

## **Madison-Grant United School Corporation**

August 23, 2021 – Madison-Grant Conference Room– 7:00 p.m.

### **Minutes of the School Board Meeting**

The Board of School Trustees of the Madison-Grant United School Corporation met for a School Board Meeting on Monday, August, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Madison-Grant Conference Room, 11700S – E00W, Fairmount, Indiana 46928.

School Board Meetings are now open to the public. A virtual option to attend this meeting was also available and a call in number was provided.

The regular meeting was called to order by Mrs. Mary Jo Brunt, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present were: Mrs. Mary Jo Brunt, Dr. Katti Sneed, Mrs. Amanda Kelich, Mr. Bruce Stanley, Mr. John Hanes, Mr. Ronald Stewart, and Mr. David Whybrew. Also in attendance: Dr. Scott Deetz, Superintendent, Mr. Steve Vore, Assistant Superintendent and Mr. Ben Mann, CFO.

No Members were absent.

Spotlight on Education: Mr. Ritchie presented incoming 10 Year 4-H members from Grant and Madison Counties. Each student/4-H member present spoke on what projects that take and a favorite memory.

Addendum to the agenda Action Item I. Approval of Fundraising Request. Motion was made by Dr. Sneed with a second by Mr. Stanley.

Minutes of the School Board Meeting on August 9, 2021 and Executive Session Meeting on August 17, 2021 were approved upon a motion made by Mr. Stewart with a second by Mr. Stanley.

Accounts payable checks - Checks 31149-31219 and voucher V50165 totaling \$120,412.70, and payroll form August 20, 2021 totaling \$257,461.42, making a grand total of \$377,874.12 were approved upon a motion by Mr. Stanley and seconded by Mrs. Kelich.

The following personnel items were approved upon a motion by Mr. Stanley and seconded by Mr. Hanes:

#### Recommendations:

- Katie Coryell - Jr./Sr. High School: Grade 11 Sponsor for MG 2021-2022 School Year
- Megan Hevel - Jr./Sr. High School: National Honor Society Sponsor for Jr. High MG 2021-2022 School Year
- Ashley Whitehead - Jr. High Cross Country Volunteer Coach Season 2021-2022
- Cristina Chick - Part Time Cafeteria at Summitville Elementary Anticipated start date: 08-12-2021
- Sheryl Hackney - Madison-Grant Corporation Title 1 Support Specialist Effective thru end of 2021-2022 School Year
- Diane Chalfant - Park Elementary Choir Director for 2021-2022 School Year

- Diane Chalfant - Jr./Sr. High School Vocal Music Director for 2021-2022 School Year
- Brock Meyers - Jr./Sr. High School Volunteer Boys Basketball Coach Season: 2021-2022
- Isaac Cooper - Jr. High Football Coach Season: 2021-2022
- Sadie Wilson - Park Elementary Educational Assistant for ED Anticipated start date: August 27, 2021

#### Resignations:

- Melissa Guatemala - Park Elementary Life Skills Aide Effective: July 26, 2021
- McKenna Lugar - 7th Grade Head Volleyball Coach Effective: August 16, 2021
- Ben Hook - Jr. High School Robotics Coach Effective: August 17, 2021

#### Reassignments:

- Bethany Gibson 6th Grade Volleyball Coach to 7th Grade Volleyball Coach Season: 2021-2022

Permission to Advertise 2022 Budget, Capital Projects and Bus Replacement Plan, presented by Mr. Mann. The budget is required to be advertised through Gateway. The Capital Projects Plan Notice to Taxpayers and Bus Replacement Plan Notice to Taxpayers are required to be advertised one time in the Chronicle Tribune and Herald Bulletin. The Capital Projects Plan and Bus Replacement Plan are required to be posted on the Corporation website. This was approved upon a motion by Dr. Sneed and seconded by Mr. Hanes.

The second Action Item Dr. Deetz is seeking approval on the Resolution for the Teacher Appreciation Grant for the 2021-2022 School Year. School Year Board Policy 3220.01 Per IC 20-43-10-3.5(c), the following Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG) eligibility requirements apply to all local education agencies (LEAs), including school corporations. HEA 1001 outlines the requirements for school corporations which must be met in order to qualify for the TAG. This was approved upon a motion by Mr. Stewart and seconded by Mrs. Kelich.

The Approval of Teacher and Administration Evaluation Plan was the next action item. Dr. Deetz is requesting approval for the 2021-2022 Staff Evaluation Plan that includes evaluation plans for all teachers and administrators. This is due to the Indiana Department of Education. This was approved upon a motion by Mr. Hanes and seconded by Mrs. Kelich.

The next Action Item the Recommendation of a Speech Language Pathology Assistant Position. Dr. Deetz is seeking approval of a Speech Language Pathology Assistant Position. This was approved upon a motion made by Mr. Stanley and seconded by Mr. Hanes.

A Personal Recommendation for the Speech Language Pathology Assistant was presented by Dr. Deetz. This was approved upon a motion made by Mr. Stewart and seconded by Dr. Sneed.

The fifth Action Item was a Donation Request. Dr. Deetz is requesting the approval of a donation of \$355 from the Grant United Methodist Church to be used for class fees for Art Fees and Supplies. This was approved upon a motion made by Mrs. Kelich and seconded by Mr. Stanley.

The following Action Item was Approval of Fundraising Request by Champions Together. Faculty Advisor of Champions Together, Mrs. Deckard, is requesting to continue Champions Together program at Madison-Grant and would like approval of fundraising items in hopes to raise \$1500. This was approved upon a motion made by Mr. Hanes with a second by Mr. Stanley.

The next Action Item was Approval of Fundraising Request for the 6th Grade Chicago Trip. Dr. Deetz is requesting approval for Park Elementary 6th Grade class to Fundraise World's Finest Chocolate, to raise monies for their field trip to Chicago. This was approved upon a motion made by Mr. Hanes and seconded by Mrs. Kelich.

The last Action Item was an Addendum added to the agenda, Approval of Fundraising Request by the MG JV/Varsity Volleyball Team. Dr. Deetz is requesting approval on behalf of the JV/Varsity Volleyball Team to raise funds for various community projects. During home matches throughout the season, our student athletes will pass around a donation bucket to all spectators giving them a chance to donate to both causes. Donations will be used for a swing at Summitville Elementary and Scholarship in Memory of Khloe Martin. This was approved upon a motion made by Mr. Stanley and seconded by Mr. Stewart.

Mrs. Brunt asked if there were any miscellaneous items.

Dr. Deetz presented on Superintendent's Updates. The Trap Club is back this year and sign ups are open. Community Hospital of Anderson Foundation will be holding their Chef's event this year on September 18th at 6:00pm. Thank you to our Transportation Coordinator Kristy Drewitz, and working on adjustments to create more efficient transfers and bus routes. Each board member received a paper to review for 2022 Board Meeting dates. Virtual Prep Academy enrollment across all grades we are at 154 students, and fully staffed. There has also been an increase in applications. We will be heading into our Collective Bargaining season. There will be a Public Hearing before the formal bargaining window opens on September 15, 2021. The board will have an Executive Session to discuss goals for Collective Bargaining. COVID updates: Grant and Madison Counties are both at level Orange, masks continue to be optional. MG will continue to follow required guidelines set forth by ISDH, who holds authority for Contact Tracing and Quarantines. County Commissioners and School Board holds authority to make more robust requirements and the CDC holds authority over public transportation. Mr. Wheybrew questioned if Dr. Deetz knew when the next Grant County Health Department meeting was and if they were open to the public. Mr. Mann located the next Grant County Health board Meeting Schedule (September 20, 2021 at 5:00pm) on the Grantcounty.net website.

Mrs. Brunt asked if there were any members of the public wishing to speak.

Public Members present at the board meeting:

- Lee Ross - Has there been any discussion on schools requiring the COVID vaccination? Dr. Deetz replied: At this time that is not a requirement and hasn't heard any discussion of if that will be added to the list of required vaccinations or not. Ross asked if he could hear Board Members' opinion on mandating the vaccination. Mr. Stewart and Dr. Sneed both stated they hope the state doesn't require it at this time. Ross requested of the Board and Dr. Deetz to please keep the public updated on the vaccination and open it up for public discussion if the state would require a vaccination.
- Jeryl Mitchell - Please give the parents a voice, close contact tracing and quarantine is very frustrating. How many kids have actually become sick or tested positive from close contact? Dr. Deetz let her know at MG there was one known case due to transference last year. Mitchell spoke on how quarantine affects our kids mentally and the anxiety it causes (am I going to be next). Reminded the board that for some students school is their safe haven and some

family members are losing jobs due to being unable to attend work due to children being home from school. There are 2 Grant County schools who are giving families the option to mask their children and still attend school, if they make the close contact list. Please give us that same option to send and keep our kids in school.

- Brian Richards - All this seems to be common sense, I want to applaud Mrs. Mitchell and her comments, our students want to be in and stay in school. Why keep punishing active kids because they are around people and then, due to contract tracing not able to attend school.
- Samantha Barnes - The requirements set forth have not gone to a legislative body so they are not law. Dr. Deetz explained that COVID has been deemed a Communicable Disease which gives the CDC legal authority to dedicate to schools and the Indiana Department of Health.
  - Mr. Stewart - Who said COVID was a communicable disease? Dr. Deetz stated this was determined by the Department of Health.
- Josh Allen - Stated to the board that this was not a democracy if you (the board and Superintendent) are dictating and exacting your policies on us parents.
  - President Brunt stated that Dr. Deetz and the Administration Team work hard at keeping up with the COVID policies and all the changes that are happening.
  - Dr. Deetz stated we follow the Laws that have been put in place. We don't want to over quarantine or send someone home who we don't have to. We want all the kids to stay in school. We stay as educated as possible on COVID and we need to uphold the law.
  - Allen stated we should push back and get council.
  - Mr. Stanley offered to meet Mr. Allen and attend the next Grant County Health Department Meeting on September 20, 2021 at 5:00pm. Mr. Allen accepted.
- Derrick Turner - Do we (the school) have an attorney on retainer? Dr. Deetz stated that the school does have an attorney. If we say no to the quarantine, masks and other mandates the government tries to put on our students can we sign waivers? Dr. Deetz stated he was unaware how that would work and would have to seek legal counsel. Which County has more sway for MG? Dr. Deetz stated that since our physical address is Fairmount it's Grant County. Turner went on to relay to the board, don't mandate, parents are fed up and over the regulations. Some kids have never been inside their classroom or seen their classmates' faces.
- Brian Richards - Baseball related question about personnel. President Brunt reminded Mr. Richards that personnel is not open to public discussion, but did tell him that we are trying to keep the public's interest in mind. Richards understood, just wanted to make sure the program was headed in the right direction.
- Abbi Rudy - Reading from the COVID update email, contract tracing if 3ft apart and masked then they don't have to quarantine if the student comes in close contact. Dr. Deetz explained that this only applies if everyone is masked then your close contact space is 3ft instead of the 6ft with masks optional. Dr. Deetz

stated that teachers and staff are working to offer students more personal space during class and lunch.

- Brady Barnes - Have we had any asymptomatic students pass COVID to another student? Would like to know if waivers are possible and not hold MG responsible. Dr. Deetz explained that the school has only had one documented case of transferable COVID. The school would have to investigate the waiver and seek legal counsel.
- Jeryl Mitchell - Does the school require proof that their child had the COVID vaccine? Dr. Deetz explained that all vaccination records are in a record bank (CHIRP) that schools have access to and that would be recorded in that vaccination bank.

Mrs. Brunt asked if there was anyone else wishing to speak, there was not, she then thanked everyone for speaking and reaching out.

Mrs. Brunt asked if there were any board members wishing to speak. Mrs. Brunt thanked Dr. Deetz for all of his diligence on COVID and keeping everyone informed. Dr. Sneed thanked the public for coming and speaking and letting their voices be heard, we all live in the same community and value everyone's input.

Dr. Deetz announced the upcoming meetings at Madison-Grant as follows:

1. *September 13, 2021 – School Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. held at Madison-Grant Conference Room*
  - a. *Budget Meeting (Budget Hearing)*
2. *September 27, 2021 - School Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. held at Madison-Grant Conference Room*

A motion to adjourn the School Board Meeting was made by Mr. Stewart and seconded by Mr. Stanley and approved by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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*Mary Jo Brunt* President

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*Amanda Kelich* Secretary

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*Katti Sneed* Vice President

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*Ronald Stewart* Asst. Secretary

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*David Whybrew* Board Member

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*Bruce Stanley* Board Member

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*John Hanes* Board Member