

GMUSD BOARD

Special Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 7, 2020

6:00 p.m.

Zoom Access

I. ROLL CALL

GMUSD Board: Rick Alexander, Deb Brown, Joe Fromberger, Jeff Hance, Fred Marin, Doug McBride, Lois Perlah, Mike Studin, Jeannie Wade, Wayne Wheelock

LMHUUSD Board: Paul Orzechowski, Dan Buckley, Sebastian Frank, Courtney McGuire, Kelly Tarbell, David Venter

Staff: Meg Powden, Cheryl Hammond, Lauren Fierman, Karen Trimboli, Michael Ripley, Whitney Haber, Mary Barton, Angela Hurd, Pattie Rumrill, Raelynn Collins, Pam O’Neil, Betsy Olson, Lisa Marks, Sue Willis, Amy Hamblett, Jennifer Parks, Deb Beaupre, Holly Gauding, Karla Waite, Laurie Cloud, Jeannie Spafford, Devin Brown, Kristi Flack, Mindy Munroe, Ann Thompson, Bruce Patterson, Lauren Baker, Deanna Romstad, Robin Varga

Public: Shawn Cunningham, Marilyn Mahusky, Mary Alberty, Jared Gunnell

II. CALL TO ORDER-GMUSD:

Mr. Fromberger called the GMUSD meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA-GMUSD:

Mr. Alexander **moved** to approve the agenda. The motion carried without opposition.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION: TITLE 1 V.S.A § 313 (a)(1)(B)-GMUSD

A. Labor Relations Agreements with Employees-Negotiations

Ms. Brown **moved** to find that premature general public knowledge concerning labor relations will place the board at a substantial disadvantage. The motion carried without opposition.

Ms. Brown **moved** to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing labor relations under the provisions of Title 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(B) inviting Ms. Powden, Ms. Hammond and Ms. Fierman. The motion carried with no opposition. The board will enter the executive session with the LMHUUSD board once they have made the appropriate motions to do so. There was discussion about the TRSU board having to amend their agenda later to remove their executive session.

V. CALL TO ORDER-LMHUUSD

Mr. Orzechowski called the LMHUUSD meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA-LMHUUSD:

Mr. Buckley **moved** to approve the agenda with the addition of Principal’s Comments before the executive session. Mr. Venter seconded. The motion carried without opposition.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Principals’ Comments

Ms. Trimboli advised that she understood the board's concerns with regard to negotiations and the teachers were doing very well in the classroom, but since the distance learning began, they have outdone themselves. They have learned a new way to teach without professional development and warning. She would hate to have any of their extra work to be penalized, or any of their work for next year that will likely continue to have an aspect of remote learning. She felt that the teachers should be recognized.

Ms. Beaupre agreed with Ms. Trimboli's comments. She advised that remote learning is very different than these zoom meetings. The teachers are working very diligently to engage the students and make it feel like the student is in the classroom with them. The teachers are already mourning the loss of the year and the loss of the closure. She advised that all of the teachers and para-educators are constantly concerned with the students. She is concerned with the teachers' mental health and how she will be able to address morale in the coming months.

Ms. Fierman advised that it is not possible to say enough good things about the work that the teachers and the staff are doing right now. This is a very stressful time right now, particularly those that are also parents. She felt that it was impressive work and was being done during a wildly stressful time.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: TITLE 1 V.S.A § 313 (a)(1)(B) --LMHUUSD

A. Labor Relations Agreements with Employees-Negotiations

Mr. Orzechowski asked for a motion to find that premature general public knowledge regarding bargaining and non-bargaining negotiations would place the board at a substantial disadvantage because the board risks disclosing its negotiations strategy if it discussed contract terms in public. Mr. Buckley made that motion. Mr. Venter seconded and the motion carried without opposition.

Mr. Orzechowski asked for a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing bargaining and non-bargaining negotiations under Title 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(B) Labor Relations Agreements with Employees inviting Ms. Alberty and Ms. Mahusky.

There was discussion about whether the two boards were entering separate executive sessions because they invited different people in addition to their boards. Mr. Fromberger agreed to add Ms. Mahusky and Ms. Alberty to the GMUSD executive session. Ms. Brown amended her motion to include Ms. Mahusky and Ms. Alberty as well as Ms. Hammond, Ms. Fierman and Ms. Powden. Mr. Orzechowski re-read the motion he was asking for to include Ms. Hammond, Ms. Fierman and Ms. Powden, as well as Ms. Mahusky and Ms. Alberty. The motion carried without opposition. The boards entered executive session together with their invitees at 6:22 p.m.

The board returned from executive session at 7:25 p.m. No action will be taken at this time. There will be a discussion about negotiations at the next meeting on May 21, 2020.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Orzechowski felt that this was a productive meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT;

Ms. Brown **moved** to adjourn the GMUSD meeting at 7:26 p.m. Mr. Alexander seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.

Mr. Buckley **moved** to adjourn the LMHUUSD meeting at 7:27 p.m. Mr. Venter seconded and the motion carried with no opposition.

XI. NEXT MEETING:

The next regular GMUSD meeting will be Thursday May 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., via Zoom.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Alexander **moved** to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Wilson
Board Recording Secretary