

Grand County School District Board of Education
Board Work Session Minutes
Wednesday, October 11, 2023
3:30 p.m.

Attending: Melissa Byrd, Kathy Williams, Ariel Atkins, Steve Kennedy (excused at 4:10 pm)

Excused: DeeRay Wardle

Also Attending: Superintendent Taryn Kay, Business Administrator Klint York, Administrative Assistant NaShay Lange, Business Administrator Pat Wilson (Zoom - joined at 5:10; excused at 5:18)

Audience: Todd Thompson, Jill Tatton, Cari Caylor, Hank Postma, Michelle Searle (3:37 pm), Kar Barnard (3:38 pm)

Melissa Byrd brought the meeting to order @ 3:30 p.m.

I. Powerschool: Todd Thompson spoke about and presented a partial video on the new Powerschool program the District will be moving to in the 24/25 school year. There are over 75 independent software partner products for Powerschool. This is a national program that has the ability to be tailored to meet the needs of the District. This program will eliminate the need for many of the other programs the District is currently using, including Parchment, Panorama, Data IO, Parentlink and myschoolfees. Powerschool allows for more streamlined communication between teachers and parents. There will be customization available for grading where teachers can choose the weight of certain areas. Powerschool allows apps on both IOS and Android systems, which allows teachers to have the tools they need at their fingertips.

Steve Kennedy asked about the learning curve for the program, as the word “robust” was mentioned many times in the video presentation. He also asked about any changes to the parent portal. Todd Thompson explained that teachers will receive training on the program prior to it being implemented. Michelle Searle commented that she has been using it as a teacher and it is leaps and bounds easier to use than Aspire. Taryn Kay commented that it is new, it is a change and people historically do not like change but she is confident that once teachers start using the program they will prefer it to Aspire as well.

Kathy Williams questioned when training will take place. Two systems cannot run simultaneously, so training has to wait until the end of this school year. Student information cannot roll over into the new system until the District is done with Aspire. Training will likely take place a couple of days before the start of the new school year.

Michelle Searle added that from a parent’s perspective, Powerschool is much easier to use than Aspire. Melissa Byrd asked if push notifications are the same. Michelle said that the push notification system is customizable. Todd added there are notifications in real time that include grades, tardies, absences, etc. Rather than being notified at the end of the day, parents will be able to know right away.

Melissa Byrd asked about pricing - is there a base level with add-ons available? Klint presented pricing information. Set up, training, and the first year of service will cost about \$95,000 with annual fees being approximately \$41,000 thereafter. Klint mentioned that Jill Tatton was able to secure a grant for \$100,000 which will pay for the initial cost.

Kathy Williams asked about entering class names and course numbers. Cari Caylor said that this program takes out the middleman and ensures that changes get done more quickly and efficiently. Admin will take care of this and be able to ensure the right information is presented, which is critical in terms of funding opportunities.

Melissa Byrd reiterated about the College and Career section of the program. Her understanding was confirmed that parents will be able to sit down with their students prior to meeting with the guidance counselor, check out pathways and see what they need to do in order to prepare. They can do this from home and have an opportunity to be more prepared when it is time to meet with the guidance counselor.

II. TSI (Targeted Support and Improvement): Taryn Kay presented. Grand County Schools are a part of TSI. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is an extension of the Elementary and Secondary Elementary Act of 1965. There are different groups available and students may fall in many groups. In order for a group of students to be eligible for school improvement the group must be 10 or more students and must have at least 2 indicators. A group is put into TSI when they score below the lowest 5% of Title I schools for 2 consecutive years. To get out of TSI, the student groups must show growth above the cut score from the year that they entered the TSI. The cut score is a State-wide score. TSI identification is likely to take place in October or November and will be done annually. Due to the changes made, a group may come out of TSI for the previous year, but come back into the TSI for the current year. In order to be an ATSI (Additional Targeted Support and Improvement) school, the school must have first been a TSI school and have a score lower than the lowest 5% on average for the last 3 years. The next identification for ATSI will be in 2025. As of 2022, HMK had 4 subgroups in TSI status; MLHMS had 1 subgroup; and GCHS had 3 subgroups. GCSD schools must write a performance improvement plan to address the ways to improve outcomes for students in the identified subgroups.

III. Evaluation Timeline: Conversation took place and the following timeline was put in place:

- October
 - Evaluation process
 - Set up interviews with Admin
 - Faculty Climate Survey
- November
 - Interview Admin
 - Complete KPI (Key Performance Indicators)

- December
 - Executive Meeting to compile data
- January
 - Executive Meeting - in case more time is needed
 - Present evaluation to Superintendent and Business Administrator
- February
 - Negotiate contracts for next school year
- March
 - Approve contracts in Board Meeting

More discussion on periodic check-ins on goals. Check-ins will be in January and June. Melissa Byrd suggested using audit meetings and agenda planning meetings for check-ins. Ariel Atkins explained the feedback process is more important when a person is in a new role. Melissa Byrd will send out an email for DeeRay and Steve to determine who will interview and when. Melissa will also find the previously compiled list of questions to ask during the interview process.

IV. Personnel List:

- AmAsie Willison is starting at MLHMS as the new secretary on Oct 17th.
- Ariel Atkins asked about how 1st grade will be divided. Michelle said that teachers compiled a list of their students and their needs. Teachers communicated with parents during conferences about the changes coming. The school just communicated with parents about the transition taking place. Only one parent communicated the desire to have their student stay with their current teacher - that request was accommodated.
- Lisa Stacy was in the kitchen; she is being moved to a custodian position.
- Melissa Byrd brought up a concern that was brought to her regarding 4th grade. Taryn and Michelle explained that the teacher didn't give the school much notice that they were going to need to exercise FMLA. They determined that rather than having a long term substitute teacher, it would be better to have the students in that classroom moved to the other existing 4th grade classrooms and have fully licensed and credentialed teachers for the time the original is out of work. Because the teacher is on FMLA, their position is held for them for 3 months. Students will make their changes to their new teacher on the 18th. This will transition 4th grade teachers from 20 to 25 students, roughly.
- Kari Barnard updated that the 8th grade teacher that was going to be the new middle school counselor has decided to remain an 8th grade teacher. The counselor position will remain open.

Ariel Atkins made a motion to go into recess at 5:00 pm.

Kathy Williams seconded the motion to go into recess.

Recorder paused.

Recorded unpaused at 5:09 pm.

Kathy Williams made a motion to go into Executive Session at 5:10 pm.

Ariel Atkins seconded the motion to go into Executive Session.

Roll Call Vote:

Melissa - yes

Kathy - yes

Ariel - yes

Vote passed 3-0.

V. Executive Session: Negotiations.

Ariel Atkins made a motion to come out of the Executive Session at 5:19 pm.

Kathy Williams seconded the motion to come out of the Executive Session.

Recorded back on.

Kathy Williams made a motion to Adjourn the meeting

Ariel Atkins seconded the motion to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned @ 5:20 pm.