

Green Mountain Unified School District Board
Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 30, 2019
Green Mountain Union High School, Library Learning Commons
6:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER:

Board: Joe Fromberger, Wayne Wheelock, Rick Alexander, Jeff Hance, Lois Perlah, Fred Marin, Marilyn Mahusky, Doug McBride

Staff: Lauren Fierman, Todd Parah

Student Reps:

Public: Shawn Cunningham,

Mr. Fromberger called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He invited the board members to introduce themselves.

II. APPROVE AGENDA:

Ms. Mahusky **moved** to approve the agenda. Mr. Marin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Recommendations for Hire

Ms. Powden reported that the Spanish teacher candidate has withdrawn. They are recommending two candidates: Ben Boyington as an English teacher and Alexander Brady for band instruction. She reported on their interviews and some of their educational background. She reported that Mr. Brady's license is pending and they would work on getting him a provisional license. She also reported that he is very excited about this position. There was discussion about their placement on the salary schedule. Mr. Brady would be on step 1 Bachelor's, Mr. Boyington will be at step 15 of the Master's scale. He has taught at Windsor High School for almost 16 years. There was discussion about the reason he left his former position. Ms. Powden noted that the work that GMUHS is doing on PBE and personalized learning is something he has a passion for, while Windsor is more traditional in its educational practices. There was discussion about the terms of him leaving his prior job. Ms. Fierman reported on Mr. Boyington's reference checks. She noted that he is opinionated in his vision for education and how it related to that of Windsor High School's, but found that his vision was very similar to GMUSD's. She noted that some of the other candidates were not leaving their positions because they wanted to.

There was discussion about how challenging it is to find candidates for certain subjects. Ms. Powden explained that it varies by subject matter. Sometimes there are many candidates, but sometimes there are very limited options. There was discussion about the background checks done for new hires. Typically, the head of the search committee performs reference checks. Ms. Fierman noted that when someone applies for their license they need to be fingerprinted. Ms. Hudkins in the SU office completes the background checks after the candidate is made the offer. There is a large packet of information that the candidate needs to complete as part of this process. There was discussion about the offer being contingent upon completing the background check. Ms. Fierman noted that if the person has been teaching prior to this position, they have completed this process in the past.

Mr. Marin **moved** to approve hiring Mr. Boyington and Mr. Brady as recommended as the English teacher and Band Instructor respectively, and to direct the superintendent to set the salaries commensurate with their education and experience according to the salary schedule. Ms. Mahusky seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. COMMUNICATION:

A. Board Comments

Mr. McBride noted that he felt that the finance committee needs to begin the budget work process earlier rather than later in order to avoid the rush that they felt this prior year. Mr. McBride asked that they consider asking Ms. Hammond to provide last year's budget compared to actual money spent, as well as have the board members bring their initiative ideas to the next board meeting to be discussed regarding how they impact the budget.

Mr. McBride **moved** to approve requesting that at the next meeting, Ms. Hammond provides last year's budget compared to actual money spent. Mr. Alexander seconded. Ms. Mahusky felt that this was appropriate, but felt that it didn't need to be made in a specific motion. She suggested having an agenda item to begin budget discussions, including initiatives to consider for the next budget.

Mr. McBride also suggested that the administration also give the board a report on what they feel the initiatives are that they want to include in the next budget. He gave an example of a general concept of high-level initiatives. Mr. Alexander requested that Ms. Hammond and/or Ms. Powden also include reports about any state or federal funding (or other funding outside the local budget) that is anticipated to be reduced therefore causing the local budget to build up the short fall. Mr. Fromberger noted that Ms. Hammond plans to have a first budget draft at the end of October. Ms. Hammond also suggested that the respective individual board members may want to attend TRSU meetings to hear their initiatives which also drive the local budget. Ms. Mahusky noted that there has been discussion about having a board retreat which can help drive initiatives and set goals. She felt that setting a retreat date in September would be helpful.

Ms. Mahusky also noted that there have been some changes in the special education funding mechanism and she felt that it might be helpful to have Ms. Barton report on the changes and how they may impact the budget. The new model will not be a reimbursement model, rather it will be a census-based model. Ms. Mahusky noted that each school district will receive a block grant funding based on current population. Part of the motivation for this is in regards to the delivery of the special education and redirecting some funds to the multi-tiered system of support (MTSS). There was discussion about the budgetary impact, as well as the programming impact. Ms. Mahusky noted that there may also be professional development implications.

Mr. McBride noted that the governor has stated that this will reduce the state expenditures on special education by about 40%, which means that the local budget will have to pick up the difference. There was discussion about how this will impact the budget, as well as what changes the district will make in order to accommodate this difference while still meeting the needs of the students.

Mr. McBride noted that the special education spending is shrouded in secrecy because of certain interpretation of state and federal laws, and he is not sure what the SU can give the board for information in order for the board to help the problem.

Mr. Cunningham noted that the governor was in Chester today along with the general counsel for the AOE. He asked that question and no one was able to give him an answer and no one will be available

from the AOE to consult with for help. Ms. Mahusky noted that the legislature appointed a census-based funding advisory committee and suggested that this is the source for information.

Ms. Mahusky noted that it would be helpful to have an update on the continuous improvement plan. She also requested an update on the foreign language delivery to elementary level students. There was discussion about that position having been vacated shortly after being filled. She also noted that one of the biggest discussions was around the CAES assistant principal position. The board had requested a report back about the position. Ms. Mahusky noted that the board reviewing some metrics that the administration could provide will help to demonstrate the effectiveness of the position.

Mr. McBride noted that he still owes Ms. Powden and Ms. Hammond a short note on the employee manual. Mr. Fromberger noted that he understood that the manual has been submitted to VSBIT for review.

Mr. Hance suggested that the assistant principal should visit one of the board meetings so the board can meet him. Ms. Powden reminded the board that his name is Kevin Faye.

Mr. McBride withdrew his motion and Mr. Alexander withdrew his second. The administration understood its instructions.

B. Public Comment

Mr. Cunningham questioned the progress on the STEAM coordinator. Ms. Powden noted that she hadn't heard a request for that but could provide that information. She noted that the work has begun. Mr. McBride noted that an update for the STEAM program would be beneficial. Ms. Mahusky suggested that the STEAM coordinator give a very brief report on the STEAM program.

V. NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS:

The next regular meeting will be held on August 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at CAES. There was discussion about the setup of the room.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Mahusky **moved** to adjourn at 6:36 p.m. Ms. Perlah seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Wilson
Board Recording Secretary