

September 15, 2023

# BEARCAT BOARD STORY



Educating for Excellence....the Bearcat Way!

## IT'S ALWAYS EXCITING TO BE A BEARCAT!

The Gasconade County R-1 School Board met on Thursday, September 14, 2023 for the regular board meeting and an executive session.

The Regular Board Meeting began with a welcome reception with the Board and the new 2023-2024 faculty/staff. We are excited to have three internal staff members, Jamie Mires, Christina Crowe, and Tammy Schutt move from a paraprofessional position to a teacher position. We welcome the following teammates:

Anna Azevedo – Behavioral Specialist	Justin Barringhaus – HS English Teacher
Jo Ann Boyle – HS Paraprofessional	Christina Crowe – MS Special Education Teacher
Samantha Bratcher – HS Math Teacher	Gregory Dalton – HS English Teacher
Emily (Engemann) Gillig – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher	Morgan Grosse - EL Rhythm and Movement Teacher
Maria Kloessner – Co-op Paraprofessional	Mandy Koch - HS Foreign Language Teacher
Heather Kuhlo – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher	Drew Lansford – HS English Teacher
Jed Leeper – HS PE and Head Football Coach	Becky Lorey – Title 1 Math and English Teacher
Samantha Maune – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher	Jamie Mires – HS Special Education Teacher
Andrea Niebruegge – 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher	Briana Rettinghaus – 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher
Megan Rose – 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher	Macharr Schroer – MS/HS Music & Vocal
Keith Sternberg – MS Paraprofessional	Tammy Schutt – MS FACS Teacher
Jamie Willmann – MS Paraprofessional	Emma Zanin – 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

Dr. Neill read this month's Board Norm:

- We will treat others the way we desire to be treated. The Governance Highlight is: The district will continue to develop the district literacy plan to provide evidenced based literacy instruction for students and training for all teachers. The goal is for 100% of students reading at or above grade level.

The building reports were reviewed with the following additional comments:

- The Yearbook Club had a great learning conference in South Callaway on September 14<sup>th</sup>.
- The Drama Club's fall play will be Little Shop of Horrors; scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The Softball Team won their September 14<sup>th</sup> game against St. James; the score was 6 to 4.
- The Middle School started their family group inclusion activity and it is going well. Also, our dog, Bennett, has been a welcome addition to the Middle School.
- Our annual Special Olympics event that will be held in May 2024 has received numerous donations; our community continues to be very generous and caring.
- We received an updated Special Education Determination Letter which reflected our rating of 4 in all categories, which is the highest rating you can receive. We are proud of all the effort, work and dedication that our Special Education department puts forth for our students and families.
- The changes to the end of the day bus procedures have been positive.
- We will receive our bus grant in November for the Bus 8 replacement.

The Board listened to the MSBA September Board Report. The following items were shared:

- Preliminary state wide assessment data show overall statewide scores are mixed compared to the prior year. English Language Arts showed small improvements in Elementary and High School and small declines or flattening in Middle School. Mathematics scores showed increases in most grades and courses, and science scores maintained, except an increase in Biology.
- Commissioner of Education, Margie Vandeven, said the data emphasizes the need to continue state and local resources to promote student learning (ex: early learning, strong teachers and administrative teams, etc.).
- MSBA encouraged schools to host legislative visits and build relationships with legislators to ensure their decisions are focused on "what is best for students".
- The GCR1 Board will be represented at both the MSBA Fall Regional Meetings and The MSBA Fall Conference.

The next item of business was our district's finances. We continue to track positively with our financials. Our revenues and expenditures were higher last year due to ESSER funding and the purchase of the Eureka<sup>2</sup> math program. This year you will notice a bit of a decline in revenue and expenditures as we normalize our budget. Overall, we are trending to a balanced budget.

The Board approved the continuing of our Safe Return Policy, with the following update in the "If you Test Positive for COVID-19 (Isolate)" section: Use of a face mask is strongly recommended but not required for the remainder of the 10 days from system onset or from the positive test (whichever is earliest). This policy will be reviewed at future meetings if updates are recommended.

In Old Business, the Board approved the MSBA Advocacy Position statement with no changes from last year.

In New Business, the Board:

- Approved the first read for four updated MSBA policies: AC (Prohibition Against Illegal Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation), BBBA – Board Member Qualifications, BBF (School Board Member Ethics) and EF (Food Service Management).
- Approved the updated MSBA GBA policy that replaced GDBB-2.
- Approved Budget Amendment #1 for the 2023-2024 year; additional amendments will be brought to the Board as applicable.
- Approved moving the Dual Credit provider from Drury to Central Methodist University, beginning January 2024.
- Approved the 2023-2024 Memorandum of Understanding between GCR1 and Missouri Baptist University for student teacher placement requirements.
- Approved the Fund 4 transfer look back process which will allow us to build up our Fund 4 reserves.

The Board was updated on the Long Range Facility Plan, discussing completed items and upcoming commitments such as the HS HVAC Replacement this winter and the EL HVAC Replacement next summer.

The Board approved Dr. Neill to pursue a scoreboard sponsorship with Keurig - Dr. Pepper.

The Consent Agenda was approved and the regular board meeting was adjourned.

In executive session, the Board approved Kim Forbis for Head MS Track Coach and accepted the retirement of Steve "Peabody" Hanger (Custodian), effective December 29, 2023.

***The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Office Board Room.***

### Upcoming events:

- Athletics – Please see the events section or the athletics page of our website
- September 22<sup>nd</sup> – Homecoming
- September 25<sup>th</sup> – Professional Development Day – no students
- October 5<sup>th</sup> – HS Picture Re-take Day
- October 6<sup>th</sup> – MS Picture Re-take Day
- October 6<sup>th</sup> – FFA Barnyard Day at the Elementary

