

Gervais School District #1
School Board Special & Working Session Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 7, 2021

SPECIAL SESSION

Director Bustamante called the School Board of Gervais School District #1, Marion County, into a Special Session on Thursday, October 7, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM online. Board members present included: Henry Bustamante, Maria Caballero, Ana Contreras, Maria Contreras, and Angie Toran. Others present Dandy Stevens and Sandra Segura.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER:

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

Director Bustamante called the School Board Meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 p.m.

2.0 INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. Stevens said she would like to end this meeting early since it's homecoming, and she would like to attend. She shared with the board that student spirit during homecoming has been excellent. She said It has been great to see students supporting other students who typically do not get support. Finally, she gave a brief update on COVID cases. In addition, Ms. Stevens shared that she received the Strategic Plan today and handed out copies to all staff members. She announced that tomorrow is Statewide in-service, and staff will have two hours to work with their departments on curriculum alignment and use the rest of the day for whatever they need to get done. She said that Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for next week virtually, and the staff will meet with Dr. Marks for their second meeting this year. Ms. Stevens stated that the schools have had better attendance doing conferences virtually and will continue to have them since parents feel comfortable in this setting.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Stevens informed the board that minutes from the Working Session on August 5, 2021, Regular Session on August 19, 2021, and Regular Session on September 15, 2021, are included in the packet to review and provide any corrections needed. She said that the minutes would go for approval until the Regular Session on October 21, 2021.

4.0 PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

5.0 REPORTS:

None.

6.0 BOARD FOCUS/MEMBER TOPICS:

None.

7.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

None.

8.0 ACTION:

None.

9.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS:

9.1 Athletics Survey

Ms. Stevens stated that last summer, the district sent out a survey, and seventy-three responded. She expressed that the scope of the questions involved high school, middle school, clubs, and facilities. She noted that they included various questions to get input for the preparation work for the pre-bond.

Ms. Stevens reported that the following comments were captured from the survey from a variety of stakeholders; current students, former student athletics, parent of students, and fans/spectators.

- Suitable uniforms for athletics.
- Condition of Equipment and facilities.
- Improvement needed on bleachers, restrooms, locker rooms, concession stand, blockhouse, fields, scoreboard, and parking.
- Transportation challenges for athletics.
- Fees are a challenge at times.
- Challenge with purchasing supplies for athletics (cleats, equipment. Etc)

Ms. Stevens expressed that the district made lots of improvements in regard to communicating things with athletics families. Some of the improvements made are as follows:

- ✓ Communication goes out every week in regard to what is happening with sports.
- ✓ Information on coaches got posted on the district's website.
- ✓ Held sports parent meetings and plan to continue to have them for every season.
- ✓ App is available for parents to receive communication in regard to sports.

There was a brief discussion about challenges with the lack of officials, buses, and uniforms cycle.

Ms. Stevens shared that other updates/ in regard to athletics are:

- ✓ Hiring a middle school wrestling coach.
- ✓ Adding a middle/high school golf club.
- ✓ The new scoreboard has been shipped.
- ✓ Middle school gym floor will be installed.
- ✓ Aware that bleachers and concession stands need work.

9.2 ESSER III Spending Plan

Ms. Stevens reported that this is the third grant in response to COVID that the district will receive. She said that with this grant, you are required to submit a spending plan and the selection of strategies that address the academic impact of lost instructional time. She stated that there are identified strategies on how to spend the money.

Identified strategies

Empowering, Adaptable Instruction

Time and Attention

-That includes students tutoring services and extracurricular

Conditions for Teachers

-Protecting teacher prep time
-A time to look at data
-providing interventions

Relationships and Mental Health Support

-Starting to see a need from students regarding mental health
-Not just about having counselors and psychologists but having activities to have kids connect with school and peers

Family and Community Partnerships

-Making sure that the district is connecting with families and the community
-Making them aware of the supports that the district has to offer
-Getting information to parents so they can encourage their kids to participate
-Engaging with families in multiple languages

Other-Health and Safety

-Nurses supplies

Ms. Stevens stated that the allocation for ESSER III is as follows:

\$1,988,145.20

~~-\$81,513.25~~ (4.1% approx. indirect costs)

\$1,1906,631.25

The offset funds will be used to manage the amount of extra work that grants involved. She said that she does not recall collecting indirect costs before. Collecting indirect costs helps to support indirect costs behind the scenes, such as hiring accounts payable support staff. Ms. Stevens shared the grant timeline and added that things could be tweaked if there was a need.

Ms. Stevens proceeded with her presentation by sharing details of the breakdown of expenses that were included in the grants.

Some of the expenses that she mentioned were:

- Allocating money to secure substitutes since there is such a shortage.
- Adding temporary teacher to mentor new teachers to the profession and help cover where needed
- Added full-time nurse
- Digital teacher for those kids that have to be online due to kids needing to quarantine or kids having stay home for medical reasons
- Hired 1 FTE Instructional Assistant at each building
- Afterschool Spanish Teacher
- Student electives generated by students and supplies for those electives
- Counseling department
- Chronic absenteeism
- Nursing supplies
- After school programs
- Internet scholarships
- Evening tutoring
- Grant Writer
- Tent for middle school
- Athletics/Enrichment/Clubs

Other ideas on how funds could be spent are as follows:

- HVAC GES and GHS Shop
- 2022-23 General Fund Budget-since district will not be fully funded for the biennium and enrollment is a concern and will impact the budget since the district's projected numbers were higher
- Technology Needs

By October 20th, the district must submit a plan for Year budget priorities.

There was a brief discussion about students that are being homeschooled and that the concern is not just COVID but also the curriculum being taught.

Ms. Stevens said that the district has a tab where parents can access information on the curriculum of what is being taught at each grade level.

9.3 Pre-Bond Planning Committee Update

Ms. Stevens asked Ms. Davis to share information they have been working on about preparation work for a bond.

Ms. Davis provided data on the following:

- Tax roll Real Market value and the maximum assessed value of the property for the past ten years for in town homes and outside of town homes
- Rough estimated numbers based on the 2020-21 tax year average value for all residential properties in the district homes and within Gervais
- Data on assessed values and amount per 1000 value

There was a brief discussion on why it is best for the district to go for a twenty-year term bond versus a twenty-five-year bond.

Ms. Stevens shared a document that included a bond estimate summary; She said that the community is going through the priorities to develop a priority list. There was some discussion on how much it would cost to build a new school for the elementary, middle, and high schools. The cost of upgrades was discussed in detail for different options to choose from. The committee is talking about how to be strategic in their decisions moving forward for each building. Ms. Steven said that the committee visited two locations that have passed a bond to get an idea of what can get done with facilities. Lastly, they discussed that a survey would be presented at parent/teacher conferences to get input from parents.

9.4 Review of Board/Superintendent Working Agreements

Ms. Stevens stated that the working agreement would not be approved tonight, but it's to give the board an opportunity to review and provide any input. She said that it would go for approval at the next meeting.

9.5 Review of Superintendent and Board Goals

Ms. Stevens stated that goals were put in the packet for the boards' review and provide input. The goals for the superintendent and the board will be approved at the next meeting.

9.6 Policies First Reading

Ms. Stevens stated that the new policies' summary was included in the packet for the boards review and said that she recommends reviewing at least fourteen policies for the first reading at the next meeting. She said that she wanted to introduce the policy updates early enough to give all an opportunity to review the changes.

10.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

11.0 ADJOURN

11.1 Adjourn Working Session

Director Bustamante adjourned the Working Session at 7:48 p.m.

APPROVED



Board Chairperson



Board Secretary