

GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5
SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES OF
September 27, 2023

The Board of Education of Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley Community Unit School District #5 met in regular session on Monday, September 27, 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 Elder, 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, Elementary School Principal Justin Kean, Secretary to the Board Lori Kristensen and District Superintendent Jeremy Darnell.

Absent: Board members Whitehouse and Leonard

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

Recognition of Visitors: None

A motion to **go into executive session** was made by board member Friday and seconded by board member Tucker-Davis at 6:16 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 Edler at 7:04 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 Becky Nash as the coach for girls basketball intramurals in accordance with the negotiated agreement for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion was made by board member Tucker-Davis and seconded by board member Friday. Motion carried by roll call with all board members present voting yes.

Motion to approve Alyssa Gauze as a paraprofessional for GCMS School District at a rate of \$15.00 per hour and 7.5 hours per day pending completion of all legally required documentation. Motion was made by board member Friday and seconded by board member Tucker-Davis. Motion carried by roll call with all board members present voting yes.

Motion to approve the one time gift of 170 sick days to Linda Schmitt. Motion was made by board member Tucker-Davis and seconded by board member Friday. Motion carried by roll call with all board members present voting yes.

Motion to approve the one time gift of 80 sick days to Mike Allen. Motion was made by board member Tucker-Davis and seconded by board member Friday. Motion carried by roll call with all board members present voting yes.

Motion to approve the following volunteers for GCMS School District.

- Musical - Rachel Mitchell
- Wrestling - Jacob Horsch, Calen Ragle, Dustin Sears, Josh Carter, Grant Horsch, Micah Klemme, Key-Shawn Girkin, and Owen Duke
- High School Basketball - AJ Richard and Jake Barnes

Motion was made by board member Elder and seconded by board member Friday. Motion carried by voice vote with all board members present voting yes.

Additional Agenda Items:

8.4 Approve the destruction of executive session tapes through the end of March 2022, not March 2021.

8.8 Approval of the minutes from the Policy Committee meeting on September 6, 2023.

Consent Agenda

GCMS Accounts Payable bills approved were \$858,540.90

Education fund	\$491,725.91
Building fund	\$73,541.04
Debt Service fund	\$0.00

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Transportation fund	\$114,233.69
IMRF/FICA fund	\$34,506.53
Capital Projects	\$128,362.42
W/C	\$0.00
TORT	\$16,171.31
F/HLS	\$0.00

GCMS Payrolls approved were \$541,577.25

Education fund	\$468,677.72
Building fund	\$33,210.35
Transportation fund	\$683.48
TORT	\$39,005.70

FCSEC Accounts Payable bills approved were \$20,868.40

Education fund	\$19,664.95
Building fund	\$0.00
IMRF/FICA Fund	\$1,203.45

FCSEC Payrolls approved were \$47,081.35 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:
CTE Class	Parkland College	October 5, 2023
HS Volleyball	Parkland College/U of I	October 15, 2023
HS Yearbook Club	Chatham HS	September 19, 2023
4th Grade	Springfield Museums	May 9, 2024
Senior Class	ISU/EIU	October 11, 2023
PreK	GC Fire Station	October 13, 2023
Art Club	Parkland College	November 3, 2023
FFA	Indianapolis, IN	November 3, 2023

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:

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- GCMS Youth Wrestling - ES Gym and HS Gym/Cafeteria, November 2023 - March 2024
- ACT Theatre Group - MS Music Room, October - December 2023

Approve the minutes of the GCMS Regular and Executive Session Minutes of August 30, 2023 and the Policy Committee meeting minutes from September 6, 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 Friday. 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

Policy committee members reported that they are going to conduct a full review, along with athletic directors, of the current athletic code to make sure policy & practice align.

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

A Personnel and Finance meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2023 to discuss the FY24 Levy, a fund balance review, retention efforts and 2024-2025 staffing.

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

A Strategy and Enrichment committee meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2023 to discuss the current mission statement, recruitment and retention, strategic planning, and community engagement.

Building Administration Reports:

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High School Principal Report, Kyle Bielfeldt

Enrollment

- Freshmen - 57
- Sophomore - 74
- Junior - 70
- Senior - 71
- Total - 272

September Student of the Month: Rylie Huls

Student Class Officers: Mr. Tompkins and Mr. Augsperger coordinated the student class officer elections. Classes that had multiple Presidents/Vice Presidents running had debates in front of their classes. The election took place via Google Forms. The winning president/vice president then picked their cabinet members. Here are the 2023-2024 class officers:

FRESHMAN OFFICERS

- President - Lily Sizemore
- Vice President - Graydon Leonard
- Secretary of the Class - Londyn Roderick
- Secretary of Student Affairs - Jason Christensen

SOPHOMORE OFFICERS

- President - Will Mussman
- Vice President - Alex Barnard
- Secretary of the Class - Addison Farmer
- Secretary of Student Affairs - Natalie Aberle

JUNIOR OFFICERS

- President - Addy Kerchenfaut
- Vice President - Lizzy Giroux
- Secretary of the Class - Lucas Clinton
- Secretary of Student Affairs - Anna Warren

SENIOR OFFICERS

- President - Getty Greer
- Vice President - Rylie Huls
- Secretary of the Class - Nick Smith
- Secretary of Student Affairs - Ryan Carley

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LEAD Team Meeting: The high school LEAD Team met on Thursday, September 14 to go over SIP plan and develop goals and plans for the 23-24 school year. The staff was excited about the staff bonding event on September 1st. We discussed the posting of Learning Objectives, planned a student community service day for our next SIP day, and discussed new to our district students and their needs.

Homecoming: Mr. Stone has the homecoming plans all complete. This year's theme is Family Game Night. Parade and powder puff is Thursday, September 28. The football game is Friday, September 19 vs. Fieldcrest, and the dance is Saturday, September 30.

Upcoming Events

- Oct 1 New Student Meeting at 3:00 p.m.
- Oct. 4 HOIC/CIC Athletic Directors Meeting – 11 AM
- Oct. 6 SIP Day – 11: 30 Student Dismissal
Student Community Service Day
Staff ALICE Training
CCC Meeting – 2:30 PM
- Oct. 9 Columbus Day – No School
- Oct. 11 NMSQT/Practice SAT
Senior Field Trip
HOIC Meeting – 11 AM
- Oct. 12 Principal's Advisory Meeting – 7:30 AM
HS Leadership Team Meeting – 9 AM
Variety Show Auditions
- Oct. 13 End of 1st Quarter
- Oct. 15-17 Illinois Principals Association Conference
- Oct. 18 EFE Board Meeting – 8:30 AM
Parent/Teacher Conferences – 3:30-6 PM
- Oct. 19 Parent/Teacher Conferences – 3:30-6 PM
Financial Aid Night – 5:45 PM
- Oct. 20 Fall Break – No School
- Oct. 25 Board of Education Meeting – 6:15 PM

Middle School Principal Report, Kent Nash

Enrollment Total: 216 Students

- 6th Grade: 63 students
- 7th Grade: 85 students
- 8th Grade: 68 students

Interventions: On September 6th the middle school started interventions for students performing below grade level expectations in Math and Reading. Students receive interventions 2-3 days per week. Progress monitoring takes place every other Friday.

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Reading Challenge: Our students are participating in a schoolwide reading challenge. The challenge runs until February 1. Students read books off of the Rebecca Caudill and Lincoln Awards list. In February, students that have read at least three books get to vote for their favorite book to win the Rebecca Caudill Award. Reading teachers reward students for every book they read off of the list. Our goal is to increase the number of students interested in reading to create lifelong readers.

Athletics Update

- The baseball team got hot at the end of the season but they lost in the regional semi-finals to a very good Bismarck-Henning team.
- The softball team also got hot at the end of the season but lost to the #1 seed Leroy in the regional semi-finals.
- Girls basketball seasons have started. Both teams are 2-0.
- Girls basketball intramurals are now taking place during the girls basketball season. Intramurals is open to 5th graders and any 6th/7th grade student that did not make or try-out for the team. So far we have had around 20 girls participating in each session!

Upcoming Events

Sept. 28 Attendance/Child Study Team meeting
Oct. 6 SIP Day, Faculty Meeting, ALICE Training, and Guest Speaker during PE classes
Oct. 9 Columbus Day—No School

Elementary School Principal Report, Justin Kean

Enrollment:

- Pre K: 69
- K: 77
- 1: 76
- 2: 71
- 3: 69
- 4: 77
- 5: 61
- Total: 500

Falcons with Character: The first lunch with winners is on 9/29. Thank you to local businesses for supporting this project with gift certificates for the students selected.

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SIP Day: The first school improvement planning afternoon was on September 1. The staff had a potluck lunch from Hickory River and enjoyed bowling at Pheasant Lanes. The time spent on team bonding was appreciated.

School Pictures: Pictures went off without a hitch. VSI provided two cameras in the old gym and the pictures were done before lunch.

Hearing and Vision Screenings: Screenings took place Sept. 11-15. Thank you to Brittany Johnson for managing the whole process.

Band registration: 24 5th grade students have signed up for band.

Bus evacuation: The bus evacuation drill took place on September 20. Thank you to Kari Ryan and her staff for completing the drill in one hour for the entire school.

McCormick Tutoring: Tutoring will begin on September 26. There are three tutors this year ; Sarah Rehberg, Sara Frankie, and Emma Adamek. Tutoring will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school.

Special Education Director, Jesse McFarling

No Report.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction - Erin Nuss

GCMS University: New teachers to the GCMS School District participated in discussions at the September meeting. Year 2 new teachers discussed the six principles for every new teacher and the Year 1 new teachers discussed differentiation best practices..

Assessment News: Mrs. Nuss attended building faculty meetings and presented results on the state assessment scores from 22/23. Fastbridge testing for Math and Reading Benchmark Assessments are completed in grades K-8. Mrs. Nuss shared that students and families have received the results of the IAR test administered to all 3-8 students this month. The ISA results for last year's 5, 8, and 11 students were also shared. GCMS has created a plan for SAT testing to provide students with as much practice with both content and the format prior to the required implementation in April. Lastly, SEL Screener was provided to all 3-11 grade students.

ELAR Curriculum Study: The new English-Reading-Language Arts curriculum has been implemented in grades K-12. All grades are using the HMH into Reading/Literature for horizontal alignment and vertical consistency. Structured Literacy Lessons are aligned with the science of reading best practices.

English Learner Updates: All new students who registered as language other than English spoken at home were screened to see if they qualified for English Learner services. At this time, there are 29 English Learners in the district. The curriculum department has

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communicated with families to explain the qualifications and services. Mrs Nuss thanked the ESL Teacher and Paraprofessionals for being flexible in ensuring all ESL students receive the support they need.

Technology Director - Walker Willis

Middle School Gym Sound System: Installation of the new sound system began on Wednesday September 20. By the time of this meeting it should be up and running.

Interactive Flat Panels: We recently installed our 50th Interactive Flat Panel in the district. These have been replacing the older Activboards. They provide a much higher picture quality, more input options and fewer cord runs compared to the Activboards. At this point the Activboards remaining in the district still have several years of life remaining in them so we do not plan to install any more IFPs this year.

Superintendent Report

GCMS FY 24 Annual Budget

Report is included in the budget hearing minutes.

Motion to approve the FY24 GCMS annual budget as presented. Motion was made by board member Elder and seconded by board member Friday. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

FCSEC FY24 Annual Budget

Report is included in the budget hearing minutes.

Motion to approve the FY24 FCSEC annual budget as presented. Motion was made by board member Tucker-Davis and seconded by board member Friday. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

GCMS Crisis Plan

Superintendent Darnell recommended the current crisis plan be approved. The crisis plan details the chain of command, list of responsibilities, communication, general guidelines and detailed protocols for specific crisis events.

Motion to approve the GCMS Crisis Plan as presented. Motion was made by board member Elder and seconded by board member Tucker-Davis. Motion carried by voice vote with all members present voting yes.

GCMS Threat Assessment Plan

Superintendent Darnell recommended the current threat assessment plan be approved. This plan is to establish and adopt school district policy and corresponding administrative procedures and regulations to support the threat assessment process.

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Motion to approve the GCMS Threat Assessment Plan as presented. Motion was made by board member Friday and seconded by board member Tucker-Davis. Motion carried by voice vote with all members present voting yes.

GCMS Middle School Conference Affiliation

Superintendent Darnell recommended to the board that GCMS Middle School join the Junior High Sangamon Valley Conference for the 2024-2025 school year. The Middle School has been a member of the Twin County Conference for many years. The teams in the Jr High Sangamon Valley conference would reflect similar schools that would be played in high school. Darnell has sent a formal request to the Sangamon Valley Conference board for consideration of admittance. The current membership of this conference consists of Blue Ridge Junior High School, Epiphany Junior High School, Fisher Junior High School, Heyworth Junior High School, Holy Trinity School, Leroy Junior High School, Lexington Junior High School, Ridgeview Junior High School, and Tri-Valley Middle School.

Motion to approve joining the Jr High Sangamon Valley conference for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion was made by board member Tucker-Davis and seconded by board member Friday. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Teaching Staff Identification

The GCMS Education Association and GCMS School District agreed to amend the Certification of Representatives in the current negotiated agreement to include regularly employed full and part time classroom teachers, counselors, social workers, interventionists, and instructional coaches.

Motion to approve the Unit Clarification Agreement as presented. Motion was made by board member Tucker-Davis and seconded by board member Friday. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by board member Friday and seconded by board member Tucker-Davis at 7:32 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote, with all members present voting yes.

Board President Josh Johnson

Secretary to the Board Lori H. Kristensen