MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 22, 2019, 5:30pm
GCVS Office, 238 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Greenfield Massachusetts 01301

Board of Trustees: John Lunt, Fernando Fleury
Late Arrival: Dr. Jessica Biggie (6:08pm)
Excused Absence(s): Daryl Essensa, Doug Wilkins
Senior Leadership Team Members: Dr. Salah Khelfaoui, Executive Director; Marc Richard, Director of Business Services

MINUTES

I. Call to Order
Mr. Lunt called the meeting to order at 6:08pm.

II. Approval of Minutes March 11, 2019

Motion by Dr. Biggie; seconded by Mr. Fleury, to approve the minutes as presented.

Vote: (3-0-0)

III. Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Fleury; seconded by Dr. Biggie, vote to enter into Executive Session under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, for the following:

- section 21, part (a)(2) to discuss contract negotiations with nonunion personnel;
- section 21, part (a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining as doing so in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Board.

Roll Call Vote: Dr. Biggie – yes, Mr. Fleury – yes, Mr. Lunt- yes

The Board entered into Executive Session at 6:11pm

The Board Returned to Open Session at 6:44pm

IV. Public Comment – None
V. Reports / Action Items

A. Business Manager’s Report
- Regarding the FY19 budget, Mr. Richard reported that cash flow and balances look good. He continues to closely monitor spending but expenses are under control.
- Our Average Daily Membership is trending at 575 students.
- He has received information that the SPED increment may be adjusted down. He feels that we can weather the decrease in the SPED increment.
- Mr. Lunt questioned the funds in the escrow account. Was the escrow account created as a condition of our probation? With the recent certificate renewal we are no longer on probation – can those funds be rolled into the regular savings? Mr. Richard will look into this.
- Work on the FY20 budget is ongoing.

B. Executive Director’s Report
- Dr. Khelfaoui reported enrollment is currently at 618 students.
- Dr. Khelfaoui presented a brief overview of his goals.
  - We need to focus on the standardization of the elementary curriculum. This was sited in the recent DESE site visit review. The Senior Leadership Team had been considering the Florida Virtual elementary curriculum, however, it will not be ready for the fall so they are looking at other options (Accelerate Learning).
  - We are launching more asynchronous learning. Martin & Associates is developing a mailer that will be sent to homeschool families.
  - Dr. Khelfaoui and Mr. Kumin met with the leadership team of the Islamic Center in Waltham. They currently have 25 students enrolled with GCVS. Scheduling ELL services has been difficult as the timing conflicts with their religious studies. He has proposed the asynchronous model for them for next year.
  - Mr. Lunt questioned how he sees the breakdown between synchronous and asynchronous learning.
  - Per Dr. Khelfaoui, he sees it as a balance in the next couple of years trending to more asynchronous in 5 years.
  - Stressed that student performance needs to show improvement.
  - We are planning to introduce a SPED hybrid program. He has been in contact with the DESE and they are very supportive. The program will allow us to deliver SPED services more efficiently in small groups/clusters.
  - Dr. Khelfaoui is working on a partnership with GCC to offer a virtual dual enrollment program.
  - He would like to see a gifted program offered in the future.
- Our high school graduation will be held on Friday June 7th at 6:00pm at GCC.

  Motion by Dr. Biggie; seconded by Mr. Fleury, to approve the transfer of $250.00 to fund the scholarship presented to the Founder’s Award recipient at graduation.

  Vote: (3-0-0)

- As part of the conditions on our Certificate renewal, DESE is requiring that a consultant review our curriculum. This must be completed by June 30th. Several of the consultants the DESE provided are unable to complete the work by the deadline. Dr. Khelfaoui has been in contact with Accelerate Educational Consulting and they can meet the deadline. The DESE needs to approve the choice of consultant.

  Motion by Mr. Fleury; seconded by Dr. Biggie, move to empower the Executive Director to decide on and contract with a Consultant for the review of our curriculum.

  Vote: (3-0-0)

C. Report of Ad Hoc Subcommittees
- Mr. Fleury reported that the Budget Subcommittee has not met since the last Board meeting.
- The Policy Subcommittee also did not meet.
- The Physical Restraint Policy was presented for a second reading and vote.

  Motion by Dr. Biggie; seconded by Mr. Fleury, vote to accept the Physical Restraint Policy as written.

  Vote: (3-0-0)

- The Special Education Policy Manual was reviewed at the subcommittee meeting in March. The manual was presented for a first reading.

D. Report of the Chair / Other Business
- Mr. Lunt attended the meeting of the BOE regarding our Certificate renewal and had a chance to speak with the Commissioner of Education as well as other individuals there. He and Dr. Khelfaoui both spoke at the meeting. The BOE has voted to renew the Certificate and remove us from probation.
- There is still a lack of understanding at the DESE of what we are and what we try to do.
- We have been invited to participate in a workshop with the Digital Learning Advisory Council (DLAC). He was encouraged by the interaction with them.
- Contract negotiations have been successfully completed with the Executive Director and Dr. Khelfaoui has received a three year contract.
- Mr. Lunt asked the members to think about the evaluation of the Executive Director and also self-evaluation of the Board.

Next Meeting Date – Monday May 13, 2019 at 6:00pm

E. Adjournment

   Motion by Dr. Biggie; seconded by Mr. Fleury, move to adjourn meeting.

   Vote: (3-0-0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm