrollment count. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion was made by Fisher, seconded by Wilson to authorize the district's administration to submit a request to the School Budget Review Committee in the amount of \$7,812.20 for Modified Supplemental Amount for English language learner program students who have exceeded five years of weighted funding in Fall 2020. Motion carried 4-0.

Karber explained the change orders on the Career Academy/High School project from Henkel Construction. Fisher made and Wilson seconded a motion to approve change orders totaling \$62,228.02 as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Karber explained the PE waiver request. Due to the length of class periods on trimesters, only two trimesters of PE are needed to meet the state requirements. The Education Standards Exemption Application 2021-2022- Offer and Teach- Grades 9-12 Physical Education was approved on a motion made by Fisher and seconded by Wilson. Motion carried 4-0.

An early graduation request was received from Daniel Gehling. He will have requirements met at the end of the second trimester. Wilson made and Fisher seconded a motion to approve the request as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Fundraisers for National Honor Society Hoop Shoot and Junior Class Chili Supper were approved on a motion made by Fisher and seconded by Wilson. Motion carried 4-0.

The board reviewed Board Policies 507.1-508.2. Superintendent Christensen recommended changes to policy 507.5- Student Insurance, General, striking the first two sentences of the policy. Fisher made and Wilson seconded a motion to approve the policies as reviewed and revised. Motion carried 4-0.

During his monthly report, Superintendent Christensen thanked the cities of Scranton, Rippey, Grand Junction and Jefferson for allowing remote learners, without internet access, to use their respective Community Centers' internet for remote learning each day, during our shutdown. He also commended all staff for working together during these difficult COVID related challenges.

At 6:50 p.m., Fisher made and Wilson seconded a motion to go into closed session as allowed in Iowa Code 21.5(1)(i) for Superintendent Evaluation.

The Board came out of closed session at 7:10 and President Karber declared the meeting adjourned.

President

Secretary