

GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5
SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES OF
July Meeting Rescheduled to August 9, 2023

The Board of Education of Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley Community Unit School District #5 met in regular session on Monday, August 9, 2023, at 6:15 p.m. in the GCMS Board Room located at 307 N Sangamon Avenue, Gibson City. The board was called to order by Board President Josh Johnson, roll was called with members Whitehouse, Elder, Leonard, and Mussman in attendance. Also present were: GCMS Education Association President Susan Riley,, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction Erin Nuss, Secretary to the Board Lori Kristensen and District Superintendent Jeremy Darnell.

Absent: Board members Friday and Tucker-Davis

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance being recited by all present.

Recognition of Visitors:

Kari Ryan - Director, Illinois Central Bus Garage

Public Comment: Kari Ryan thanked the board for the consideration of changing the current contract with Illinois Central Bus Service to allow for a pay increase for current drivers and to attract new drivers.

A motion to **go into executive session** was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Elder at 6:17 p.m. Motion carried by roll call with all board members present voting yes for the purpose of discussing matters pertaining to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the district including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).

Discussion of lawfully closed meeting minutes, whether for the purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(21).

Board member Friday entered Executive Session at 6:27 p.m.

A motion to **return to open session** was made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Elder at 6:35 p.m. Motion carried by roll call, with all board members present voting yes.

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Action Items to Consider From Executive Session

Accept Requests for:

Motion to approve Kaysi Randolph as a lunch supervisor at GCMS Elementary School from 11:00 – 1:00 on days when students are present at a rate of \$15.00 per hour. Motion was made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Elder. Motion carried by roll call with all board members present voting yes.

Motion to approve Tess Strang as a paraprofessional for GCMS School District for the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$15.00 per hour for 7.5 hours per day in accordance with the negotiated agreement. Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Friday. Motion carried by roll call with all board members present voting yes.

Motion to approve Rebecca Purcell-Givens as the Title I coordinator for GCMS Middle School for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion was made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Elder. Motion carried by roll call with all board members present voting yes.

Motion to hire Don Worthington at a rate of \$35.00 per hour, not to exceed 1400 hours or 40 hours in one week to perform technology support for GCMS School District for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Friday. Motion carried by roll call with all board members present voting yes.

Motion to accept the resignation from Dallas Whelchel as a custodian for GCMS School District effective at the end of the day on July 27, 2023 with thanks for service. Motion was made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Elder. Motion carried by voice vote with all board members present voting yes.

Motion to approve the following volunteer coaches for the 2023-2024 school year: Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Friday. Motion carried by voice vote with all board members present voting yes.

- Volleyball – Thomas Stone
- Football – Kip Rutledge, Brandon Luttrell, Brandon Shaw, Keifer McCommas, Rob Schmitt
- Golf – Chris Garard
- Softball – Wayne Brown
- Baseball – Mark Berry, Nate Styck

Motion to approve Kiyana Meiron as an elementary teacher for GCMS School District at Step 1 MA for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion was made by board member Friday and

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seconded by board member Leonard. Motion carried by roll call with all board members present voting yes.

Motion to approve Josh Carter as assistant tennis coach for GCMS High School in accordance with the negotiated agreement. Motion was made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Elder. Motion carried by roll call with all board members present voting yes.

Motion to approve Hailey Rutledge as a paid social work intern for the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$20,000 for work performed. Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Leonard. Motion carried by roll call with all board members present voting yes.

Motion to approve Lily Breeden's request for early graduation in December of 2023 if all requirements are complete. Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Friday. Motion carried by roll call with all board members present voting yes.

Motion to approve the resignation of Melissa Nichols effective immediately with thanks for service. Motion was made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Elder. Motion carried by voice vote with all board members present voting yes.

Motion to accept the resignation of Jon Donovan as the intramural basketball coach for GCMS Middle School effective immediately with thanks for service. Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Friday. Motion carried by voice vote with all board members present voting yes.

Motion to approve Katie Van Vickle as an assistant cheer coach for the 2023-2024 school year in accordance with the negotiated agreement. Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Friday. Motion carried by roll call with all board members present voting yes.

Additional Agenda Items:

11.7 Request for authorization to purchase two district minivans.

Consent Agenda

GCMS Accounts Payable bills approved were \$1,873,449.60

Education fund	\$622,112.89
Building fund	\$1,146,306.84
Debt Service fund	\$0.00
Transportation fund	\$34,372.77
IMRF/FICA fund	\$33,905.68

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Capital Projects	\$1,836.69
W/C	\$0.00
TORT	\$34,914.73
F/HLS	\$0.00

GCMS Payrolls approved were \$541,483.48

Education fund	\$464,272.56
Building fund	\$35,713.83
Transportation fund	740.77
TORT	\$40,756.32

FCSEC Accounts Payable bills approved were \$57,131.44

Education fund	\$54,438.85
Building fund	\$1,500.00
IMRF/FICA Fund	\$1,192.59

FCSEC Payrolls approved were \$44,382.94 all in the Education fund

Financial/treasurer's report on behalf of the GCMS District and the FCSEC, Lunch Report, the summary of investment report on behalf of the GCMS District and approval of the destruction of executive session tapes through the end of January 2022.

Approve Field Trips for: None

Approve the following donations: None

Approve Facility Use Agreements or Request for Use of School Kitchen/Cafeteria pending proof of insurance and all other district requirements for:

Use of GCMS practice fields, outside common areas and the high school football field and concessions for Gibson City youth football and cheer teams.

Approve the minutes of the GCMS Regular and Executive Session Minutes of June 26, 2023 and the Personnel and Finance Committee meeting minutes from July 20, 2023.

Motion to accept the consent agenda as presented in the board packet. Motion was made by board member Elder and seconded by board member Whitehouse. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Committee Reports:

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Policy: Committee members: Miranda Leonard, Janna Friday, Adam Mussman, Jeremy Darnell, and Erin Nuss

Approval of Press Issue 112. **Motion to approve Policy Press Issue 112 including policy, administrative procedures, and exhibits as recommended by IASB.** Motion was made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Friday. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Building, Grounds, and Transportation: Committee members: Adam Elder, Emily Tucker-Davis, Adam Mussman, Rich Doman, and Bob Jones

A committee meeting was held on August 2 and reviewed ongoing projects and discussed future projects. Summer 2024 work will include a new press box. This project is estimated to cost \$400,000 - \$500,000 all in. A revised bid is expected by August 30.

Personnel and Finance: Committee members: Josh Johnson, Phil Whitehouse, Janna Friday, and Jeremy Darnell

FY24 Budget Draft will be discussed at the August 29 board meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Unit Office board room.

Strategy and Enrichment: Committee members: Josh Johnson, Emily Tucker-Davis, Miranda Leonard, Jeremy Darnell, and Erin Nuss

A committee meeting was held on August 9. The committee discussed philosophies and direction of the district. Josh Johnson added the committee addressed the purpose of strategy and enrichment and the timeframes to put ideas into practice. Miranda Leonard also shared that the committee members discussed retention ideas for current employees.

Building Administration Reports:

High School Principal Report, Kyle Bielfeldt

No Report.

Middle School Principal Report, Kent Nash

No Report.

Elementary School Principal Report, Justin Kean

No Report.

Special Education Director, Jesse McFarling

No Report.

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Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction - Erin Nuss

Mrs. Nuss gave a brief update on the progress of GCMS University (our New Teacher Induction and Mentoring Program). The program welcomed 13 new staff members this year. The orientation days went very well and all new staff reported that they found the time to be useful.

Technology Director - Walker Willis

No Report.

Superintendent Report

FY23 Internal Funds Transfer

Superintendent Darnell provided information to the board about the internal funds transfer recommendation by auditor Russ Leigh & Associates. The purpose of the fund transfers is to correct journal entries. **Motion to approve the internal funds transfer as recommended by Russ Leigh and Associates.** Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Friday. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

GCMS FY24 Budget - Budget Hearing Announcement Wednesday, September 27, 6:00 p.m

There will be a public hearing on Wednesday, September 27 at 6:00 p.m. in the GCMS Unit Office board room to review the FY24 budget. Darnell reported that the budget is mostly balanced, but shows a deficit in the operations and maintenance fund to pay for the solar energy project that is expected to cost \$2.2 million. Darnell is expecting a projected increase of approximately \$800,000 in local property tax revenue from an increase in the district's equalized assessed valuation, which should allow the district's tax rate to be reduced this year. The budget will be ratified at the September 29 board meeting.

Memorandum of Understanding for Instructional Coaches and Interventionists

The board entered into an MOU with the GCMSEA to add instructional coaches and interventionists to the language of the current negotiated agreement. **Motion to approve the memorandum of understanding with the GCMSEA to add instructional coaches and interventionists to the negotiated agreement.** Motion was made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Whitehouse. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

New Middle School Sound System

GCMS has entered into a new contract with Heart Technologies for the installation of a new sound system for the middle school gym. The new system is expected to be installed by mid to late September. All material, labor, and programming is included in the \$15,761 proposal. **Motion to approve the contract with Heart Technologies to install the new middle school gym sound system.** Motion was made by board member Friday and seconded by board member Elder. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

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Illinois Youth Survey Review

Superintendent Darnell shared with the board the student responses from the 2022 Illinois Youth Survey. The Survey was given to GCMS eighth grade, 10th grade and 12th grade students and asked questions about their experiences in the past year with drug and alcohol use, bullying and depression. Superintendent Darnell and Assistant Superintendent Nuss both shared that district stakeholders look at this information to provide scripted curriculum for Social Emotional Learning opportunities with students. Both leaders commented that ongoing conversations will continue as well as continuing to implement a valuable curriculum to assist with providing a safe environment to teach and learn at GCMS.

Amended Contract for FY24 with Illinois Central School Bus

An amended contract with Illinois Central School Bus for FY24 was reviewed by the board to allow for a 7.76% pay increase for bus drivers. Superintendent Darnell reported that the pay increase is needed in order to stay competitive and important to reward the current drivers who do such an amazing job for the bus company and for GCMS. **Motion to approve the amended contract with Illinois Central School Bus as presented.** Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Leonard. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Purchase of two minivans

An increase in activities has resulted in the need to purchase two minivans to transport smaller groups when needed. **Motion to approve the purchase of two minivans not to exceed \$75,000.** Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Elder. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Elder at 7:59 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote, with all members present voting yes.

Board President Josh Johnson

Secretary to the Board Lori H. Kristensen