

October 13, 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, October 12, 2023 for the regular board meeting and an executive session.

The Regular Board Meeting began with highlighting the Board Room art wall; this month's art work was provided by our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade art focused on color wheel mandalas and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade art focused on portrait drawing skills.

Dr. Neill read this month's Board Norm:

- We will continually work to develop strong communication, trust and a positive working relationship. The Governance Highlight is: A consistent framework to proactively teach and responsively manage behavior will be identified and supported with training for sustained, district-wide implementation.

L J Hart, a Bond Services consulting company, presented an overview of the District's General Obligation Bonds and Debt Service Fund Levy Transfer. The district has a strong fund balance and bond portfolio and the information shared showcased our growth and recommended projections on how to positively leverage our bonds and fund balances going forward.

The building reports were reviewed with the following additional comments:

- GCTA will participate in the Elementary School "Trunk or Treat" event at the end of October.
- The Student Advisor shared that we have five students with an ACT score of over 30.
- The Board congratulated our Student Advisor, Charlie Schutt for scoring in the top 4% of state-wide students who took the PSAT assessments.
- The Elementary School just rolled out a new messaging system called "Rooms" which allows one platform for parent communication. We already have over 50% of parent signed up and feedback has been positive.
- Transportation is installing new digital radios this week which will allow for better reception throughout our District.

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

- School Board Elections begin on December 6th; the MSBA website is a great resource for potential school board members who want to understand what is required to serve on a school board.
- This year's Delegate Assembly meeting is Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>; Board Director Mike Pratte will represent our district.
- The new Legislative Session begins January 3<sup>rd</sup>; districts will continue to get updates throughout the session.
- The GCR1 Board will be represented at The MSBA Fall Conference in early November.

The Board approved the MSBA Advocacy Position Proposals; these proposals will be voted on at the November Delegate Assembly.

The next item of business was our district's finances. We continue to track positively with our financials. Our math program expenditure will be recorded in November, showing a negative balance for the month. However, the overall rolling year balance will be positive. Dr. Neill noted that the pandemic provisions will end and we will go to regular funding next year. The District's continued emphasis on utilizing our financials effectively will enable us to focus on increasing teacher salaries and ongoing recruitment and retention. We continue our trend to a balanced at year end.

In Old Business, the Board approved two updated MSBA policies:

- BBBA – Board Member Qualifications
- BBF – School Board Member Ethics
- Two policies noted in the September meeting – AC (Prohibition Against Illegal Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation) and EF (Food Service Management) will be reviewed at a later date

In New Business, the Board:

- Approved the first read of the following updated MSBA policies: IGAB (Instructional Interventions), IGC (Extended Instructional Programs), IKE (Promotion, Acceleration and Retention of Students), IL (Assessment Program), and IND (Ceremonies and Observances).
- Approved the issuance of the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to select an architect/engineering firm to assist in the design of an HVAC solution for the Elementary School.
- Approved Dr. Neill to begin the RFP process to purchase a new district vehicle; given the utilization rate of our district vehicles, we recommend adding a vehicle that can transport up to 8 students.

The Consent Agenda was approved, which included the final updates to the Safe Return Policy.

The Board President read a thank you from Abby Terry for their support in furthering her education; she received a board sponsored scholarship.

The regular board meeting was adjourned.

In executive session, the Board approved the hire of Brittini Bates as a Paraprofessional for Transportation. In addition, the Board approved Carter Hemeyer as a coaching volunteer and one new substitute teacher.

***The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is Thursday, November 9th 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
- October 17<sup>th</sup> – End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter
- October 20<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> – Middle School Book Fair
- October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> – Elementary School Book Fair
- October 26<sup>th</sup> – Trunk or Treat at the Elementary
- October 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> – Fall Break – no school
- October 31<sup>st</sup> – FFA Blood Drive
- November 10<sup>th</sup> - Veterans Day Breakfast & Assembly
- November 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> – Fall Musical
- November 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Break
- November 27<sup>th</sup> – Professional Development Day – no students

