

Greene County Community School District
Regular Meeting
April 13, 2022

The Greene County Community School District Board of Directors met in regular session on April 13, 2022 in the District Board Room, located in the Middle School. President Steve Fisher called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and the President reading the District Vision/Mission statement. Directors Cindi Daubendiek, Michelle Fields, John McConnell and Bonnie Silbaugh; Superintendent Tim Christensen and Board Secretary Brenda Muir were all present.

Silbaugh made and Daubendiek seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

A public hearing was opened on the 2022-23 Certified Budget. Superintendent Tim Christensen stated the tax asking is \$14.42 per thousand, down from the previous year's \$14.55. No comments were heard from the public. The hearing was closed. Fields made and Daubendiek seconded a motion to approve the 2022-23 Certified Budget as presented and published. Motion carried 5-0.

A public hearing was opened on the 2021-22 Certified Budget Amendment. Superintendent Tim Christensen explained the amendment was due to additional expenditures using ESSER funding and for Nutrition Department equipment purchases pending. No comments were heard from the public. The hearing was closed. Fields made and McConnell seconded a motion to approve the 2021-22 Certified Budget Amendment as presented and published. Motion carried 5-0.

During Open Forum, parent Heather Ruzicka spoke on concerns about questionable material being taught at the High School and about not being put on the agenda as requested.

Daubendiek made and Fields seconded a motion to approve the consent items. Motion carried 5-0. Consent items were: Minutes: March 9, 2022 regular meeting, March 23, 29, 30, 2022 special meetings; Bills as presented; Financial Reports: March 2022; Resignations: Emily Laudner – High School Science Teacher, Dawn Young-Webb – Middle School Art Teacher, Avery Maresca – 4th Grade Teacher, Todd Gordon – Activities Director, Shannon Black – Cheerleading Coach, Jenny Fisher – Media Center Specialist, 504 Coordinator, Raelyn Harris – Teacher Leader Mentor, Andrea Fester – ½ time Building Technology Assistant, Jessica Ott – Math Interventionist, Kristen Heupel – MTSS Teacher Leader; Transfer: Maleea Gannon – 5th Grade Teacher, MTSS Teacher Leader to Instructional Reading Coach, Termination: Elizabeth Gross – Elementary Associate; Nonrenewal of Contract for 2022-23 – Katelyn Lowmiller – Middle School Associate; Hiring: Kristen Mallinger – Kindergarten Teacher, Page Caltrider – First Grade Teacher, D'Angela Hoover – Middle School Counselor, A. Brianne Hogenson – Middle School Counselor.

Final revisions to Board Policy 505.5 – Graduation Requirements were presented. Fields made and Silbaugh seconded a motion to approve the revisions to Board Policy 505.5 as recommended and waive any other readings of the policy before enactment. Motion carried 5-0.

Superintendent Christensen reported the Activities Department received a \$100,000 grant from Grow Greene County Gaming Corporation for a video scoreboard on Linduska Field. The cost of the video scoreboard from Blackfin Sports Consulting is \$147,500.

Activities Director Todd Gordon is seeking permission to purchase the video scoreboard, while researching other funding opportunities. Daubendiek made and McConnell seconded a motion to approve the purchase. Motion carried 5-0.

Kirk Davis, Student Construction Teacher, would like to build a house in the 2022-23 school year. The last year the program built a house was in the 2019-2020 year. Completion was difficult due to the COVID shutdown. He would like to build a 1400 square foot home in the Briarwood Bend addition. He will gather more information and the plan will be on the May regular meeting agenda.

Board Committee Reports: Cindi Daubendiek – lunch at the High School, Steve Fisher – lunch at the Elementary School and the Grow Greene County awards banquet, Michelle Fields – Administrative & Classified Staff Salary committee;
Administrative Reports: Principals Scott Johnson, Shawn Zanders, Brian Phillips, Director of Teaching and Learning & Special Education Director Karen Sandberg, Reading Specialist Julie Neal, Instructional Math Coach and School/Family Liaison Audrey Hinote, Activities Director Todd Gordon, Shawn DeMoss – representing the Transportation/Grounds/Building Departments, Technology Director Brent Gerzema.

Several fundraiser follow up reports were received.

Six students were present requesting school permits. Silbaugh asked each student to identify themselves and explain why they need a school permit. She then explained the “rules” surrounding school permits and asked them all to be safe and smart. Silbaugh made and Daubendiek seconded a motion to approve school permits for Marcus Ball, Adam Bills, Isaac Carman, Chris Lansman, Nick Madsen and Rylyn Sigler. Motion carried 5-0. The Affidavit for Minor School License forms for each student were signed by President Steve Fisher.

McPherson & Jacobsen Search Firm confirmed the successful background check of Brett Abbotts and recommended finalizing the Superintendent contract for Abbotts as earlier agreed. The Superintendent employment contract is a two year contract, 260 days per year, with the first year’s salary being \$165,000. The contract also includes full family medical, dental and vision insurance, \$150,000 term life insurance and long term disability coverage and professional dues paid; 20 sick days, 2 personal days and 20 vacation days. Daubendiek made and Fields seconded a motion to finalize the contract as detailed. Motion carried 5-0.

Following a committee meeting, Superintendent Christensen recommended the following 2022-23 salary increases for classified and administrative staff:
A 3.68% total district cost increase including insurance costs for administrative staff; more specifically 3% salary increase for returning administrators and 10% increase for Business Manager Brenda Muir;

A 3.68% wage increase plus insurance for classified staff, with six individuals receiving a higher percentage increase. He also presented a plan for Building Secretaries and Associates to attend Professional Development and earn incremental hourly increases for successful completion and implementation of the training received. Fields made and Silbaugh seconded a motion to approve the salary increases, the professional development plan and to issue contracts as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Grounds Supervisor Shawn DeMoss presented a bid for 2022 fertilizer application from Raccoon Valley Lawn Care and explained the difficulty of receiving bids due to the rising costs of fertilizer. After some discussion, Fields made and McConnell seconded a motion to approve the contract with Raccoon Valley Lawn Care. Motion carried 5-0. The total cost of the service is \$20,884 for the non-competition areas, approximately 41 acres plus \$10,636 for the athletic competition fields, approximately 6.83 acres. If there are areas, such as the Grand Junction soccer field, that don't need the amount of fertilizer bid, the fertilizer will be used on other areas in the district that may need more attention.

The summer project list was reviewed. The following projects were added to the list on a motion made by Daubendiek and seconded by Silbaugh: Aruba Switches purchased from Aecor for \$44,336 (70% e-rate funded), Sprinkler system for the Middle School Building – purchase spread over two years – from Blackhawk Automatic Sprinklers for \$134,380 in 2022 and \$63,180 in 2023, two 77 passenger 2023 buses from Hoglund Bus Company for \$113,000 each, Security camera replacement at the Elementary from Byte Speed for \$42,945 with installation by Tech Zone for \$7,971. Motion carried 5-0.

Silbaugh made and Fields seconded a motion to approve the purchase of three heat pumps for the Elementary building. The Department of Education has approved the use of ESSER funds for these purchases to improve air quality in the building, from Drees Co. for a total cost of \$305,149.

The following fundraiser requests were received: Matt Paulsen/High School Baseball – Popup Fundraiser, Ashley Havens/FCCLA – Sponsor Me Calendar, National Leadership Conference sponsors, Bell Tower vendor tent, May Day Baskets and Elementary PE/Sean Thompson – Elementary evening track meet concessions. The requests were approved on a motion made by Daubendiek, seconded by Silbaugh. Motion carried 5-0.

Board Policies 208.2-209.4 were reviewed. After discussion on the confusion between policies and also on the Open Forum statement at the bottom of the agenda, Daubendiek made and Silbaugh seconded a motion to table the review and possible revisions to these policies until the May regular meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Business Manager Brenda Muir reported the 2020-2021 financial audit has been completed and filed with the State of Iowa Auditor.

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Superintendent Tim Christensen's Monthly Report: Due to the delay in demolition of the former Middle School gym, he will solicit bids on asbestos removal and demolition of the former Administration Building, which is currently occupied by the Greene County Early Learning Center. Their new building construction should be complete in June or July 2022; the District received over \$25,000 from the estate of Jone Gloria Jensen, Class of 1952 graduate. He would like to use the funds for Teacher Grants for innovative projects; at Daubendiek's suggestion a Business Sponsorship subcommittee will be formed to discuss and put parameters on fundraising.

President Fisher declared the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

President

Secretary