



**Georgetown Community School, BOD: Town Hall
September 29, 2021 6:00pm**

At Georgetown Community School gymnasium and Zoom teleconference call

Meeting Called to Order:

A. Board OF Directors Introduction & Discussion

President- Ryan Vesque - present : I am Ryan Vesque I am your new board president. I come from Douglas county, my son Luke goes to GCS. Tully Gibbons is going to be my mentor. We are going to send out a survey for the 4 day school week. It will be going out to all parents and stakeholders next week. Please let us know your thoughts. Our training will be October 14th at 630 not the 18th.

Vice President-Yianni Tousimis- present : Welcome to the board Rayn we are very grateful for you and all the skills you will bring to our board. I have been on the board for several years at this point. I live in Georgetown and have two boys in Clear Creek County. One is in highschool and the other is at GCS. Improvements at GCS: safety issues: we have a safety committee at GCS, Tom Harvey organizes those meetings, we meet quarterly. Peter Werlin is also on this committee, his expertise has given us tips on making our school a safer place. Officer Gaskins just retired, so hopefully we will get another law enforcement officer to join us. We work with the BOD and with the town to update safety around the school. You might have noticed our flashing speed limit signs that are on during school hours. We keep an eye on the paint for our crosswalks. We installed some new security cameras as well. We installed safety films on windows on the ground level. These are the kinds of things we have done and are always looking for things to keep the school safe. If you have any questions or concerns you can always contact me. We have updated some techknowledgy through the building thanks to some grants we have received. All the teachers got new laptops. Sammy Klemm was very helpful in securing these grants for us. Thanks Sammy.

Treasurer - Amy Humphrey- present : Hi everyone, I am the treasurer of the board. I have been the treasurer for about a year now. I have two children who attend GCS. We all love the school so much. I want to talk about the new bond for the district that we will be voting on in November. This bond is a voter approved borrowing bond that can only be used for building maintenance and renovations. This will be on the November bond. GCS will receive \$750,000 for improvements. Our

building has needed improvements for a while. We will focus on keeping our students warm and dry and safe. We would like to firstly use this money on getting our roofs fixed completely. The roof leaks have taken a toll on the siding and the concrete and carpeting. If there is any left over money we will start working on updating the kitchen, this will not be a full update where we will be able to serve food, so keep that in mind and plan on sending your children to school with lunch. Budget update: enrollment is up so our budget is up. We have available funds to hire needed employees.

Secretary-Courtney Reynolds-present : I have three children, two who have gone through GCS, one who is currently going to GCS and one who will hopefully be starting preschool soon. I have worked for the library for about five years now, education is very important to me and I hope we can make our board and school the best it has ever been. I am going to talk about the old bond and the roof update: we have someone coming out to do a core sample on our roof for asbestos. As soon as we can get a contractor out to give us a new bid for our roofing needs we will be allocated the money from the current bond and get our roofing project started.

Member, SAC representative-Elisa Kletter-present : I was elected to the board this past spring and serve as our SAC representative. I have two children, one who is now at clear creek middle school and my daughter who is in second grade at GCS. We moved to Georgetown in 2007 and we did not know anything about what a charter school was. We have been thrilled and committed to helping GCS to succeed. We are working hard to make GCS the best it can be. The School Accountability committee is a big part in helping schools succeed. The SAC typically meets quarterly. We have some openings now on the SAC, please contact me if you are interested in serving on the SAC. We will be having our first meeting of the year in October.

Member (Non-Voting) Tully Gibbons- present : I was recently appointed to the board as a non voting member to help Ryan get settled in her new position. I am happy to be back, and ready to help out in any way I can.

Director – Hillary Miller- present : I am the new director at GCS. Covid update: county's new public mandate, any unvaccinated staff members are being tested two times a week. Anyone can voluntarily test. We are still masking in all common areas and making sure we are washing our hands regularly and cleaning on a regular basis.

B. Q&A Session :

Singmaster: Did we discuss the four day school week yet? Are we opening up a conversation about who is for and who is against it? Ryan Vesque : As a parent, and a work from home person it does not affect me or my husband in any way. If it benefits the kids and the teachers in any way I am for it. We will be getting out a survey next week to the community. A yes or no kind of question and answer. Singmaster: I am just curious about everyone's concerns. I am worried that if we decide to keep a 5 day and the district does not it might affect us negatively. Lily Gibbs: I think I am on this meeting to discuss this four day school week. I am happy that a clear cut survey will be going out. I am here also to hear what other people are thinking but also to voice that it makes sense to follow what the district does. : When is the decision going to be made on the four day school week. Hillary: it will depend on the survey, we will gather the information and then the board will make a decision. Time frame hopefully will be pretty short. I feel like the sooner in my perspective the sooner we make the decision the better. This will be discussed at a board meeting and voted on

during that meeting. Also is it still up for debate what day of the week that day off would be. Hillary: We would follow the district and I believe that they decided on Friday. I will support what the board decides. Singmaster: with increased enrollment how will we deal with an influx of students if we stay as a 5 day. We don't want to tax everyone, all our employees. Hillary: I have had to tell people and will do it here if we cant meet the needs of a student and that they will have to go to a different school. Singmaster: I appreciate that Hillary, on the same token we might lose students who have siblings who are in the upper grades, that means our students might be missing fridays anyways. Thank you for addressing the fact that you will not allow us to get overwhelmed. Hillary: I want to clarify real fast, at the previous school I was at it was easier to have the younger kids at home and parents were fine with having the older kids stay home, it really wasn't a concern and our attendance was still high. Chynna: We have small classrooms and that is a fear for me, having space, especially with covid procedures we need to think about space as well. Hillary: yes of course. At my previous school we still had a cap on the amount of students that we allowed per grade. I don't think if we did a 5 day the enrollment will not be a concern. It will just depend on the information we get back from our surveys. Chynna: I think we just have that fear that if we do stay a 5 day we would be the only school in the county that was a 5 day. Hillary: If that really is a concern we will put a cap on class size, we know that that is what our community wants, we know the capabilities of our building and we would not tax that at all. Chynna: I just want to clarify I am not anti having more students, we just need to have the resources to do so. Lily Gibbs: Hiring: that is something that GCS works for and goes for, but if we are a 5 day and the district is a 4 day I think we will run into problems with hiring because the other schools, we are also the furthest school from Jefferson county so it might be really hard and we need to keep that in mind. Hillary: That is a very valid point. Tiffany Taylor: what would we do for students who are on a free/reduced lunch. My concern is that a lot of the students we would get are students who really need that 5th day of care, and lunch is not something we would be able to provide. Hillary: depending on which direction we go we would have to work with the district, and we would have to depend on the district to fulfill those needs. Singmaster: Hot lunches? that is what they are receiving now, we can not provide them. Hillary: That is something we will have to work out with the district. We are in a new situation and we will have to work with the district. Singmaster: Do you think the district is going to do anything they say or help us out, that is the beauty of being a charter school, we can make our own decisions. These kids really do quality for meals on a state level and we can't provide it. Tully Gibbons : this is still a choice for the parents, they don't have to send their children here, no one is forcing them to move their kids here, or if they do decide to come to GCS they know they will not be getting lunch. It is a hard decision for sure and I am interested in seeing data and how many children are on a free/reduced lunch. Yianni Tousimis : that is exactly correct, it is a choice for the parents to make. Singmaster: I agree and we feed every kid no matter the reason, we provide this so we have to start figuring that into the equation. Tully: yes that is amazing that we can do that and that is something the board can look into. Tiffany: Do we have a cap for enrollment? Tully: our goal was trying to get to 100 children, and the max would be 150, k-6. Singmaster: What is our enrollment? Hillary 86 including preschool. Singmaster: I am with you guys on the survey and hopefully it will get some data on our school. Tully: I think as a community it should be accounted for that there are some families that are here for a certain kind of lifestyle and might leave our school if we stay a 5 day week. Courtney: That was my point in sending out my emails to our teachers, we are interested in what everyone has to say and we value your opinions. Send us your thoughts. No more questions about the 4 day school week.

New Bond: Could it be used as a new kitchen and increase enrollment to pay for the other projects. Karlan: Hello I was just thinking if this was specifically for grant money and increasing efficiency, can that kind of money be specified as funding a full kitchen versus the maintenance and repair work? Hillary: this is not grant money, this is bond money. I have spoken with Karen Quanbeck and Shadow. The maintenance portion is very important to keep our kids safe and dry. To make our kitchen fully functional there is a lot more that needs to go into than initially thought. It will be a huge project. The kitchen is a long term goal. It is something that can be started and improved but making it a fully functioning kitchen is more of a long term project, our kitchen is not up to code in any way. Courtney: And just so everyone knows that we do have roofing issues and it will get fixed but we are anticipating that it will cost more money. We want to make sure we can get all our roofs fixed. Tom: It is a 33 million dollar bond on the November ballot, the bulk of that will go to a complete refurbishment of building 103 to make it the new Carlson elementary school. 750,000 of that 33 million is allocated for GCS. This will increase our community's taxes. This is a big bond and the bulk of it will go to building a really nice facility for Carlson Elementary. I don't know what will happen to the old Carlson. The CCMRD is trying to piggyback on this and make a skate park on the ground of the 103 building, which would be amazing. I am so happy and so proud that the teacher, staff and board are doing, it really is the shining star in our community. Ryan: Thank you Tom, the board is not asking you to vote for or against, be informed and do your duty. Yianni: Did the district specifically state what the mission for building 103 would be? Tom: Yes it will definitely be the new home for Carlson Elementary. But it will be much more than just Carlson, it could be office spaces, rentable spaces, and numerous other things as well, including the administration office. Yianni: It is a little worrisome to me that we are begging for a roof and they are getting a brand new building. Tom: I think it is a legitimate argument and was brought up to Karen Q. from one of my fellow board members, S. Yard. In my personal opinion not representing anyone else. Courtney: I attended the bond meeting at GCS, there is a web page dedicated to the bond, and a committee for this bond. You can find information at CCSD.

Courtney: Yianni I have a question for you and the SAC, about getting a stop sign in by the brewery. Yianni: yes I personally feel like rose street is a race way and I am just waiting for an accident to happen. I think that is something the Safety committee can present to the town, they would have to approve it. Tom and I will be making a discussion about that and bringing it to the town. Courtney: Since Gaskins has retired and left the community do we have a replacement?

Hillary: Yes, officer Lorenz from Empire is our new liaison.

Ryan: Let everyone know to keep an eye out for our four day school week survey we need and want the feedback. Thank you for joining. Our next meeting will be tentatively October 27th at 6:00pm.

Next meeting:

Regular Business : BOD Training October 16th, 2021 6:30 pm

TBD (Proposed October 27, 2021 @6PM)