

Greene County Community School District
Regular Meeting
October 21, 2020

The Greene County Community School District Board of Directors met in regular session on October 21, 2020 in the Administrative Building Conference Room. President Steve Fisher called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m. and read the District Vision/Mission statement. Directors Mike Dennhardt, Steve Karber, John McConnell and Catherine Wilson; Superintendent Tim Christensen and Board Secretary Brenda Muir were all present. Due to COVID-19 concerns, seating was limited and the meeting was live streamed for public access.

Wilson made a motion to amend the agenda to add COVID and mask matrix, remove the Closed Session for Superintendent Evaluation and to approve the agenda as amended. Karber seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The public hearing was opened on the disposal of the former Middle School building/gym/parking lot. Questions were fielded by Nate Adams and Chris Deal on the three story building Adams would like to take ownership of the former Middle School for rental property. Adams does not feel the development plan would be the same as the Vision 2020 “three block project” if the gym were not demolished. They discussed grant opportunities and historical tax credits available. Christensen had earlier estimated the costs of separating the gym from the three story building and adding its own heat source could cost over \$1,000,000 and maintaining the gym as a standalone property could run around \$45,000 each year just in utilities. The public hearing was closed at 7:00 p.m. Karber made and Wilson seconded a motion to table the decision on disposal of the properties for a future meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

No comments were heard in the Open Forum.

The consent items were approved on a motion made by Karber and seconded by McConnell. Motion carried

5-0. Consent items were: Minutes: September 16, 2020 work session and regular monthly meeting; Bills as presented; Financial Reports: September 2020; Resignations: Jacque Schirmbeck – 7th Girls Basketball coach, Denise Brobst – 7th Grade Head Volleyball coach, Charles Brobst – 7th Grade Assistant Volleyball coach; Hirings: Kim Mentolaroc – cook, Peyton Paddock – Head Middle School Wrestling coach, Clint Flack – ½ assistant Middle School Wrestling coach, Zach Beekman – ½ assistant Middle School Wrestling coach, Tyler Westhoff – 7th Grade Girls Basketball coach.

Masks and COVID were discussed again. Superintendent Christensen stated after listening to staff and public in the work session, he thought it would be in the best interest to mandate masks and buildings would be in the matrix “red” zone until Public Health felt it was no longer necessary. President Fisher and Director Wilson both commented on the CDC guideline that basically is our “yellow” zone. More comments were heard from teachers and administrators on the challenges of maintaining social distance of six feet, particularly in the Elementary school.

Karber made and Dennhardt seconded a motion to require masks during school instruction but not require staff to wear them if they were isolated in their rooms. After more discussion, Karber withdrew his motion. Wilson made a motion to freeze the matrix at “yellow”, which means masks are required if you cannot physically distance at six feet apart. McConnell seconded the motion and it passed 3-2.

Ayes: McConnell, Wilson, Fisher

Nays: Karber, Dennhardt

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Superintendent Christensen suggested each building should define how the yellow mask freeze would apply to their unique building situations.

The Wellness Committee will meet October 26, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Administrative Reports were given remotely by Principals Scott Johnson, Shawn Zanders and Brian Phillips, Director of Teaching & Learning Karen Sandberg, Reading Specialist Julie Neal, and Instructional Math Coach Audrey Hinote. Activities Director Todd Gordon was not available due to regional volleyball.

Technology Director Brent Gerzema and Shawn DeMoss representing the Buildings/Grounds/Transportation departments were both present and gave brief reports.

Early graduation requests were approved for 16 seniors on a motion by Karber, seconded by Dennhardt. Motion carried 5-0. Those students are: Harvick Beals, McKenzie Christy, Ana Coronado, Hailey Davis, Paige Egeland, Caden Etherton, Kaylie Millard, Ariel Mills, Lillian Muir, Jasmine Nickum, Julie Oyres, Justice Phillips, Gabrielle Pollock, Gailee Richter, Quinten Schroeder and Taylor Stevens.

Superintendent Christensen recommended early dismissal every Monday, at 1:45 p.m., for teachers to work with remote learners. Karber made and Wilson seconded a motion to approve the early dismissals beginning November 2, 2020. Motion carried 5-0. Free daycare will be provided for the month of November, staffed by associates on staff, for K-5 students. Parents will be responsible for picking their children up from daycare before 6:00 p.m. Regular busing will be available directly after school dismissal.

Karber made and Dennhardt seconded a motion to approve a Girls Basketball fundraiser. Motion carried 5-0

A review of Board Policies 505.1-506.4 was approved, after a change on one policy that replaced "Jefferson-Scranton" with "Greene County" School, on a motion made by Karber, seconded by Wilson. Motion carried 5-0.

During his monthly Superintendent's Report, Tim Christensen reported the USDA summer lunch program, with free meals to all students, will continue through the entire school year. He also reported Certified Enrollment was down 41.23 students, but 7 more students open enrolled in and .3 fewer students open enrolled out. Due to the funding formula being based on enrollment, early retirement might need to be considered at a future meeting. The Heart of Iowa Conference wants to increase admission fees for students to \$5, the same as adults. The general consensus of the board was for the Activities Director to vote no when this vote is taken.

President Fisher declared the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

President

Secretary