

## **GROVEPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

### **RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

The Board of Directors has adopted the following Policy to accommodate the sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of individual students with regard to all examinations or other academic requirements and absences for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief system.

#### **Religious Expression Day Absences and Accommodations**

Students are permitted up to three (3) religious expression days each school year to take holidays for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief system, or to participate in organized activities conducted under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or other religious or spiritual organization. Such absences are referred hereinafter as a Religious Expression Day. The School shall not impose an academic penalty as a result of a student being absent for a Religious Expression Day and students that are absent for a Religious Expression Day are nonetheless permitted to participate in any interscholastic athletics or other extracurricular activities on days they are absent for a religious expression day.

Students will be provided with alternative accommodations for examinations or other academic requirements missed due to a Religious Expression Day approved by the School administrator if the student's parent/guardian provides the School administrator with written notice of up to three (3) specific dates for which alternative accommodations are requested. Such written notice must be provided no later than fourteen (14) school days after the first day of the school year, or fourteen (14) school days after the date of enrollment for a student who transfers to or enrolls in the School after the first day of the school year. Upon approval of a request for an accommodation, the School administrator shall require the appropriate classroom teacher or teachers to schedule a time and date for an alternative examination or other academic requirement if the approved Religious Expression Day absence creates a conflict, which may be before or after the time and date the examination or other academic requirement was originally scheduled.

The School administrator shall not approve more than three (3) written requests per school year per student for Religious Expression Day absences described above. In approving requests, the School will not inquire into the sincerity of a student's religious or spiritual belief system, but the School administrator, or their designee, may verify any written request by contacting the parent/guardian whose name appears on the written request. In the event that the parent/guardian disputes having submitted such written request, the School administrator is authorized to deny the request.

Any absences excused under this Policy will not be considered in determining absence hours for purpose of parental notification requirements when a student is deemed to be "excessively absent."

### **List of Major Religious Holidays**

Attached to this Policy (as Attachment A) is a list of major religious holidays, festivals, and other religious observations for which a Religious Expression Day excused absence will not be unreasonably withheld or denied. This list is non-exhaustive and the School will not use this list to deny accommodation to any student for a holiday or festival of the student's faith or religious or spiritual belief system which does not appear on Attachment A. The School shall include the preceding statement each time this Policy is posted, printed, or published.

### **Notices and Further Information**

The School shall post a copy of this Policy, including Attachment A, in a prominent location on the School's website and, annually, the School shall notify parents/guardians of this Policy via the School's Parent/Student Handbook and/or such other methods of communication the School may choose.

Further information about this Policy can be provided by the School administrators, identified below. In the event that the School administrators or their contact information changes during the school year, the School will publish updated contact information on the School's website.

Shannan Enoch / Dair Foster  
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614-574-4100 / 614-574-0037  
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### **Grievance Procedure**

A student or parent/guardian may submit a written grievance to the School administrator regarding the School's implementation of this Policy. Such grievance must include a written statement identifying which requirement(s) of this Policy the School has allegedly violated, facts supporting the allegation, and the reporting person's contact information.

**MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
GROVEPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
HELD ON OCTOBER 24, 2024**

Directors Attending: DeEarnest McLemore, Gwendolyn Walker, Hannah Hunter and Miccau McClelland.

Directors Absent: Sam Craighead and Amber Sherman.

Guests: Frank Stoy, Dan Lamb, Sylvia Goodrich, Dair Foster, Amy Buttke, Chelsey Munden, Amy Tooill, and Arthur L. Clements III, Esq. Via Zoom: Dr. Younkin and Chris Buttke.

Ms. Hunter called the meeting to order and following introductions, there were no public comments. She then asked for a motion concerning the Consent Agenda. Thereafter, upon a motion duly made by Ms. McClelland and seconded by Ms. Walker, the Board of Directors unanimously passed the following resolution:

- 24-102 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves the minutes from the September 26, 2024 Meeting as presented.**
- 24-103 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves the minutes from the September 26, 2024 Hearing as presented.**
- 24-104 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors has reviewed the Monthly Verification of Student Residency Report.**
- 24-105 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves the Annual Report as presented and authorizes the Board President to approve subsequent revisions as necessary.**

Dr. Younkin made a presentation on the relationship between STAR data and the results from the Ohio State Tests and the relationship between the Student Growth Percentile (SGP) and the results from the Ohio State Tests. He reviewed the data from several different grades in math and reading and explained to the Board that there is a high correlation between the OSTs and the STAR data, but a very low correlation between the OSTs and the SGP metric. In response to a question from Ms. Hunter about why SGP is calculated when there is no correlation, Dr. Younkin responded that SGP is similar to Value Added and helps the School understand which students are showing academic growth. In response to a question from Mr. McLemore about the data in the third and fourth columns, Dr. Younkin responded that, due to the small sample size, he could not answer the question. The Board thanked Dr. Younkin for his presentation.

Mr. Lamb presented the financial statements through September 30, 2024. He noted that Imagine had advanced funds in order to pay staff stipends that would be eligible for reimbursement with ESSER funds. The \$591,000 loss through the end of September

is due to a timing issue and should not be concerning. Mr. Lamb mentioned that the School had been paid on 635 FTEs for the month of September, but that number declined to 608 for October due to lower enrollment. He then directed the Board to the yellow chart showing the Federal Grants for FY 2024. This will be the last month the Board sees the FY 2024 allocations and expenses. Starting next month, he will include the 2025 allocations and any expenditures.

The School's Annual Financial Report on a GAAP basis is being prepared by Julian & Grube and will be submitted by the end of November. Zupka and Associates is starting to work on the 2024 audit.

Mr. Lamb then reviewed the Budget to Actual Report and noted that Imagine's monthly draw had been reduced in September to \$125,000. He then discussed with the Board the various financial ratios that need to be met in order to maintain compliance with the covenants in the bond documents. Groveport will meet its coverage ratio through the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.

In response to a question from Ms. Hunter, Mr. Lamb responded that the Board does not need to approve the audit, but Board members can participate in the exit conference when it occurs early next year. Mr. Stoy commented that he would coordinate that meeting and notify the Board when the exit conference is scheduled. The Sponsor participates in every exit conference and requires an exit conference whether the Board requests one or not.

Mr. Buttke commented that the School undergoes a "single audit" every year due to the size of the School's enrollment and the quantity of federal funds that it receives.

Mr. Buttke then discussed the FRX Report and the Budget. Mr. Buttke noted that he had met with the Financial Task Force on Monday, and that Imagine had used the Foundation Funding Calculator provided by DEW to estimate the School's revenues for FY 2025. It has become apparent that the calculator was not accurate, and so the revised Budget will need to be considered at the November meeting instead of today. There followed a discussion about the need to make up a potential \$187,000 budget shortfall in order for the revised Budget to meet the coverage ratio specified in the bond covenant and what expenses could be reduced. Thereafter, upon a motion duly made by Ms. McClelland and seconded by Ms. Walker, the Board of Directors unanimously passed the following resolution:

**24-106 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors accepts the financial statements, including the check reconciliation, as presented.**

The Board tabled consideration of the Revised 2024-2025 Budget.

Mr. Lamb then reviewed with the Board the Five Year Forecast and the DEW Budget Form. He explained that the revenue is based upon projected FTE enrollment provided by the School Leaders. The Purchased Services represents the expenses

incurred by Imagine and is broken down by Mr. Buttke into the different expense categories. Mr. Lamb explained further that the DEW Budget shows only estimated expenses for the year and how and where they will be spent. He then commented positively that the DEW Budget showed that the School is spending most of its funding on instruction. Thereafter, upon a motion duly made by Ms. Walker and seconded by Ms. McClelland, the Board of Directors unanimously passed the following resolutions:

**24-107 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves the Five Year Forecast and authorizes its Treasurer to file as presented or with any subsequent revisions required by the State of Ohio and approved by the Board President.**

**24-108 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves the 2024-2025 DEW Budget Form and authorizes its Treasurer to file it as presented or with any subsequent revisions required by the State of Ohio and approved by the Board President.**

Mr. Lamb explained that the School would be taking an extension until May 15 to file its Form 990 Tax Return with the IRS. Normally, it is due November 15, but since the audit is never completed by then, the extension is taken so that the tax return can be filed based upon audited financial statements once the audit is published.

Mr. Lamb then explained that the School can receive higher interest income by opening an account with State Treasurer's STAR Ohio program. He noted that he had with him paperwork to open the account following the meeting. Thereafter, upon a motion duly made by Ms. Walker and seconded by Ms. McClelland, the Board of Directors unanimously passed the following resolution:

**24-109 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes its Treasurer and Board Vice-President to complete an application and take all other necessary and reasonable steps to open an account with STAR Ohio.**

Mr. Stoy presented the Sponsor's Report and noted that the Treasurer at CSS conducts a review of the School's financial records each month. The letter in the board book from the Treasurer shows the School was substantially compliant and there were no financial issues in September. He then directed the Board's attention to an article in the Sponsor Connection Newsletter discussing the new compliance schedule and an overview of the compliance process. Additionally, there is an article on busing difficulties with Columbus Public and the lawsuit filed by the Attorney General. He then discussed the Governing Authority Trivia Contest. Participants who complete the trivia questions accurately will be entered into a raffle to win a \$25 gift certificate at the end of every month.

He then reviewed with the Board the At-A-Glance Report and discussed the upcoming Onsite Assistance Review, Compliance Review, and Special Education

Review. The Sponsor will let the Board know the results of those reviews. He then complimented the team at Groveport for its work on these compliance items. Thereafter, upon a motion duly made by Ms. McClelland and seconded by Ms. Walker, the Board of Directors unanimously passed the following resolution:

**24-110 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors accepts the Sponsor's Report as presented.**

Ms. Foster presented the Principal's Report and noted that enrollment is currently 611 students. The Management Company's CEO, Jason Bryant, visited the School recently and he is concerned about increasing reading scores. Recently a meeting took place at the School with four other schools on the new CKLA reading curriculum, which is based on the Science of Reading.

Ms. Foster then discussed the School's staffing needs and noted that they would not be replacing a recently departed teacher at the Prep Building. The School is hiring a virtual Intervention Specialist to meet the requirements for special education ratios.

The School had a great turnout at the Trunk or Treat event.

Regarding the facility, there are no other issues that resulted from the flooding at the Prep Building. A bill was received from the cleaning company for \$2,400 to complete the clean-up.

Academic coaching is ongoing in both buildings. Coaches are helping with lesson planning and doing classroom observations. Teachers are doing a good job of implementing the CKLA curriculum. Thereafter, upon a motion duly made by Ms. McClelland and seconded by Ms. Walker, the Board of Directors unanimously passed the following resolution:

**24-111 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors accepts the Principal's Report as presented.**

There followed a discussion about the potholes in the parking lot and the bids received so far. It was agreed that Mr. Craighead would make the decision based on the authority previously granted to him by the Board last month.

There was nothing further to report on the bond related documents.

Ms. Buttke presented the Regional Director's Report and stated that the School continues to focus on CKLA and there would be an update in November. Thereafter, upon a motion duly made by Ms. McClelland and seconded by Mr. McLemore, the Board of Directors unanimously passed the following resolution:

**24-112 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors accepts the Regional Director Report as presented.**

There were no task force updates.

Mr. Clements explained the new policies being proposed and noted that the residency verification policy would be repealed. Thereafter, upon a motion duly made by Ms. McClelland and seconded by Mr. McLemore, the Board of Directors unanimously passed the following resolutions:

**24-113 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves the revised Automated External Defibrillator Policy, and the Prohibition Against Affirming Specific Beliefs Policy, Religious Accommodations Policy, and Cell Phone Policy as presented.**

**24-114 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby repeals the Student Residency and Address Verification Policy.**

Thereafter, the meeting was adjourned.

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Miccau McClelland, Secretary  
Groveport Community School