

Greene County Community School District
Regular Meeting
October 18, 2017

The Greene County Community School District Board of Directors met in regular session on October 18, 2017 in the Administrative Building Conference Room. President Mark Peters called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He read the District Vision/Mission statement and made a brief statement about “Expecting Excellence” from everyone, not perfection but doing our best and helping others be their best. Directors Steve Fisher, Sam Harding, Steve Karber, John McConnell, and Catherine Wilson; Superintendent Tim Christensen and Board Secretary Brenda Muir were all present. Director Mike Dennhardt was absent.

Motion was made by Karber and seconded by Fisher to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion carried 6-0.

No comments were heard during a public hearing on the sale of the softball field in Grand Junction. Superintendent Christensen recommended selling the real estate located in, Block 17, Grand Junction, known as the Jack Dutton Memorial Park and formerly used as the East Greene Softball Field to the City of Grand Junction for one dollar. Harding made and Karber seconded the motion to sell the property as recommended. Motion carried 6-0.

At 6:32 p.m. Director McConnell moved to hold a closed session as provided in Iowa Code 21.5(1)(i) of the open meetings law to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose performance is being considered to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual’s reputation, as that individual has requested a closed session. Harding seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.

The board came out of closed session at 6:50 p.m. Harding made and Karber seconded a motion to terminate the employee (Harry Silbaugh) who was the subject of the closed session. Motion carried 6-0.

No comments were made during Open Forum.

The consent items were approved on a motion made by Karber and seconded by Harding. Motion carried 6-0. Consent items were: Minutes – September 20, 2017 regular and organizational meetings. Bills as presented; Financial Reports – September 2017; Resignations: Janice Clouse- High School Study Hall Supervisor, Amanda Bacon – Middle School Associate, Kyle Martin – Assistant High School Baseball Coach; Hirings: Kelley Gray – ¼ prom sponsor, Mark Renslow – 9th Grade Boys Basketball Coach, Chelse Sanderson – Middle School Associate, Tyler Westhoff – 7th Grade Boys Basketball Coach, Crystal Heard – 8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach.

Board Policy 603.12 – Literacy was revised to reflect changes in testing and to remove the retainment of third graders. Grade level appropriate instruction will replace retainment. Summer school is a mandate in the policy. Karber made and Wilson seconded a motion to approve the policy as revised. Motion carried 6-0.

Shannon Black gave an update of the fundraising being done for the new soccer program.

Instructor Chad Morman updated the board on the Student Construction Program.
Director Harding reported on the City Park and Recreation Commission meeting.
Director Fisher reported on the County Conference Committee meeting.

Brief reports were given by Principals Brian Phillips, Shawn Zanders, Scott Johnson, Reading Specialist Julie Neal, and Curriculum Director Karen Sandberg. Activities Director Mitch Moore was not present but did leave a report for review.

Representing other community members, Chris Deal and Sid Jones approached the board about a potential partnership with Iowa Central Community College for a Regional Academy and proposed tying that into a future bond referendum for a new high school facility. This is a different concept than the prior construction proposed. A competition gym and performing arts center would be funded separately and not be part of any bonding. New construction would not be at the present high school campus. They would like to hold small and transparent meetings in all communities in the district to present the idea and get input from the public. Iowa Central Community College President Dr. Dan Kinney also addressed the board and invited them to visit their Regional Academy in Eagle Grove.

A work session was held earlier in the evening to develop board goals. President Peters listed the goals that became the top five priorities from the meeting: assessment of facilities/potential bond referendum; increased interaction and communication between the board and students, staff, parents and public; district career guidance plan/100% graduation rate; \$1,000,000 in Unspent Balance Authority in five years; creating an environment that encourages student enrollment and attracts/retains quality staff. Fisher made and McConnell seconded a motion to approve those goals as listed. Motion carried 6-0.

Harding made and Karber seconded a motion to solicit bids from architects for a potential Regional Academy/High School. Motion carried 6-0. The Facilities Committee will meet to develop parameters for architect proposals.

Fisher made and Karber seconded a motion to approve the Education Standards Exemption Application for 2018-19 – Offer and Teach – Grades 9-12 – Physical Education. This is a renewal of the current waiver which only requires students to take PE for two trimesters each year as that is the time equivalent of a full year of PE on a semester system. Motion carried 6-0.

Four early graduation requests were received. Monica Smith, Kane Borgeson, Saleen Ganoie and Alex Cervený are requesting to graduate after the second trimester. Harding made and Wilson seconded a motion to approve the early graduation requests with the stipulation that each student must have successfully completed all graduation requirements. Motion carried 6-0.

Harding made and Karber seconded a motion to approve 28E Agreements with Prairie Valley and Southeast Webster-Grand School Districts to provide English Language Learner services, on an hourly basis, for the current school year. Motion carried 6-0.

Ag Ed Instructor Katie Akers requested approval for an out of state trip for the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 25-28, 2017. Similar to trips in the past they will travel with the Earlham FFA Chapter. Fisher made and Karber seconded a motion to approve the trip. Motion carried 6-0.

Family Consumer Science Associate Brandon Gustoff requested the board approve an out of state trip to Colorado for the Hospitality Class. FCS Instructor Donna Carhill, who also coaches volleyball, was at a regional volleyball match. The Hospitality students planned the trip themselves and would travel by Amtrak to Frasier, Colorado November 3-6, 2017. Karber made and Wilson seconded a motion to approve the trip. Motion carried 6-0.

Director Karber volunteered to replace Dr. Ohrt on the Basic Diploma Committee.

Karber made and Fisher seconded a motion to hold the November regular board meeting on Monday, November 20, 2017 due to the IASB Convention conflicting with the normal meeting date. Motion carried 6-0.

Superintendent Christensen reminded board members of the annual joint board meeting with the Paton-Churdan School Board. The meeting will be Wednesday, November 29, 2017 in Jefferson with the time to be determined.

Solicitation of asbestos removal bids was recommended by Director of Transportation, Buildings and Grounds Wayne Hougham and Superintendent Christensen. Karber made and Harding seconded a motion to solicit the asbestos removal bids. Motion carried 6-0.

Karber made and Fisher seconded a motion to approve the following fundraisers: Cowbell Sales – Cheerleaders, Tumbler Sales – French Club & Boys Basketball and miscellaneous activities during a basketball game with proceeds to University of Iowa Children’s Hospital by the Girls Basketball team. Motion carried 6-0.

Board Policies 604.1-604.8 were reviewed. Complete rewrites were made to policies 604.1, 604.6 and 604.7 dealing with homeschooling due to law changes. Policy 604.8 – Foreign Students also needed revision to remove the phrases mentioning board approval of all foreign students. Fisher made and Karber seconded a motion to approve the review of the policies with revisions as suggested. Motion carried 6-0.

Fisher made and Karber seconded a motion to pursue debt collection services for uncollected fees and excessive negative lunch balances. Motion carried 6-0.

The leave policy for spouses and grandparents upon birth/adoption of a child was discussed. Presently, spouses are allowed only one family sick day and there is no provision for grandparents to use family sick leave for birth/adoption. The handbook committee met and allowing five days for a spouse and one day for a grandparent for birth/adoption of a child was suggested. The employee would need to have family sick leave remaining and available to use and the birth or adoption would have to be during the contract days. Karber made and Harding seconded a motion to revise the leave policy as suggested. Motion carried 6-0.

The Rippey baseball field lease with the city of Rippey was renewed for 2018 on a motion made by Karber and seconded by Wilson. Motion carried 6-0.

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Superintendent Christensen reported Certified Enrollment is down 9.5 students; the board will attend the IASB convention November 15-16; Tim Buenz received the ITEC Local Leadership Award; the facilities committee needs to meet to discuss the Grand Junction building.

The board closed with positive thoughts about things happening in the district.

President Peters declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

President

Secretary