

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

MINUTES OF THE GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting June 30, 2010

The Grandview Heights City School Board met in special session pursuant to the rules section 3313.16 of the Ohio Revised Code in the Grandview Heights Board of Education conference room with President Kathy Lithgow in the Chair. Due notice of this meeting was issued to members of the Board and to the media.

Call to Order: President Lithgow called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call: The following persons were present:

Members Present: Kathy Lithgow, President
Katie Clifford, Member
Grant Douglass, Member
John Kessler, Member
Joanne Peters, Member (5)

Others Present: Ed O'Reilly, Superintendent of Schools
Brad Pettit, Network Administrator
Tammy Rizzo, Assistant Treasurer
Alan Froman, Grandview ThisWeek
David Knisley, Treasurer

Recognition of Guests and Hearing of the Public (III): President Lithgow recognized Brad Pettit whom the superintendent is recommending for employment as the District's network administrator.

Personnel (IV): The superintendent recommended the employment of two persons as contained in the motion below.

MOTION 10-076: Ms. Peters moved to approve the following employment:

- a. Kathryn Coplin as a kindergarten teacher, class IV/Step 8, \$58,105 (1.0 FTE), one-year limited contract for the 2010-11 school year
- b. Brad Pettit as network administrator, two-year contract effective August 2, 2010 through July 31, 2012 at an annual salary of \$63,000 in accordance with the terms and conditions of his employment contract

Mr. Douglass seconded the motion.

On roll call, the members voted as follows: Clifford, yes; Douglass, yes; Kessler, yes; Lithgow, yes; Peters, yes. 5 yes.

The president declared the motion carried.

Potential Permanent Improvement Levy and Potential Operating Levy (V-A): Mr. O'Reilly reviewed the Permanent Improvement Report (DRAFT) as it is contained as an addendum item to these Minutes. President Lithgow said the Board of Education needs to pass new Resolutions of Necessity if it desires a single

ballot issue for the operating and permanent improvement tax levies. Mr. O'Reilly reported on information he recently obtained from "Support Ohio Schools" regarding voters' likely indifference between voting for limited term tax levies and levies for a continuing period of time. Ms. Peters said she prefers placing a permanent improvement tax levy on the ballot for a continuing period of time. Mr. Kessler said he would support a continuing permanent improvement tax levy based upon feedback he received during the community forum held a few months ago. Mr. Douglass said either a limited term or continuing permanent improvement tax levy would be acceptable although he believes voters appreciate an enhanced level of accountability associated with a limited term levy. He said that the risk associated with a continuing permanent improvement tax levy is that the School District may lose its original focus of the purpose of the levy with the passage of time. Mrs. Clifford said she favors a permanent improvement tax levy for a continuing period of time although the Board would need to provide a level of accountability that would be commensurate with a limited term levy. She said it is the responsibility of the Board of Education to keep the community informed of its permanent improvement expenditures over time. Both she and Mr. Douglass said that a long-term capital expenditure plan for the Permanent Improvement Fund would be necessary if a tax levy were passed for a continuing period of time. Ms. Lithgow said she favors a permanent improvement tax levy for a continuing period of time. She said that semi-annual reports could be made available to the public regarding Permanent Improvement Fund expenditures to help keep the District from deviating from its original plan for the expenditure of Permanent Improvement Funds. The superintendent and Board continued to discuss the establishment of a Permanent Improvement Fund planning structure that could remain in place despite turnover of board members and administrators. President Lithgow concluded that there might be some consensus among members of the Board that the Board might consider placing a permanent improvement tax levy on the ballot for a continuing period of time.

President Lithgow asked members of the Board to consider if it should place separate issues on the November 2nd ballot for operating and permanent improvement tax levies or place a single issue on the ballot including both tax levies. Mr. Kessler said it might be more appropriate from a public policy standpoint to give voters a choice by placing two separate issues on the ballot. He said that good public policy should be considered before considering convenience for the campaign. Mr. Douglass said that he could go either way but is tending to favor placing separate issues on the ballot for operating and permanent improvement tax levies. Mrs. Clifford said she prefers placing a single issue on the ballot including both tax levies because the School District has a valid need for both taxes. The Board of Education needs to articulate why both operating and permanent improvement tax levies need to be approved by voters. She said she values the recommendation of former levy committee chairpersons who encourage the Board to place a single issue on the ballot including both tax levies. Ms. Peters said that placing a single issue on the ballot including both tax levies would improve the likelihood of the passage of both tax levies. Ms. Lithgow said that she contacted the Ohio School Boards Association who has worked with various election consultants and their overwhelming recommendation is to place a single issue on the ballot including operating and permanent improvement tax levies in order to improve the likelihood of passage of both tax levies. Therefore she said she supports the placement of a single issue on the ballot. Mr. O'Reilly said that it is more complicated to explain two

separate ballot issues than it is to explain a single issue on the ballot including both operating and permanent improvement tax levies. He and members of the Board continued to discuss various tax levy combinations. Mr. Kessler said that he respects the advice of former tax levy campaign chairpersons and he noted that there is nothing disingenuous about placing a single issue on the ballot including both tax levies. However he said that he would like to have more time to consider the question of placing separate issues or a single issue on the November 2nd ballot. Mr. Douglass agreed that having more time to consider the placement of separate issues versus a single issue on the ballot would be welcome.

MOTION 10-077: Ms. Peters moved to approve three "Resolutions Declaring it Necessary to Levy an Additional Tax in Excess of the Ten-Mill Limitation" including both an Operating and Permanent Improvement Levy, both for continuing periods of time, as the Resolutions are contained as addendum items to these Minutes with the following distinctions:

- Combined Levy at an annual rate not exceeding 5.9 mills including 3.9 mills apportioned for current operating expenses and 2.0 mills apportioned for general, on-going permanent improvements;
- Combined Levy at an annual rate not exceeding 6.3 mills including 4.3 mills apportioned for current operating expenses and 2.0 mills apportioned for general, on-going permanent improvements; and
- Combined Levy at an annual rate not exceeding 6.9 mills including 4.9 mills apportioned for current operating expenses and 2.0 mills apportioned for general, on-going permanent improvements

Mrs. Clifford seconded the motion.

On roll call, the members voted as follows: Douglass, yes; Kessler, yes; Lithgow, yes; Peters, yes; Clifford, yes. 5 yes.
The president declared the motion carried.

Mr. O'Reilly explained that with the expiration of the current Permanent Improvement Fund tax levy with an effective Class I rate of 1.31 mills, the net tax increase of the 5.9 mill levy would be 4.59, the 6.3 mill levy would be 4.99, and the 6.9 mill levy would be 5.59. The effective Class I tax increase of the 2.0 mill P.I. tax levy would be 0.69 mills.

Evaluation of Superintendent (V-B): President Lithgow said that the evaluation of the superintendent would need to be considered at the next regular Board of Education meeting. She requested that members of the Board review information to prepare for the evaluation.

Administrator Handbook and High School Principal Evaluation (V-C): Mr. O'Reilly asked members of the Board to review information regarding a revised administrator handbook and the evaluation of the high school principal.

Network Administrator Employment Process (V-D): Mrs. Clifford commended Mr. O'Reilly for his implementation of the process used to employ the District's new network administrator.

Adjournment (VII): President Lithgow called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION 10-078: Ms. Peters moved to adjourn.

Mr. Douglass seconded the motion.

On roll call, the members voted as follows: Kessler, yes; Lithgow, yes; Peters, yes; Clifford, yes Douglass, yes. 5 yes.

The president declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
President

Treasurer