

GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5
SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES OF
December 18, 2023

The Board of Education of Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley Community Unit School District #5 met in regular session on Monday, December 18, 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, Technology Director Walker Willis, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction Erin Nuss, 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 Agriculture Teacher and FFA Sponsor Mr. Reale and Senior Ag Business students and officers; Ryan Carley, Alex Ward, Brynn Boundy, Natalie Deschepper and Sarah Higgins.

The FFA students presented to the board a Chapter Report for 2023 which included information on career and leadership development opportunities, current financials, Scholarship Auction in February, greenhouse use in the first semester, recruitment of new members, and a timeline of events throughout the school year.

A motion to **go into executive session** was made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Elder at 6:34 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 Whitehouse and seconded by board member Friday at 6:36 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 hire Hailey Rutledge as a School Social Worker for GCMS School District for the 2024-2025 contract year at Step 1 MA on the GCMSEA Negotiated Agreement. Motion was made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Whitehouse. Motion carried by roll call with board members Leonard, Mussman, Whitehouse, Elder, Friday and Johnson voting yes. Board member Tucker-Davis voted to abstain.

Motion to approve the tuition reimbursement request by Rachel Denault in accordance with the negotiated agreement. 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.

Motion to approve Faith Bachtold as a high school assistant softball coach for the 2023-2024 season. Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Leonard. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Additional Agenda Items: None

Consent Agenda

GCMS Accounts Payable bills approved were \$927,897.17

Education fund	\$601,683.89
Building fund	\$157,612.24
Debt Service fund	\$0.00
Transportation fund	\$101,715.07
IMRF/FICA fund	\$39,164.89
Capital Projects	\$0.00
W/C	\$0.00
TORT	\$27,721.08
F/HLS	\$0.00

GCMS Payrolls approved were \$530,437.34

Education fund	\$455,491.96
Building fund	\$34,673.37
Transportation fund	\$615.54
TORT	\$39,656.47

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FCSEC Accounts Payable bills approved were \$39,357.07

Education fund	\$38,600.58
Building fund	\$0.00
IMRF/FICA Fund	\$756.49

FCSEC Payrolls approved were \$56,026.77 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 June 2022.

Approve Field Trips for:

For:	To:	Date:
HS Student Council	Bloomington, IL	12/9/2023
8th Grade	Gibson City, IL	5/20/2024
FFA	Springfield, IL	1/22/24 & 1/23/24
2nd Grade	Champaign, IL	5/17/2024

Approve the following donations:

Amount:	From:	Designated to:
\$10,000	Gibson Area Hospital	GCMS Football
\$5,000	One Earth Energy	GCMS FFA

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

- Gibson City First Christian Church for the MS Gymnasium during January-February

Approve the minutes for the GCMS Regular and Executive Session Minutes of November 29, 2023 and the Personnel and Finance Committee meeting minutes from December 6, 2023 as presented.

Motion to accept the consent agenda as presented in the board packet. Motion was made by board member Tucker-Davis and seconded by board member Leonard. 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

- First reading of Policy Press 113. Footnote changes will take place in January.

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

- No Report

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

- Discussion at the December 6 committee meeting centered around the 1% facilities sales tax referendum and the new job description for the Student Services Director.

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

- The next committee meeting is scheduled for January 31 at 11:30 a.m. at the District Office. A contract has been received for the consulting firm for long term strategy planning with board members and administration.

Building Administration Reports:

High School Principal Report, Kyle Bielfeldt

Enrollment

- Freshmen - 57
- Sophomore - 73
- Junior - 70
- Senior - 71
- Total - 271

December Student of the Month: Brynn Boundy

Fara Fundraiser: The girls' and boys' basketball teams raised over \$8,500 through a free throw competition and a total of more than \$10,000 was raised for FARA. Coach Augsburg added to the totals by thinning out his antique jersey collections and Coach Tompkins hosted a Bombs Away contest at halftime of the girls game on 12/7 with a very entertaining show.

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Illinois State Scholars: GCMS High School is proud to announce the four seniors that were named Illinois State Scholars by the Illinois Student Assistance commission. Brynn Boundy, C.C. Francis, Molly Killian, and Lily Lahr scored in the 95th percentile on the SAT.

FBLA: The Business Club hosted Santa's workshop on Wednesday, December 13 at the elementary school.

Operation Christmas Child: Mr. Carter and Mrs. Massey took several students to the Operation Christmas Child warehouse in Aurora. This is a great opportunity for our students to have an impact on an international scale.

Staff Potluck: Taylor Leake organized a themed potluck on school improvement half days. This is an enjoyable time and great team building opportunity for staff to eat together when they are not normally able to do so.

Athletics: Girls and Boys basketball are off to strong starts for the season. The girls are currently 7-1 and the boys are 6-1.

Congratulations to Coach Tompkins on winning his 300th varsity basketball game on Tuesday, December 12 against PBL. Everyone is Falcon proud of his accomplishment!

The wrestlers went to the Plano invite on December 8 and 9 where the team finished 3rd out of 20 teams. The following individuals placed:

- Aiden Sancken (190) - 1st
- Cooper Miller (165) - 2nd
- Carson Maxey (157) - 3rd
- Gavin Johnson (215) - 3rd
- Corbin Ragel (144) - 4th
- Hudson Babb (132) - 4th
- Gabe Ward (126) - 5th
- Lincoln Eastin (175) - 5th
- Cohen Kean (285) - 5th
- Shawn Schlickman (138) - 6th

Upcoming Events

Dec 7	Student Advisory meeting
Dec 8	Faculty meeting/SIP Day/CCC meeting
Dec 10	Winter Concert at 2:30 p.m.
Dec 11	Elementary Christmas Concert
Dec 13	Chamber Choir Caroling/EFE Board Meeting/HOIC Meeting
Dec 14	Principal Advisory/High School Leadership
Dec 15	Semester Exams begin/Student Council Christmas movie
Dec 18	Semester Exams
Dec 19	Semester Exams/2:20 dismissal for Christmas Break

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Jan 3	Staff InService
Jan 4	Students Return
Jan 9	Driver's Ed curriculum/science curriculum meetings
Jan 10	HOIC meeting
Jan 11	ELAR curriculum meeting
Jan 12	Faculty meeting
Jan 13-20	HOIC Tournament
Jan 16	Fine Arts curriculum meeting
Jan 17	Practice ACT/Math curriculum meeting
Jan 23	Special Education curriculum meeting
Jan 25	CCPE meeting/Junior InService
Jan 29	ROE9 Principals meeting

Middle School Principal Report, Kent Nash

Enrollment Total: 216 Students

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

Mid Year SIP: The school improvement review was held on December 12. Grade level teams want to increase communication with parents. They will start using Remind to send out weekly updates to parents and to direct parents to the weekly assignment website.

Erin's Law: GCMS Middle School has a new partner in Clove Alliance to educate our students about Erin's Law. The educators from Clove Alliance met with our students through their PE classes. They educated students on boundaries and how to be an "up-stander". The staff is very pleased with how engaging their presenters were and feel like this will be a great partnership.

Athletics: Wrestling practice started on Nov. 27. There are quite a few returning wrestlers so it should be another competitive team.

Volleyball practice began on December 4. A large number of girls were at try-outs. Volleyball intramurals will start in January for any student that did not make the team as well for any 5th graders that are interested in playing.

Boys Basketball regionals will take place in January. 7th grade starts Jan. 20 while 8th grade starts Jan. 27

Fine Arts Update

Middle school students participated in the Winter Concerts held on December 10.

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Upcoming Events

Dec. 19 End of 2nd Quarter
Jan. 3 Teacher Institute
Jan. 5 Grades due at Noon
Jan. 8 Reports cards distributed, Boys Basketball Home vs. Mahomet, Volleyball @ IW

Elementary School Principal Report, Justin Kean

Enrollment:

- Pre K - 70
- K - 76
- 1 - 76
- 2 - 71
- 3 - 68
- 4 - 78
- 5 - 61
- Total - 501

Christmas Program: The annual Christmas Choral Concert had a great turnout and is always a highlight for students, teachers and families.

5th Grade Band: 5th grade band performed with a preview of their winter band concert to the elementary school students and staff before their concert.

Fastbridge Testing: Winter testing took place on December 6 and 7.

Finn Parade: Students and staff held a reverse parade to celebrate Finn being done with treatment.

Special Education Director, Jesse McFarling: No Report.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction - Erin Nuss

Curriculum Coordinating Committee: The Illinois Report Card data was reviewed and discussed at the December meeting. A course proposal for a Yearbook class was presented and the committee continues to discuss cutting back on device usage across all grade levels.

Professional Development: Mrs. Nuss reported that they kicked up a three-part series on Whole Brain Teaching this month led by our own Joanna Willis after school. 13 staff members

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are participating. Co-teaching Co-planning sessions continue to be very well attended. Shout out to teams from grades 3, 4, 5, and 7 for their consistent attendance.

Retention and Recruitment: Mrs. Nuss met with every new teacher in December to talk about how things are going, what they need, and how they can better be supported. Several unique patterns were identified and discussed with the administrators. Mrs. Nuss reported that she also conducts “Stay Interviews” where she meets with 3-4 teachers, once a semester, who staff and admins really want to stay at GCMS. This semester these teachers shared some interesting ideas that Mrs. Nuss and administrators can use to better appreciate staff.

GCMS University: Gratitude is the focus of the December meetings with new teachers. They are encouraged to journal about a staff member whom they are grateful for. New Teachers were surprised with a bundle of notes written by colleagues sharing why they are grateful for them at GCMS.

January 3: The Institute Day will focus on Specially Designed Instruction. All staff will participate in discussion of MBTI and then a series of breakout sessions will be held on topics related to differentiation and meeting the needs of all unique learners.

Technology Director - Walker Willis

Chromebook Repairs: 1st Quarter - 37, total as of 12/13/23 - 63

Football Field: No new updates this month.

New High School Copier: The high school office copier is being upgraded to provide more printing options. The new model will also require less space. The current office copier will be moved to a new location in the high school to provide increased access for teachers.

ESports Club: Mr. Bennison will begin hosting an After School Engagement ESports Club during the 2nd semester this year. Students will have the opportunity to practice critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity among other skills in a supportive environment. Students will engage via school accounts on computers and gaming devices purchased by the school.

Technology Highlights: Mrs. Allen’s 6th Grade Language Arts classes are using WeVideo to create presentations on a variety of topics. WeVideo is an online video editor that works across all of our devices. Students are able to combine video they create with licensed stock footage and audio to create unique video presentations.

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Superintendent Report

1% County Facilities Sales Tax Discussion

Superintendent Darnell presented information to the board for the third month to consider a formal resolution to appear on the March 19 primary election ballot that seeks voter's approval of the establishment of a 1% countryside sales tax. If the referendum is passed, it would be used exclusively to fund school facilities and salaries of school resource officers and mental health professionals.

Board member discussion and comments:

Board member Friday commented that she is concerned with the additional 1% the City of Gibson is seeking to help build a new pool for the community. The timing isn't great for both these referendums to happen at the same time.

Board member Elder suggested that local businesses be contacted to inquire how the extra 1% would affect their business. Elder shared that if this referendum is on the March primary ballot, he would vote no.

Board member Whitehouse commented that the 1% sales tax would lower the burden on local tax payers by shifting the burden from local tax to those driving through town and using facilities.

Board member Mussman also voiced concern about the timing with the City's possible 1% sales tax referendum.

Board President Johnson commented that the landscape of the school district's finances could change in the future, but right now, they are in very good financial shape. The voters will be able to decide yes or no.

Superintendent Darnell shared that the state average sales tax is 8.85%

Board member Leonard shared that she feels it is important to give the citizens of Ford County the opportunity to vote whether it be yes or no.

Before the vote, Secretary to Board, Lori Kristensen, read aloud the Resolution directing the Superintendent of Schools to certify to the County Clerk of Ford County the question of imposing a retailers' occupation tax and a service occupation tax to be used exclusively for school facility purposes, school resources officers, and mental health professionals, for submission to the electors of Ford county at the general primary election on March 19, 2024.

Motion to approve the Ford County 1% Facilities Sales Tax Resolution as presented.

Motion was made by board member Tucker-Davis and seconded by board member

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Whitehouse. Motion carried by roll call with board members Whitehouse, Leonard, Tucker-Davis and Johnson voting yes. Board members Mussman, Elder and Friday voted no.

Director of Student Services Job Description

A new administrative position has been created for the school district to cover several areas of need, including replacing retiring athletic director Mark Berry. This position will also support the growing demands on student services personnel. The primary function of the director of student support services is to manage and oversee the schools' student support activities and program and promote the development of each student and staff member who participates in the programs. This person will also provide leadership and guidance to the district's social emotional leadership team and serve as a liaison for the district's homeless population. This position is a 12-month contract and the candidates must have a Type 75 certification and previous experience with athletic and/or recreational programs.

Motion to approve the Director of Student Services Job Description as presented. Motion was made by board member Friday and seconded by board member Tucker-Davis. 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 7:45 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote, with all members present voting yes.

Board President Josh Johnson

Secretary to the Board Lori H. Kristensen