

Green Mountain Unified School District Board Special Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

CAES Library Room

6:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER:

Board: Joseph Fromberger, Marilyn Mahusky, Fred Marin Jeff Hance, Kate Lamphere, Deb Brown (via phone), Erin Lamson (arrived 6:30 p.m.)

Staff: Cheryl Hammond, Lauren Fierman, Katherine Fogg

Student Reps:

Public: Shawn Cunningham

Ms. Mahusky called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

II. APPROVE AGENDA:

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

III. COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Public Comments

None.

B. Board Comments

None.

C. Student Rep

None.

IV. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

None.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Transition Funds

i. Approve Bids for CTES Lunch Table

Ms. Hammond reported that the hope was for the lunch tables to be replaced over February break, hence the need to approve the bid. She reported that School Installers of Pennsylvania had presented a bid for \$28,065.45. The other one came from School Furnishings of Hudson NH and was \$31,045.30. Ms. Hammond reported that the administration is recommending the School Installers bid because it was lower priced and they are certified Mitchell Table Installers. The other company indicated that they have never installed this type of table in the past.

Mr. Fromberger **moved** to approve the bid from School Installers of Pennsylvania for \$28,065.45. Ms. Lamphere seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ii. Approve Funds for CTES Water Heater

Ms. Hammond reported that they haven't received any bids for the water heater yet, but there is also nothing formally in the minutes authorizing the expenditure of the funds. Ms. Hammond reported that they have a quote for about \$8300.00 which is about \$1700 less than originally anticipated for this expense. The crew is also hoping to do this work over February break as well. Due to the amount of the expense, there is no need to go out for bid. This particular bid is from the same people who have worked on the heating system at the school. Mr. Fromberger **moved** to approve the use of \$8300 from the transition funds to pay for the replacement of the hot water heater at CTES. Mr. Hance seconded. There was discussion about these two options taking about \$36,000 of the approximate \$50,000 transition funds. There was also discussion about the remainder of the transition funds being spent before June 30. The board requested an update on the use of transition funds for the next agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approve Annual Meeting Warning

Ms. Mahusky noted that when the annual meeting warning was previously approved, the warning had an error on the Cavendish polling location. She noted that the town offices caught the error. She also explained that Ms. Hance at the Chester town office has spoken with Mary Moeykens regarding developing a timeline and process to ensure that the warning is correct next year (since it wasn't last year or this year on first approval). The board had already approved the warning, and the error on the warning was fixed by an additional notice that went out, but the board needs to approve the warning for the annual meeting which will now take place after the town meeting. The annual meeting will be at GMUHS auditorium on Thursday March 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Mahusky read aloud the warning as corrected.

Mr. Fromberger **moved** to approve the warning as written and read. Ms. Lamphere seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The board members signed the warning. Attached to the warning for the annual meeting was also a warning for the annual informational meeting to be held on February 26 at GMUHS Auditorium. Ms. Mahusky read that warning aloud. She noted that this warning is just what gets posted. Ms. Lamson joined the meeting at 6:30. The board members signed the annual meeting warning.

B. Ratify Teachers Master Agreement

Ms. Mahusky noted that the ratification is on this meeting, rather than the regular meeting so that teachers can access the dental benefits. In order to do so, they need to sign up by the end of the month, so they couldn't wait until the regular meeting date to give the teachers enough time. She noted that the negotiations were agreed to in December, but it has taken Mr. Leopold (the district attorney) and Ms. Harper (the teachers' lead negotiator) this long to finalize all the details and language.

There was discussion about the changes from the last agreement and this one. Mr. Fromberger suggested that some helpful information would be a comparison of costs between the current agreement and the new one. Ms. Hammond noted that the only monetary changes were the salary increase (2.5% based on the salaries that were in place on June 30) and the implementation of the dental benefits. She explained that the dental benefits will be paid for out of the 2.5% salary increase. The salary increases were anticipated in the budget. Ms. Mahusky noted that only the GMUSD teachers didn't have dental coverage. LMH teachers did and TRSU teachers did depending on what district they worked primarily in. This change brings everyone to the same level of benefits for this year. Then next year, the parties agreed to an increase of 2.75%. There was also discussion about the LMH teachers having 3 days added to their schedule so that their school days match GMUSD teachers, therefore their increase will be 3.75% to accommodate that

increase. There was discussion about the salary schedule in the agreement becoming equal between the two sides of the TRSU. There was also discussion about the CAGS column being a category of teacher who hasn't yet received a masters' degree, but does have additional education related education. Ms. Fierman explained that this is a group of accumulated courses in a concentration area, as part of a particular program. It is not just taking additional credits in a "one-off" fashion, these are clusters of courses around a certain topic. It is a degree program, but no degree is issued until the masters is completed. Ms. Mahusky noted that a number of teachers at CTES received their CAGS a few years ago. Ms. Mahusky noted that another part of the agreement is that both sides of the SU have the same number of school days. She advised that the administration for years has been trying to make these days equal. She also reported that there were some changes to the professional development section. There was a pool of PD credits available, so the language was "tightened" up and the PD need to be approved by the curriculum coordinator and the principal. The total pool was determined by prior usage. There was discussion about the \$65,000 amount having been evaluated and determined to be appropriate (and re-evaluated based on usage). The funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. There was discussion about the second year also having been budgeted.

There was discussion about the teachers union not having ratified the agreement yet, so the board should consider approving the agreement pending the teachers' union ratification of the agreement. The board can sign the tentative agreement until the teachers' union ratifies and signs the final version. The board can also authorize Ms. Mahusky to sign the agreement on the board's behalf if they choose.

Mr. Fromberger **moved** to approve the teachers' master agreement. Ms. Lamson seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Lamson **moved** to authorize the board chair to sign the agreement on the board's behalf once the teachers have ratified and signed the agreement. Ms. Lamphere seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion about the support staff agreement. Ms. Hammond noted that the negotiations team had felt that there were some issues with the salary schedule. The business office has sent what they believe is correct to the lead negotiator for the support staff, but they haven't heard back yet.

VII. NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS:

Ms. Mahusky reported that after the last meeting, she and Ms. Powden conferred and have asked Susan Holson of the VSBA to come to the next meeting to give a board training. She noted that many board members had concerns at the last meeting about the role of the board. She is not available on 2/11, which is when the meeting was originally scheduled for. It has been rescheduled for 2/25 if the board is available for that meeting. The board will also discuss the use of the transition funds. Ms. Fierman noted that the seniors would like to update the board on their plans for the class trip at that meeting as well. They are also hoping to do that presentation early in the meeting. Ms. Mahusky requested that Ms. Moeykens get confirmation from the board members about their availability for the 2/25 meeting. There was also discussion about the meeting confirmation system and the lack of information on the current invite method. There was discussion about having Ms. Moeykens make this change a little later in the year. Mr. Fromberger urged the board not to change the dates of the regular meeting. Ms. Mahusky noted that the date was already changed because of the school vacation. There was also discussion about the conference call capability at each school.

Ms. Fogg also questioned if the board will be expecting an educational presentation from the CAES staff. Ms. Mahusky and Ms. Powden will discuss that when they begin creation of the agenda for the next meeting and will let Ms. Fogg know. The agenda will also have discussion about what this board

wants to do to entice students to come to GM. Part of that discussion is visioning and strategic planning. The agenda will also include CAES water project updates, updated financials, approval of negotiated agreements.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 11, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at CAES.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Mahusky declared the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Wilson
Board Recording Secretary