

GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
High School Library
Business Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2013

approved 5/22/13

PRESENT:

Mr. Luis DeLoureiro, Secretary (Arrived at 7:04 p.m.)
Mr. John Giger, Vice-chair
Ms Leslie Lathrop
Ms Alison Manugian, Chair
Mr. Jon Sjoberg
Mr. Thomas Steinfeld

ABSENT:

Mr. Jim Frey

ADMINISTRATION:

Dr. Anthony Bent, Superintendent
Mr. Gerald Martin, Director of Business and Finance
Ms Kerry Clery, Director of Teaching, Learning and Accountability
Ms Jeanne Mitchell, Human Resources Manager

STAFF, PRESS, OTHERS: M. Mastrullo, M. McCaffrey, C. O'Neill, L. Morgan, J. Howes and family,
C. Remillard and family

I. Call to Order:

The GDRSC Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the chair, A. Manugian.

II. Pledge of Allegiance - Middle School Students

Clare O'Neill introduced fifth grader Chad Remillard and sixth grader Julia Howes, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Julia said she has been at Groton-Dunstable since Kindergarten and plays soccer, basketball and volleyball. Her favorite subject is science and her other classes include ELA, math and social studies. Specials include Spanish, art, drama, chorus and gym. She said overall, she has enjoyed her time at Groton-Dunstable, making new friends and having good experiences with her teachers.

Chad said he is in the Student Council and his classes include math, science, social studies and ELA. Studying micro-organisms was his favorite part of science and this has been his favorite school year.

III. Announcements

A. Manugian announced two Groton school committee members were re-elected as well as a new member, Thomas Steinfeld.

T. Steinfeld said he looks forward to working on the committee. He has been an educator for 10 years and has a background in financial services. His daughter graduates this year and he felt it was a good time to get involved and give back to the community. A. Manugian welcomed him to the committee.

IV. Approval of Minutes

L. LATHROP MOVED TO APPROVE THE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 24, 2013.

SECONDED BY J. GIGER

In Favor: J. Sjoberg, L. Lathrop, A. Manugian, J. Giger, L. DeLoureiro

Abstention: T. Steinfeld

J. SJOBERG MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 25, 2013 SPECIAL BUDGET AND FINANCE MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY L. LATHROP

In Favor: J. Sjoberg, L. Lathrop, A. Manugian, J. Giger

Abstention: L. DeLoureiro, T. Steinfeld

Approval of the February 11, 2013 Special Budget and Finance meeting minutes was postponed.

V. Vote to Accept Warrant Articles

A. MANUGIAN MOVED TO ACCEPT TWO PAYROLL WARRANTS TOTALING \$820,443.30 AND TWO VENDOR WARRANTS TOTALING \$295,985.09. SECONDED BY J. SJOBERG

In Favor: J. Sjoberg, L. Lathrop, A. Manugian, J. Giger, T. Steinfeld

Abstention: L. DeLoureiro

VI. Questions and Comments from the Public

None

VII. Presentations

A. Groton-Dunstable Education Foundation Grants - Laurie Morgan

L. Morgan announced GDEF funded 20 grants totaling \$22,720.26. She reviewed the awarded grants which include three grants for the AP Summer Institute (art, biology and physics) for high school teachers and two grants for the National Science Teachers Conference in Boston which will allow all the middle school and high school science teachers to attend.

J. Giger thanked the foundation for the tremendous job they do for the district.

L. LATHROP MOVED THEY ACCEPT THE GDEF GRANTS TOTALING \$22,720.26, WITH THANKS.

SECONDED BY J. SJOBERG

SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

B. Appointment of Director of Business and Finance - Anthony Bent (Action)

Dr. Bent said they received 24 applications for the position and interviewed six applicants. He explained the process was collaborative and committee oriented. He asked the committee to affirm his recommendation to hire Jared Martin Stanton as the next Director of Business and Finance. His salary will be \$90,000, with a pro-rated start date of July 15, 2013.

Dr. Bent explained Mr. Stanton has terrific interpersonal skills, a good baseline knowledge of the functions of the business office and possesses everything that is needed to be a successful business manager. Because he is young in the field and still an emerging leader, Mr. Martin has agreed to mentor him, as needed, around the critical functions. His salary will be \$90,000 and the delta between his salary and what Mr. Martin's salary would have been next year, will cover Mr. Martin's mentoring costs. There will be a one week overlap in July and then J. Martin and J. Stanton will work out their schedule which will include mentoring throughout the whole year.

A. Manugian asked what the difference is, if any, between a Comptroller and a Business Manager. J. Martin said it does not differ much from the accounting position they have in the business office. Mr. Stanton has taken an expanded role in his current position because the business manager there is an interim. He is actively involved in the payroll and has done transportation and food service.

J. GIGER MOVED THEY AFFIRM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DECISION TO HIRE JARED STANTON AS THEIR NEXT DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AND FINANCE AT A SALARY OF \$90,000, WITH A START DATE OF JULY 15, 2013. SECONDED BY J. SJOBERG

L. DeLoureiro asked how many hours Mr. Martin will mentor. Dr. Bent said Mr. Martin's contract will cap out at the delta between the two salaries and will give them a lot of hours. He will be paid an hourly rate.

SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

J. Giger feels it is a good omen that Mr. Stanton's middle name is the same as Jerry's last name and will lead to a smooth transition. A. Manugian said Mr. Stanton sounds like a dynamic individual and they are happy to have Mr. Martin stay around as a mentor. Dr. Bent said he appreciates the committee's support.

C. Review Athletics Cost and Fee Analysis - Anthony Bent, Michael Mastrullo and Michael McCaffrey
Dr. Bent said Principal Mastrullo and Coach McCaffrey have done a lot of work to prepare the information and recommendation to the school committee. He noted a series of estimates were made in order to provide some basis for making decisions.

M. Mastrullo said the impetus behind the analysis was the \$144,000 deficit that had accumulated over a number of years and was wiped out last year. He noted there are 23 varsity sports, 11 junior varsity sports and 6 freshmen sports at the high school, with a total of 762 participants and some play multiple sports. The middle school has 6 sports with 238 participants. The costs of running an athletic program were highlighted and totals \$537,363.25. He clarified football and cheerleading are not included in any of the numbers.

Funding comes from user fees, with a family cap of \$1000, the general fund contribution and gate receipts and totals \$470,802.02. The total deficit is \$66,561.05. User fees date back to before 1994 and the fees were reviewed from 2007 to 2013. M. Mastrullo noted they have remained steady since 2011 (\$300 at the high school, \$210 at the middle school). While not the highest, he stated their user fees are north of average.

A proposed user fee for two winter sports was rescinded by the school committee pending further investigation and analysis. A funding comparison of neighboring towns was reviewed and Groton-Dunstable is on the bottom end with 0.57%. The FY13 budget is \$199,611 and the FY14 budget will be increased to \$276,896, .79% of the total budget.

M. McCaffrey said issues he sees include the inability to properly outfit the teams with the necessary equipment. The freshmen and JV soccer players purchase their own uniforms. Many of the teams go on to post season play and funding has never been provided for transportation and officials. The Athletic Booster Club recently paid for the coaches to have certified AED and CPR training. He said he is very limited in what he can provide his coaches with in terms of equipment.

L. Lathrop asked if there are gate receipts from soccer and M. McCaffrey said no except for the opening round home soccer game in the state tournament. The upper fields have too many entrances to organize a gate. Receipts are generated for ice hockey at the Groton School and at the high school for boys and girls basketball. M. Mastrullo said gate receipts are a moving target and it becomes difficult when they are charging parents who have all ready paid user fees.

With respect to the funding comparisons with other towns, L. DeLoureiro asked if they know the percentage if football is taken out of the equation and M. Mastrullo said no. He said they are grateful for the increased funding next year and it will provide stability and sustainability. A potential increase in user fees will need to be revisited at some point.

Dr. Bent said J. Martin covered the costs for the FY14 athletic program without any increase in fees. The school committee has determined to support athletics a bit more than in the past. He will recommend they have this discussion again next year to see what the reality cost of the program is since they have made a lot of estimates.

L. DeLoureiro asked what the reaction was when fees were increased. J. Sjoberg said the schools were struggling at the time and people appreciated parents paying a bit more. J. Giger pointed out that a significant portion of the athletic fees are salaries and when a cost of living increase is provided in the contracts, that automatically passes through to most of the coaches. He asked that everyone involved in athletics be sure the players have what they need to be safe but to be frugal and smart shoppers since budgets are still tight.

L. Lathrop asked if an analysis will be done to see if they are offering appropriate sports or whether there are ones they should no longer be participating in. M. McCaffrey said there is nothing planned. He said they do not have a JV softball team for the second year in a row but they do have a solid middle school softball program and hope it will be backfilled with those players. His last analysis showed they are a sport short on the boys side of the ledger and the gym goes used in the springtime. That is the season for high school boys volleyball. M. Mastrullo said last year's volleyball club did not work. They do have a successful co-op with Tyngsboro for swimming and perhaps they can co-op with another school for wrestling.

In conjunction with the Special Olympics, M. Mastrullo said they offer a track and field program where life skills students participate along side regular education students and he said it is very, very successful and the kids are amazing.

With respect to rankings, M. Mastrullo said Newsweek named Groton-Dunstable as 12th in the state for AP scores, AP enrollment, SAT scores, graduation rates etc and 388 in the country, which is the top one percent.

VIII. Reports

A. Subcommittees

Policy Subcommittee - L. Lathrop reported their next meeting is at Prescott on May 28th at 8:00 a.m.

Budget & Finance Subcommittee - A. Manugian reported they met last week to review the athletic report and they will be meeting at the end of the month.

Personnel and Negotiations - No report

B. Superintendent

1. Director of Technology - Dr. Bent reported Andrew Marcinek is all ready thinking about what he wants to accomplish when he starts work in the district on July 1st and is asking for volunteers to be on a district-wide technology advisory committee.

2. School Security - Members received a copy of a memo sent to parents regarding school security. K. Tuomi has volunteered to be the District Coordinator for security and has all ready become quite active. There has been significant activity around safety and security at the administration level and the fire chiefs and police chiefs will be meeting with the administration on June 7th.

C. Director of Business and Finance

Middle School Roof - J. Martin reported they are on schedule to start the roof project on June 24th and are within the budget. They discovered the kitchen hood duct work is not in code and will be replaced.

D. Advisory Committees - No report

E. Chair

1. Reorganization - A. Manugian reported the committee will reorganize at their May 22nd meeting. She will email the subcommittee interest forms to members.

IX. Discussions

None

X. New Business

None

XI. Adjournment

J. GIGER MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:01 P.M., NOT TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION, FOR THE PURPOSE TO CONDUCT STRATEGY SESSIONS IN PREPARATION FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH NONUNION PERSONNEL OR TO CONDUCT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SESSIONS OR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH NONUNION PERSONNEL IN ACCORDANCE WITH M.G.L. CH. 30A, SECTION 21 a-2. SECONDED BY J. SJOBERG

SO VOTED BY ROLL CALL

In Favor: J. Sjoberg, L. Lathrop, A. Manugian, J. Giger, L. DeLoureiro, T. Steinfeld

Respectfully submitted,



Susan H. Smith
Recording Secretary