

GRAVENSTEIN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

3840 TWIG AVENUE
SEBASTOPOL, CA 95472

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, November 14, 2019
TIME: 5:00 PM
LOCATION: Gravenstein Elementary, Multipurpose Room

Steve Schwartz, President
Gregory Appling, Clerk
Alexander Kahn, Trustee
Jennifer Koelemeijer, Trustee
Patrick Lei, Trustee

Called to order at 5:01pm
All trustees in attendance

I. CALL TO ORDER AT 5:00 PM

II. ADOPTION AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A. Approval of the agenda for October 10, 2019

GA Motion to approve
AK 2nd
Passes 5 - 0

III. REPORTS, AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Kincade Fire update

A report was given to the trustees. DR was impressed with the staff and their communication with each other, and with the teachers to the students. Keeping track of where our resources were and what we could do to help out. Also kept in touch with the other superintendents of the county. We had some allstars Brian, Will, Keri and Wanda, going above and beyond the call of duty. Teachers reaching out to students to offer a comforting voice and possible activities for the kids.

We had a meeting that involved staff. They discussed things we can do differently in the future. Had a chance to go through the emergency backpacks.

An idea that is being discussed by Sonoma County Schools and Superintendents, is to maybe not be open the last two weeks of October.

SS asked about the closure on Thursday Oct. 31st...did any of the other schools open on that Thursday?

Answer: No, no other schools opened on that day. There were too many things that had to be done at the schools to be sure that they would be clear and safe for the kids.

DR - Before going to Principal reports, I'd like to point out that the teachers and admin staff are constantly evaluating the new program "Enrich for all"

B. (p. 1) Gravenstein Principal/Teachers Report

Report included in packet.

Keri wants to mention the considerable donations and grants that the teachers have received. They are listed on the 2nd page of the report..

Other than two trips that were cancelled last year and thus done this year the number of field trips are consistent for all grades.

SS - is the (EL) redesignation number up?

Answer: The redesignation means they are no longer English Learners, they are now English proficient.

C. (p. 5) Hillcrest Principal/Teachers Report

Biggest change for this trimester was the bell schedule. Changed to all 8 classes on Mondays. Tues. and Thurs. always Blue days Periods 1, 3, 5 and 7, Weds and Fri, always Gold days Periods 2, 4, 6 and 8.

SS - first heard about the bell change through students and is happy that this is happening without coming to the board.

GA doesn't have an issue with this, but at the same time doesn't want to be blindsided by anything.

Students: Austin Look & Noa Schwartz do a presentation about Leadership Elective. This is one of the electives that they have every other day. You have to apply for it and lead other kids in the school. Learning different ways of leadership from other schools and trying to make their school a better place.

Showed a video with some of the things they have done at school - Inspiration Posters - murals - decals - buddy program - Student Body - Dances - Spirit days

WD This class has been a fabulous addition and has really made a change in the air around campus.

SS asked if any boys have signed up yet and if not, why?

LB girls are born leaders

WD it is very common for leadership classes to be more girls than boys

D. Gravenstein Union Teachers' Association

Report was handed out. Thanked the board for reaching out during fires.

Read the #WeStandWithWSCTA letter which is also in the report.

Thank you for supporting GUTA, we appreciate it.

E. District Site Council

Really pleased Site Council started off with strong numbers. Have been discussing a couple of things in council. Wants to mention the “Dash Board” this evening. Relatively new term for looking at schools data. There is a report that will be discussed at the Board Retreat. This is an easy format for parents to look at and use.

Caschooldashboard.org to get information about schools. If the box is gray it is because our numbers are too low to score. want to get as close to blue as possible.

Very user friendly. Can do reports by school or district. We are using this and shifting much more towards it for reports. Looking at reports helps us identify where we need to do more work to help our students.

WD - this is really for the parents who are shopping for a school for their kids. Gets rid of a lot of the educational jargon and makes it easy for the parents to see.

SS is this automatic...does it not cause more work for the principals.

WD no of course not. Really the amount of work that is needed is worthwhile.

DR - looking at academics, attendance and discipline.

Jeri McNeil - Just looked it up on her computer. She gets four results that are Gravenstein, which looks a little confusing.

KP unfortunately we don't have control over that, but would like to point out that there is a button to translate everything to spanish

F. (p. 7) Gravenstein Parent Association, GPA

Jeri is here to announce the Pancake breakfast.

BT - Candy sales are due 11/25

KP - Jog-a-thon monies are still coming in. Definitely a great event and I know they are really proud of that. Also pointed out that GPA is doing a great job with communication.

JK do we need to approve the letter to GPA

SS - answer - GPA did not sign the MOU. Instead they did a letter and this letter is the response, but this letter has not yet been sent.

Can't vote on it because it is not an actionable item

DR - We can bring this back in December for voting, but his thought was just that this was a response to their letter thanking them for their letter and reiterating what we understand.

JK believes there was a comment about letters that required commitment from entire board should be approved by the board and not just sent out

G. Trustee Reports

GA attending the Climate Committee, but nothing to report

PL same

AK and JK nothing to report

SS went to state assembly - surprised by who was/was not in attendance.

H. Climate Committee

WD happy to see who attended PL, GA, BSposato, DR. Parent who is professor of Climate Sciences also in attendance. Trying to get a couple of students to be apart of it as well

PL - Because it is a Climate Action - when we have mandate we don't want it to fall on two few staff. It could take quite a bit of time.

WD absolutely. Looking at small steps we can take on a daily basis. Definitely seeing a change already. We started with just one compost bag and now collecting as many as three.

AK feels there are some other items that maybe the Climate Committee could link up with like transportation.

SS are you looking for students from both campuses

WD yes

I. Facilities Report

1. (p. 9) Facilities Committee

Report included. 11/27 is the date to try and tie in the Solar.

GA reports, good talk with Jack Shrader and Assoc. We have an opportunity to get some money back on some facility items. We have to pay up front, but we could get 40 to 50% back depending on the items.

WH on page 9 there was an error. the letter received was not a 90 day letter. But we are in the works.

JK would like to throw her hat in for Facilities Committee.

SS that is great, but, per discussion with DR, we probably shouldn't nail anything down until after the Board retreat.

Next facility meeting probably won't happen before Board Retreat.

SS asked what GA said about committees.

GA says Board Pres. has to assign committees to Board members.

J. CBO Report

Talking about resolutions coming up. Wanted to give an idea of how that will play out. The modernizations have already happened. Last 5 years we have spent almost 12 million dollars, 6 from gen fund and the rest from bond. This is just to make board be aware of how expensive these improvements can get. Hoping to meet requirements to transfer money from fund 40 to 35.

DR those transfers will have to have board approval.

GA short question, we've spent money and now hoping to get some of it back
WH yes we spent the money without knowing if we would get it back and now we are working on it.

SS - wants to restate it with a little less technical terms. a couple of years ago we saw we had x amount of monies for improvements and we spent it with the hopes that it would be back filled.

GA thinks we should have a discussion about the monies we hope to get back and how we should spend it. Thinks this is a bigger discussion about how this money can be used.

SS remembers the discussion being that we spent the funds with the hope of back filling it.

WH - We did not have the thought to transfer the funds back to the general fund.

JK - thinks she understood that we could receive 40% of the 12 mil back.

DR says take out the 6 mil from the fund 40

JK the 2.6 is 40% of the 5.8 mil.

WH said we received, just today, a letter that says we received the \$45,000 from e-rate funding. As part of the application we already have a company to do that.

JK what is e-rate

DR it is state level technology support program

JK is this also a back fill

WH no in order to receive the monies we had to show the needs the school has.

GA we got the money before we did the work

WH we didn't get the money, we got the approval for the money

JK what improvements

WH technology improvements at HC

WD Stream lab phase 2 and more

K. Superintendent Report/District Correspondence

1. CAASPP Scores

2. Complaint response update

We received a complaint from a parent. There is not a pending issue. In the rest of the letter there is a complaint against DR and so he can not follow the usual complaint procedural investigation. So he has contracted Mr. Hoppes to do the investigation.

Initial wording was my child is being exposed, but the investigation revealed that it hasn't happened it is something that could possibly happen.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

At this time the public may address the Board on any item not listed on the agenda. Presentations are limited to three minutes per person per topic. The Board may not respond to presentations. The public may address the Board on any item listed on the agenda at the time the matter is taken up by the Board.

Cali Hario - student - I was here at last board meeting to talk about year book and mistakenly talked about cell phones. That was not the correct time and place, so I have come tonight to speak about cell phones - I have a few reasons why we should keep cell phones. A big reason is if you take cell phones away kids will lose contact with parents. Parents can use apps such as family apps. Parents can look at the phones to see if they are abusing their phones. We recently had fires and there have been school shootings, how are these children supposed to get in contact with their parents if they don't have cell phones. They should be able to use their cell phones to contact parents to be able to let them know where they can be picked up or if the parent should stay away to be safe.

JK - One of the proposals was to create a waiting area where they could use their phones. How would kids feel about that?

CH thinks the kids will be okay with that. She does not see a lot of kids going on social media.

Merlin Hanauer Parent - complimented Cali - wants to discuss the current policy for cell phones. Would argue that at this point it is riddled with inconsistencies and pretty unclear. As a result it has led to an ad hoc policy. In one sentence it says "cell phones are not to be seen on campus" then another says "they shouldn't be turned on during school hours". Then there are sentences about no mp3 players. Phones are no longer phones, they have other programs as well that makes them a part of the items that shouldn't be allowed. Feels the policy was probably written when cell phones were much less technically advanced. Really feels the policy needs to be rewritten. Our district would end up on the wrong side of history if we don't make changes. Points out that Cali makes a good point about the safety issue. He doesn't feel that we need to ban phones, but need to have policy change.

SS - because policy is inconsistent - it is unclear to who?

MH - to the staff

EH - also said Cali did a good job.

Also making another complaint. Says her child was secretly videoed. She was chased. and words were said to her. Wants the board to look at research. She says there are 5 schools that have rules against phones in use except to contact parents. Understands that teachers may use them in classes, but have the teachers asked for the items they need so that they don't have to use phones. Also talked about the ban of phones somewhere in 2018. Read a statement from the person. Wanted to bring a petition

from the parents to the board and of the 30 people she approached she got 25 signatures, but life got in the way and she was not able to complete it. After thought, she hopes that the board will make a decision not based on popularity.

SS - does that constitute another complaint.

DR it has already been submitted.

SS thinks the plan is still to get the retreat planned soon and discuss this.

Jeri - barring some kind of tech apocalypse, barring the phones does not teach the children how to use the tech properly instead of abusing. They need to learn how to use tech and software. Signing a pact with the students who are allowed to bring cell phones. She can provide research that also shows scores going up because of tech instead of down.

Move to DR Office at 6:28

V. CONSENT AGENDA **ACTION ITEM**

- A. (p. 10) Approval of Minutes from the Regular Board Meetings of September 10, 2019 and October 10, 2019**
- B. (p. 27) Warrants**
- C. (p. 34) Payroll**

Action taken/comments:

SS wants to pull Minutes from Consent Agenda

JK moves

SS seconds

passes 4 - 0

Page 5 of minutes page 22 of packet - wants more info about “we have a sight - we have approval - we need a driver”

Trustee reports change part of SS report.

GA wants to add the statement from the other parent.

SS moves to approve the minutes as amended.

GA 2nds

passes 4 - 0

Motion _____ Second _____ Vote _____

VI. GENERAL ACTION ITEMS

A. (p. 35) Adopt Resolution #191114-01 Supporting the Designation of District Representatives and Authorization to File Applications For the School Facility Program

The Board will consider adoption of Resolution #191114-01 regarding the designation and authorization of staff to file applications for the School Facility Program.

Action taken/comments

WH this was a resolution that was prepared for us and then we tweaked it for our district. Came from Jack Shrader. The authorization to File application so that we have our ducks in a row.

JK moves to adopt
PL 2nds
passes 4 - 0

Motion _____ Second _____ Vote _____

B. (p. 41) Adopt Resolution #191114-2 acknowledging five certifications required to submit modernization and new construction funding applications to the Office of Public School Construction

The Board will consider adoption of Resolution #191114-2 regarding the acknowledgement of certifications required to submit modernization and new construction funding applications.

Action taken/comments

WH basically same thing as above. Need this to meet requirements

JK moves to adopt
PL 2nds
passes 4 - 0

Motion _____ Second _____ Vote _____

C. (p. 43) Approve Individual Service Agreement (ISA) for a Special Education Student at Greenacre Homes

The Board will consider approval of a service agreement for a student attending and receiving services at Greenacre Homes.

Action taken/comments:

DR as we move forward this is something we would have in the consent agenda because we don't really have a say in this. This is a student who lives in our district, but his educational needs can not be met in a public educational setting. We will occasionally have a student who will need these kinds of settings.

SS where is Greenacre Homes and will we see this every year.

DR yes we will see this every year.

WH says SELPA negotiates with these schools to get best price.

SS moves for approval

GA 2nds

passes 4 - 0

Motion _____ Second _____ Vote _____

VII. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ONLY

A. (p. 44) First Reading for Amended Board Policy 3551, Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund

Senate Bill 265 became law as of October 12, 2019, and requires changes in board policy. The Board will consider the amendments to Board Policy 3551, Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund.

GA points out that it says not shaming the child, but it does not talk about collecting old balances. So parents could not ever pay.

WH that is the point of the law. They want to be sure the students are fed.

PL says it does say we can't go after the child, but we can go after the parent.

WH says we currently have \$19,000 participation. The more participation we have, the more we will have to offset the bad debt. We will have to share the new law with the parents.

DR once this has been mulled over and discussions have been made we can bring this back for approval.

B. (p. 56) First Reading for Amended Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 3553, Free and Reduced Price Meals

Senate Bill 265 became law as of October 12, 2019, and requires changes in board policy. The Board will consider the amendments to this associated Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 3553, Free and Reduced Price Meals.

DR wants the principals to be able to see who is on the Free and Reduced Price Meals to help identify those who may fall in the 2nd tier.

WD this is something principals have been wanting for years and years.

SS asks wouldn't it be helpful for teachers to know this info as well?

DR says no - we just need to identify that these students are in need, but don't need to know that they are on the free and reduced program.

***DR big picture this is a protocol that he would like to introduce to board. Put items like this on the agenda as a discussion item only. This way the public knows about and can give input and the board can study them before next meeting.

VIII. ADJOURN TO STUDY SESSION

A. Multi Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Presentation

The Board will adjourn to the District Office for the Study Session. In preparation for the Board Retreat discussion of vision, missions, goals, and activities, Superintendent Rose will present the MTSS work plan structure for GUSD.

This is stuff DR has discussed with staff. we don't want these items to be in isolation. As we've looked at that we would like to present this to you.

Starts with multi tier of support. When we talk about multi tier of support there is a universal program in place. When we look at what is in place here now it is incredible. This program is working for approx 80% of our students. Next space is intervention for kids performing at lower level (15%). Top tier is where there needs to be intensive intervention (5%). It would be wrong for us to change our entire way of teaching for the few students. We need to make some changes just for those students.

Starbucks is set up to with a menu which works for most customers, but occasionally they have a customer that asks for something different. The barista needs to be set up for those customers. Then there are the customers who are

hanging out and looking over shoulders for passwords, this is where the manager steps in. The base set up is for the majority of customers that walk through the door.

There is not one program that works for all students. If there were, we would all be using it. Once we get to the 15% we need to look at those individuals, does it have to do with attendance, family life, English learner, etc. We need to tailor a program for them. We need to be strategic about keeping our base program. When we get to second tier we need to be ready for them. We want to avoid our students getting to top tier. We want to keep our students out of there. When should we start doing tier 2 stuff. Performance triangle - One side is attendance (needs to be positive - needs to be here at least 95% of time) - one side is academics - we want a GPA of at least 2.0 - Third side is behavior - student needs to build social skills - they need to know the rules and follow them - they will break a rule at some point and will then get a redirect, that should bring them back. If we suspend, there is a likelihood that the child will become a dropout. Not advocating that we never use suspension, but we need to make sure we understand the impact and repercussions. Students start out learning rules as well as academics. The first 7 years are critical. As students go through, there will be outside influences, friends - family dynamics - fires - substance abuse - etc.

7th and 8th now you have a more difficult academics, cell phones,

high school even more stressers

All grades are building blocks for the all important 12th grade. we want to have a stable performance triangle. We want to be sure we are in prevention mode. Talking with staff about trauma in life.

GA be sure that you explain that trauma is not necessarily a violent thing that has happened. I have ADHD and that is a trauma.

We now have kids that will have Fall as a trauma event because of the fires we have experienced in the last few years.

Before we start spending money, let's make sure we are spending it on the items that will actually help the students. We should have a group ready to meet with family with attendance issues. We should have a partnership with law enforcement if we feel they need to go into a home.

Performance triangle will also help them once they are in college and then again in their life after school - at work.

I have some drafts and mission statements to share with the board members to get their input.

SS - wants clarification - got stuck a little grade level and above for k - 5 what about later grades.

DR With a GPA of 2.00 or less is below grade level and this is the red flag.

20 to 30% of our students are below grade level and we need to discover why.

JK on this tier where do GATE students fall.

DR GATE doesn't mean that there isn't an attendance problem or behavioral problem. GATE doesn't automatically say this is what is going to fix this student. We still need to discover what is not working for them.

Jeri - her experience is that teachers with accelerated students feel empowered.

Keri would like to add that 5 years ago an instructional assistant would be considered for targeted use, but not any more. Got an email from a parent today how nice it was to see an IA helping an accelerated group.

AK asked about percentages for Universal triangle - are we looking to change those numbers. DR - those numbers are kind of generic, but yes he does want to change those numbers.

GA wants to understand JK concern. Is her concern that this model will not support our advanced kids.

JK no - not at all. she is wondering what kind of support we are offering for the GATE students.

DR world for the last 15 years has been the 5% kids of the Universal triangle.

GA we have kids in all three of those categories from out of district specifically for our program. We have a lot of programs for the accelerated kids. Knows there is a teacher giving up her lunch to provide a program for some accelerated kids.

AK thinks the point JK is making is that we have to have good optics that we are still offering strong academics. Strong academics should be the base.

JK While we are focusing our efforts on students who need additional support and we don't have GATE at middle school, I would like to be sure we have the resources to support students who are advanced as well.

BTriv we are in the process

SS thought this was very interesting. this takes me back to the interviews when DR applied for SIntendent. He indicated that he had already used this model. Kind of curious when he brings this model when are other professionals going to be brought in.

DR some of those professionals are sitting behind you Beth Triv, A. Otterson, KP and WD.

GA wants to remind the board, remember at the beginning of last year there was the question of the graphing of the kinder group, but at the end of the year it was looking better. This plan will help even more to improve those graphs.

SS thinks we are going to move on...but would like to add, DR's concern as we talk about board priorities, members have pet projects, this is important to DR and is his priority.

DR - People will have input and sometimes we will be able to incorp into plan, but some items will have to be parked, but kept an eye on. We need to do much more prevention and much less response.

GA one of the next steps talks about goals. Is the talk where DR would approach the board with goals or the development of goals.

DR - right now he is looking at vision and mission. Once we have that in place, what can we look at to ensure we are reaching those goals set by the vision and mission.

Adjourn for 5 minutes at 7:25 pm.

AK leaves at 7:25pm

Back in session at 7:33

DR would like to table CAASPP scores to Dec.

SS asks about Ind Contractors during Fires. They didn't work and so didn't get paid.

DR says that they have discussed with GPA and they will leave it up to them if they are going to be paid.

SS feels we have made some commitments in the past to getting some stakeholder input about enrichment program and wants to be sure we are doing that.

DR says the input is coming from their feet. They are coming to school. Enrollment is up as is attendance. We got a couple of emails in the beginning of the year, but nothing since.

GA remembers that we were looking for feedback from staff not from parents. But we would do something regarding the Cell Phones.

JK remembers the same.

SS so you see LCAP as a way of getting input.

DR yes we will be looking to LCAP for ways to get input where needed.

Jeri McNeill suggests that we get feedback at the end of the year.

DR says that is logical, but for our initial push it is going to be something we do in Spring.

WD if there are changes that need to be made we really need to get the input sooner rather than later.

IX. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

X. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS IN CLOSED SESSION

No public comment.

Adjourn to close session at 8:03pm

XI. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

A. With respect to every item of business to be discussed in closed session pursuant to Section 54957.6

- 1.0 Pending litigation
- 2.0 Administrator Performance Updates
- 3.0 Conference with Negotiations team:
GUTA negotiations update

XII. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION (if necessary)

Return to open session at 8:45pm

XIII. ACTION ON ITEMS HEARD IN CLOSED SESSION (if necessary)

No actions taken on items in closed session.

XIV. PUBLIC REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION (if necessary)

XV. FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

- A. December 12, 2019 at 5pm**
- B. January 9, 2020 at 5pm**

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn GA

2nd SS

Vote 4 - 0

Adjourned at 8:47pm

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