

# School Board Work Session Highlights

September 13, 2021

*Great Valley School District*  
*Office of the School Board Secretary*



## **DURING THE September 13, 2021 WORK SESSION**

The September 13, 2021, work session was called to order by President David Barratt. Board members **present:** Amy Chain, Stephen Dittmann, Rachel Gallegos, Samantha Jouin, Neha Mehta, and Bryan Paluch. **Absent:** Jennifer Armstrong and Wendy Litzke.

### **Student Representative to the Board**

**Meher Sachar** discussed activities happening at the beginning of the year. Fall athletics have begun, Back to School Night will take place on September 14, and elections for student council officers will take place the week of September 13. Meher shared that students and staff have been vigilant with masking, social distancing, and all recommended mitigation efforts.

Members of the Board shared their enthusiasm about the return of student representative reports and that they look forward to hearing about student activities in great detail throughout the year.

### **Program**

#### **Discussion**

**Dr. O'Toole**, along with Dr. Beck, [presented](#) the results of a social studies audit completed by Dr. Edward Fierros, with Villanova University. He discussed the curriculum development process within the Great Valley School District, the curriculum revision process, and the audit review. Finally, Dr. O'Toole shared the recommendations of Dr. Fierros. **Dr. Beck** then shared a timeline for steps to be taken over the next few years.

**Mr. Peterson** [reported](#) on the September 1, 2021, 3<sup>rd</sup> Day Enrollment. He stated that actual enrollment was 4,587, and projected enrollment was 4,569. He shared enrollment totals at each grade level, district totals, and class sizes.

### **Facilities**

#### **Discussion**

**Mr. Peterson** shared that there was a facilities committee meeting on August 26. During the meeting, options for renovations to the High School and General Wayne Elementary School auditoriums were discussed. Once the results of the acoustical analysis are in, a decision may be made. The committee reviewed potential HVAC projects that might be eligible for partial funding through ESSER, possible renovations to all libraries during the summer of 2022, and the sale of 357 Swedesford Road. An RFP for bond counsel and an RFP for 5/6 Construction Manager were also discussed. Finally, the committee reviewed updates on the summer 2021 projects that are now wrapping up. **Mr. Dittmann** highlighted the fact that upgrades to our auditoriums will make the space more versatile.

## **Facilities**

(continued)

### **Discussion** – continued

Mr. Peterson then provided information about the three items that the board will be asked to approve. The first is a deduct change order to the contract with FieldTurf, reducing the contract value by \$14,500, because the installation was not completed by the deadline. Next is a quote by 3B Services to provide district-wide boiler and water heater cleaning services. And lastly, Mr. Peterson reviewed a change order to the contract with Donald E. Reisinger for additional masonry work.

## **Superintendent's Update**

**Dr. Goffredo** began his [report](#) by summarizing the first two weeks of the school year. He noted that student attendance and enthusiasm are high, staff has been supportive and flexible, and families have been understanding and empathetic. School activities and productions are being held in person with precautions in place. He shared a reminder that we continue to manage COVID-19 cases and will continue to follow the guidance provided to us. Dr. Goffredo shared his gratitude to staff and a warm welcome to this year's kindergarten class.

His presentation then shifted to review language changes to the Health and Safety plan that the administration will ask the board to approve on September 20. The three recommendations are to grant authorization to the administration to act on medical guidance from the CDC, PA DOH, PDE, and/or CCHD, place greater emphasis on the consideration of medical guidance, and require unvaccinated staff to wear a mask and commit to weekly antigen testing when we return to a mask-optional approach. A member of the board asked if the district can ask staff what their vaccination status is. Dr. Goffredo stated that a survey provided to staff will ask to disclose and provide proof of vaccination, and if a staff member does not wish to disclose this information, they will be considered unvaccinated. Further discussion continued surrounding vaccination mandates.

The final part of Dr. Goffredo's presentation provided an update on the 5/6 Center. Plans are progressing on schedule, and staff and community meetings and presentations are underway. He included a detailed timeline through December.

## **Finance**

### **Discussion**

**Mr. Peterson** stated that the following finance items will be listed for approval on the business meeting agenda:

Renewal of the Lightspeed content filter through ePlus at a cost of \$26,050

Appointment of the firm Kegel, Kelin, Litts, and Lord (KKLL) as bond counsel at a cost of \$30,000, plus actual out-of-pocket expenses

A proposal with ePlus to supply equipment for outdoor WiFi at the High School/Middle School campus and the stadium press box at a cost of \$51,993.48

A proposal from District Management Group (DMG) to amend a previously approved agreement to discontinue the Middle School scheduling project and divert the contract balance of \$12,000 to provide master schedule options for the 5/6 center

Contracts with Sports Care, LLC, and Michele Monaco as independent contractors to provide athletic trainer services as needed at a cost of \$50 per hour

## **Finance**

(continued)

### **Discussion** – continued

A 60-month lease with Centric Business Systems for four Ricoh copiers and one Riso duplicator at a cost of \$684.32 per month

Renewal of an Employee Assistance Program with Health Advocate Services at a cost of \$8,100

An educational services contract with The Camphill School to provide services to student 240427

An educational services contract with The Camphill School to provide services to student 230538

An educational services contract with Valley Forge Educational Services to provide services to student 300260

An educational services contract with Bancroft to provide services to student 190018

A contract with Holcomb Behavioral Health Systems for the Student Assistance Program at a cost of \$39,600

An agreement with Red Pepper Software, LLC for vaccine solution implementation at a cost of \$1,985

## **Other Items**

**Mr. Barratt** spoke about the PSBA election. Mr. Peterson, as the authorized Great Valley official, will register the vote with PSBA.

## **Board Comments**

**Mrs. Chain** shared that if you register your email address with the Foundation at Great Valley, you will be entered to win a \$100 mini-grant for the teacher of your choice.

## **Draft Agenda**

**Mr. Barratt** stated that the draft agenda of the September 20 business meeting is available to the board for review.

## **Public Comments**

The following public comments were submitted:

S. Lawrence – traffic on Phoenixville Pike during pick-up and drop-off at the Middle School and High School.

## **Executive Session**

**Mr. Barratt** announced that the board met in Executive Session before the meeting to discuss personnel and legal issues.

## **Adjournment**

Seeing no further comments or questions, the meeting adjourned.