

GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5
SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES OF
August 30, 2023

The Board of Education of Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley Community Unit School District #5 met in regular session on Monday, August 30, 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, Friday, Tucker-Davis and Mussman in attendance. Also present were: GCMS Education Association President Susan Riley, High School Principal Kyle Bielfeldt, Middle School Principal Kent Nash, FCSEC Director Jesse McFarling, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction Erin Nuss, Director of Technology Walker Willis, Elementary School Principal Justin Kean, Secretary to the Board Lori Kristensen and District Superintendent Jeremy Darnell.

Absent: None

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

Recognition of Visitors:

GCMS Instructional Coaches; AJ Richard and Ashley Schwenk provided an update to board members on the types of coaching assistance they have provided to staff members throughout the first few weeks of school.

A motion to **go into executive session** was made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Whitehouse 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).

A motion to **return to open session** was made by board member Friday and seconded by board member Tucker-Davis at 6:40 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 Vickie Conlin as the paid sponsor for FBLA Club in accordance with the negotiated agreement 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 approve Heather Killian as the paid sponsor for the GSA Club in accordance with the negotiated agreement 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 approve Kent Nash for tuition reimbursement in accordance with his contract to seek an Education Specialist degree. Motion was made by board member Tucker-Davis and seconded by board member Leonard. Motion carried by roll call with all board members present voting yes.

Motion to hire Kurstin Ebeling as a full time custodian for GCMS School District beginning September 5 at a rate of \$19.00 per hour. 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 Karly Corley as a volunteer cheer coach for GCMS for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion was made by board member Friday and seconded by board member Tucker-Davis. Motion carried by voice vote with all board members present voting yes.

Motion to accept the resignation of Phil Perzee as a science teacher for GCMS effective at the end of day on August 25, 2023. Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Elder. Motion carried by voice vote with all board members present voting yes.

Motion to hire Shawna Pondel as a science teacher for GCMS at Step 20 Masters according to the negotiated agreement for 175 days. Motion was made by board member Elder and seconded by board member Whitehouse. Motion carried by roll call with all board members present voting yes.

Additional Agenda Items: None

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Consent Agenda

GCMS Accounts Payable bills approved were \$1,007,433.18

Education fund	\$466,237.53
Building fund	\$415,881.46
Debt Service fund	\$0.00
Transportation fund	\$34,344.42
IMRF/FICA fund	\$32,617.30
Capital Projects	\$1,836.69
W/C	\$0.00
TORT	\$56,515.78
F/HLS	\$0.00

GCMS Payrolls approved were \$510,496.83

Education fund	\$435,559.60
Building fund	\$34,618.26
Transportation fund	752.98
TORT	\$39,565.99

FCSEC Accounts Payable bills approved were \$21,713.86

Education fund	\$20,510.41
Building fund	\$0.00
IMRF/FICA Fund	\$1,203.45

FCSEC Payrolls approved were \$44,428.39 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 March 2022.

Approve Field Trips for:

FOR:	TO:	DATE:
Industrial Education	Champaign, IL	August 24, 2023
Agriculture Classes	Farm Progress Show Decatur, IL	August 31, 2023
HS Life Skills	Gibson City, IL	Variable locations

Approve the following donations:

AMOUNT:	FROM:	FOR:
\$30.00	Rusty & Judy Weber Jones	GCMS FFA

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\$750.00	GCMS Booster Club	FBLA
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Approve Facility Use Agreements or Request for Use of School Kitchen/Cafeteria pending proof of insurance and all other district requirements for: None

Approve the minutes of the GCMS Regular and Executive Session Minutes of August 9, 2023 and the Building & Grounds Committee meeting minutes from August 2, 2023 and the Strategy & Enrichment Committee meeting minutes from August 9, 2023.

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

Committee Reports:

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

The Policy Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 in the boardroom at the Unit Office at 11:30 a.m. to discuss dual-sport participation, athletic code of conduct and employee benefits time.

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

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

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

Building Administration Reports:

High School Principal Report, Kyle Bielfeldt

Enrollment

- Freshmen - 57
- Sophomore - 75
- Junior - 71
- Senior - 71
- Total - 274

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Interact Blood Drive: Junior Codee Cloninger organized the Interact Blood Drive on Wednesday, August 2. The drive collected 20 units.

Senior Parking and Painted Spots: Several of the high school seniors painted their parking spots on Sunday, August 13. Thank you to Ms. Riley for organizing and supervising this senior tradition.

Teaching Assistant Program: There are three students taking part in the Teaching Assistant Program. These students work with a teacher for a class period each day for credit. The following students are participating in the program:

- CC Francis – Renchen/Band at Middle School
- Kyah Lee – Keefe/Music at Elementary School
- Brynn Boundy – Reale/Intro to Ag at High School

Clubs and Organizations: An informational meeting was held during advisory on August 24 for students to hear about the clubs and organizations available to all students. The goal is to have every student involved in at least one extra-curricular activity while they are students at GCMS High School.

Homecoming: This year's homecoming theme is Falcon Family Game Night. Mr. Stone is organizing all the events for the week with the help of the student council. The class themes are:

- Freshmen – Jumanji
- Sophomores – Candyland
- Juniors – Clue
- Seniors - Monopoly

Athletics: Tennis, Volleyball, Soccer, Football, and Cheerleading all started their competitions. All parent meetings on fan expectations and behavior have been completed for fall sports.

The Fisher/GCMS Soccer team will have their Gibson City soccer game on Monday, September 11. Crowbridge Farm ice cream trailer and Levi's Chuck Wagon will be there if weather permits.

Upcoming Events

Sep. 1	Faculty Meeting - 7:30 AM SIP Day - 11:30 Student Dismissal
Sep. 4	Labor Day - No School
Sept. 6	EFE Principals Meeting – 8:30 AM PERA/RIF Committee – 3:45 PM
Sept. 7	FFA Tractor Day
Sep. 11	HLS Visit
Sept. 13	HOIC Meeting – 11 AM

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Sep. 14 LEAD Team Meeting
Sep. 15 Mid Term 1st Quarter
Sept. 19 Admin Team Meeting – 9 AM
 Crisis Plan/Safety Meeting – 10:30 AM
Sep. 25-29 Homecoming Week
Sep. 27 Board of Education Meeting - 6:15 PM

Middle School Principal Report, Kent Nash

Enrollment:

- Total: 216 Students: Increase of 7 students from this time last year.
- 6th Grade: 63 students
- 7th Grade: 85 students
- 8th Grade: 68 students

Student Registration: Online registration was very smooth again this year. Most parents were able to register and turn-in required documents online. This helped the front office staff tremendously. The middle school registered 9 new students this fall with another new student registered just last week.

Testing: Students took FastBridge and MySabers testing. FastBridge testing will be used to determine what students need math and reading intervention. FastBridge testing will take place again in December and May. Results will be used to monitor the effectiveness of the intervention time.

This year grades 6-8 will be taking the MySabers test. MySabers is an SEL screening that helps us determine what areas of SEL students may need more support in. The middle school SEL team will analyze the results of this assessment at the next meeting and plan next steps.

Athletics: Our athletic seasons are well underway. Softball regional tournament starts on Sept. 6 or 7th at Leroy. Baseball regional tournament starts on Sept. 13 at St. Joseph.

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 1: SIP Day/Early Release, Law Enforcement Drill in AM, Team Building at The Fringe in Rantoul
- Sept. 4: Labor Day-No School
- Sept. 5: MS Leadership Team Meeting
- Sept. 6: Science Double Lunch, PERA/RIF Meeting
- Sept. 8: ALICE Meeting
- Sept. 11: HLS Inspection

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Elementary School Principal Report, Justin Kean

Enrollment:

- Pre K: 69
- K: 75
- 1: 75
- 2: 71
- 3: 69
- 4: 77
- 5: 60
- Total: 496

Falcons with Character: Falcons with Character will begin in September. RESPECT will be the first character trait. All the traits this year are emphasized in the new SEL curriculum. One student will be chosen from each classroom to have lunch with the elementary school admin staff, get a treat, local coupons, and picture for the paper and the website.

Start of school: The school year has started off great. A shout out to the custodial staff for doing a great job in preparing the building for the start of the school year. The new flooring around the library and classrooms, and the gym floor look fantastic.

Pre K Night: Families gathered on August 8 with specific time slots to visit the classroom and meet the teachers. Attendance: $56/69 = 81\%$

Kindergarten Zoo Night: Kindergarten families attended Zoo Night on August 10 and rotated through the specials. Parents met with teachers and many of the staff volunteered to help out. Attendance: $62/75 = 83\%$

1st - 5th Parent Orientation: Parent orientation with grade level teachers will take place on August 23.

New traffic patterns: The new traffic patterns on the east side of the elementary school are a work in progress. Students and parents are still learning where to cross, drop off and figure out the merging issues.

Special Education Director, Jesse McFarling

Director's Report:

The FCSEC Executive Board met on August 30, 2023.

Director McFarling provided information on the FY23 end of year costs and tuition refunds with \$52,462 being refunded to GCMS.

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The FSSEC board approved the FY24 Budget

CPI (crisis prevention training): 40 GCMS employees participated and continue to see the value of this training.

Lexi Vignos has been contracted to provide vision services for students through FCSEC.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction - Erin Nuss

Professional Learning: 13 new staff members attended GCMS University led by Erin Nuss and Staci Lindelof. Many current staff/teachers led sessions, gave tours, and participated in activities to make the new teachers feel welcomed.

Get Your Tech Together Workshops were led by Walker Willis for over 50% of the GCMS Staff to ensure technology is ready to go on day one of the new school year.

CPI Training was provided by Jesse McFarling to all special education and administrative staff. Co-Teaching Seminars were facilitated by Erin Nuss with each session focusing on strengthening the co-teaching partnership.

A substitute teacher workshop was held in August with 22 attendees in a session led by Mrs. Nuss and Mrs. Welborn on how substituting works and general updates to GCMS. Thanks to our community and people, GCMS is the kind of place people want to work.

District Opening Inservice: The first day of staff attendance was a great start to the school year with a special thanks to Board President Johnson for speaking.

GCMS Staff Family Picnic: Over 140 people attended the July 31 staff and family picnic held at the North Park Pavillion. Administration was thrilled by the turn-out and the camaraderie shown. Huge thanks to the GCMS Education Foundation for sponsoring the event.

Assessment: Mrs. Nuss reported on the IAR and SAT Scores. In the Illinois Science Assessment; the percentage of students who met or exceed expectations were: 5th Grade: 78%, 8th Grade: 77%, and 11th Grade: 76%

Technology Director - Walker Willis

The 2022-2023 school year involved a lot of changes in the technology department. Walker Willis moved into a new role as Technology Director, a new Student Information System was implemented, and a new phone system, as well as a new printer system. For 2023-24, Mr. Willis reported his goal is to build upon and optimize all the new systems to provide GCMS students and staff with the tools they need to be successful.

Infinite Campus: The transition to the new year with Infinite Campus went very smoothly. Beyond making sure families had updated login information, there were no major obstacles for

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online registration. At this point GCMS is on solid footing with the Infinite Campus setup as the new school year starts.

Student Chromebooks: New Chromebooks have been distributed to 6th and 10th grade students. All other grade levels have devices with sufficient time left on their life cycles.

Middle School Gym Sound System: GCMS accepted a quote from Heart Technologies to upgrade the sound system in the Middle School gym. The current system was installed when the building was first constructed and has had a long life cycle. The new system will double the number of speakers and allow more wireless connectivity. Willis reported that they are waiting for parts to arrive and are hoping to have the system installed before indoor fall/winter sports become active in the gym.

Superintendent Report

TIF IV Agreement with Gibson City, Illinois

Darnell presented the intergovernmental agreement with Gibson City which was approved in July by the city council. The agreement specifies that 30% of the tax increment generated in the city's fourth tax-increment financing district called TIF IV will be reimbursed to GCMS schools.

Motion to approve the TIP IV joint agreement as presented. Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Elder. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Reminder of Budget Hearing and BOE meeting on September 27, 2023

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 27 board meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Elder at 7:12 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote, with all members present voting yes.

Board President Josh Johnson

Secretary to the Board Lori H. Kristensen