

GRAVENSTEIN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

3840 TWIG AVENUE
SEBASTOPOL, CA 95472

Board of Education
Special Meeting Minutes - [Zoom link](#)

DATE: Tuesday, October 5, 2021
TIME: 6:00 PM
LOCATION: Gravenstein Elementary, Multipurpose Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

Gregory Appling, President
Alexander Kahn, Trustee
Jennifer Koelemeijer, Clerk
Patrick Lei, Trustee
Jeri McNeill, Trustee

Meeting called to order at 6:03pm all members present

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Approval of the agenda for October 5, 2021 (2 min.)

Action taken/comments

Motion _____ Second _____

Vote: GA: _____ PL: _____ JK: _____ AK: _____ JM: _____

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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.

No public comments

IV. CONSENT AGENDA (2 min.)

ACTION ITEM

A. (p.1) Memorandum of Understanding with West County Union High School District for Credentialed School Nurse Services

Motion to approve consent agenda as written.

Motion _____ PL _____ Second _____ JM _____

Vote: GA: A PL: A JK: A AK: A JM: A

V. GENERAL ACTION ITEMS

A. (p.4) Board Meeting Format (10 min.)

Situation: The suspension of certain parts of the Brown Act that eased the mandates related to Trustee virtual attendance for Board Meetings was set to expire on September 30, 2021. On September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 361, which includes an amendment to the Brown Act that allows for remote meetings during a proclaimed state of emergency without following Brown Act teleconferencing rules. AB 361 mandates that in order for a school district utilize this amendment, the Board must make findings every 30 days that the Board has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and either the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of members to meet safely in person or state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing. This amendment is set to expire on January 1, 2024.

Plan: For the Board to discuss Trustee attendance preferences going forward and determine whether or not to make this a standing agenda item until this provision of AB 361 expires.

Recommended motion: No recommendation at this time.

Action taken/comments

Patrick asked for clarification about what counts as an Emergency and how it is decided if we would meet virtually.

motion to continue virtual meeting format per AB361

Motion _____ GA _____ Second _____ AK _____

Vote: GA: A PL: A JK: A AK: A JM: A

B. (p.9) Board Bylaw 9121 (2 min.)

Situation: GUSD took action to amend Board Bylaw 9121, in October of 2020, that excluded the Board President from participating in labor negotiations. The unintended consequence of that amendment is that if the current Board President also happens to be an experienced negotiator or whose expertise would benefit the district during labor negotiations, the district would not be allowed to benefit from that person’s participation in the process. This item was pulled from the September 14, 2021 agenda.

Plan: GUSD administration consulted with John Laughlin, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources for the Sonoma County Office of Education on this issue. He shared with us that the district could cite the unintended consequences of the amendment and in fairness to all Board Members the district could remove the limiting language. In order to remedy this situation and allow GUSD to utilize all resources available during such an important process, the Board could remove this restriction from BB 9121.

Recommended motion: To remove the sentence “The Board Member elected to the role of Board President shall be excluded from any labor negotiations representing the Board during their tenure as President” from BB 9121.

Action taken/comments

Patrick Lei suggested that if the board president is part of the negotiations we should include another board member

JK doesn't feel that the language of this is representative of what the board wanted

GA feels it is covered under bylaw 9100. Feels we should have two board members on the negotiations committee

AK - Plan: Pending Board approval, the agenda for the annual organizational meeting will be expanded to include an Action Item for the board to establish a GUSD Negotiating Team of no less than two board members for the upcoming calendar year.

Discussion changed to focus on the Board President term limit

JK Doesn't think we should remove the term limits, because we set them for a very good reason. We don't want to have one person who will have all the knowledge so that a vacuum is caused when that person leaves.

Patrick is also not in favor of removing the terms.

Jeri McNeill doesn't want to “lift it” for the same reason.

AK proposes looking at the term limits at a later time. Feels 2 years is two short of an amount of time.

It was decided that the Board limits discussion would be held during the December organizational meeting.

Motion to remove the sentence “The Board Member elected to the role of Board President shall be excluded from any labor negotiations representing the Board during their tenure as President” from BB 9121

Motion _____ PL _____ Second _____ JK _____

Vote: GA: A PL: A JK: A AK: A JM: A

C. (p.11) Board Bylaw 9100 (5 min.)

Situation: The Board has requested an addition to Board Bylaw 9100 that will empower the Board, on an annual basis, to determine the membership of the GUSD Negotiations Team.

Plan: Pending Board approval, the agenda for the annual organizational meeting will be expanded to include an Action Item to establish the GUSD Negotiating Team for the upcoming calendar year.

Recommended motion: None at this time.

Action taken/comments

Motion to add to Board Bylaw 9100 Action Item for the board to establish a GUSD Negotiating Team to include two members for the upcoming calendar year.

Motion _____ JK _____ Second _____ JM _____

Vote: GA: A PL: A JK: A AK: A JM: A

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS IN CLOSED SESSION

No Comments

Adjourn to closed session at 6:35pm

VII. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION (120 min.)

A. Board Retreat to review Annual Goals and Budget Reserves

Board returned to open session at 8:08pm with nothing to report and adjourned the meeting at 8:09pm

VIII. FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

- A. October 12, 2021 at 5pm**
- B. November 9, 2021 at 5pm**
- C. December 14, 2021 at 5pm**

IX. ADJOURNMENT

ADA Compliance: In compliance with Government Code 54954.2(a), the Gravenstein Union School District, will, on request, make this agenda available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12132) and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals who need this agenda in an alternative format or who need a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting should contact Dave Rose, District Superintendent, Gravenstein Union School District, 3840 Twig Ave., Sebastopol, CA 95472. Telephone (707) 823-7008.