

December 18, 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, December 14, 2023 for the regular board meeting and an executive session.

The Regular Board Meeting began with the Board recognizing our students that competed at State competitions this fall; they were awarded a pin and a certificate. Our Volleyball team took 2nd place, our Cross Country Girls took 3rd place and our Cross Country Boys took 6th place. We are very proud of their hard work and accomplishments.

The Board thanked and recognized Charlie Schutt for his contributions as the GCR-1 2023-2024 student advisor. Charlie was presented with a recognition plaque from Board President, Dot Schoening and a recognition check from People's Savings Bank (presented by Susan Stiers, AVP/Human Resources Director). Charlie thanked the GCR-1 Board for the opportunity to serve as student advisor and will hand the reigns to Nolan Kopp in the January 2024 BOE meeting.

Dr. Neill read this month's Board Norm:

- We will be prepared for board meetings and highlight goals from the Governance Plan at each meeting. The Governance Highlight was: Student academic achievement in literacy as measured on state, local & national assessments will continue to improve.

The building reports were reviewed with the following additional comments:

- The Board welcomed Nolan Kopp as the GCR-1 Board 2023-2024 Student Advisor; Nolan will transition over at the January 2024 meeting.
- Dr. Leslie Lause has been named the GCR-1 School Safety Specialist.

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

- The MSBA/MOASBO conference was held in Kansas City in November; the conference featured 70 concurrent sessions on a variety of topics.
- The guest speakers included:
 - Ruth Johnson, 2023-2024 MSBA President, who shared her journey to public education and shared how school board members make journeys like hers possible.
 - John Quinones, creator and host of "What would you do" who shared an inspiring message about his public education experience and the impact his high school English Teacher had on his career.
 - Greg Kester, Missouri's 2024 Teacher of the Year (Potosi R-III School District) who shared his reflections on the positive impact that school board members have on public education.
- The MSBA Delegate assembly also met to establish the position statements that will guide advocacy work for the upcoming year.

School Board Candidate filing is underway. GCR-1 has two seats available for three year terms. Candidate filing is at the Central Office and runs through December 26th. Times and details can be found on the front page of our website. 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.

The next item of business was our district's finances. We continue to track positively with our financials. Fuel costs are down to date and we received nearly \$1 million in current taxes from Gasconade County in December. The district is trending towards a surplus of approximately 2% and we continue our trend to a balanced or ahead of budget at year end.

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

- AC (Prohibition Against Illegal Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation) and EF (Food Service Management) were approved; these were edited from the original MSBA version presented in September.

In New Business, the Board:

- Approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Head Start and GCR-1; the purpose of this MOU is to facilitate an alliance between Missouri Ozarks Community Action, Head Start and GCR-1 for implementation of collaborative services supporting all children, including children with disabilities.
- Approved the annual Fiscal Audit for 2022-2023; the audit report will be published in the Hermann Advertiser Courier on Dec 27th.
- Approved the High School National Honor Society's bylaws.
- Approved the agreement with FSG for planning and construction management consulting services related to the Elementary HVAC system replacement.
- Approved Dr. Neill to invest \$500,000 with MOCAAT Investment Advisors; this investment will allow us to increase our dividends on money we are not utilizing in the near future.

- Approved Dr. Neil to move forward with creating bond language for the April 2, 2024 election. L J Hart will create the language from staff and constituent's feedback; this will be presented at the January 18th Board meeting.

It was noted that the January Board meeting will be Thursday, January 18th; this was moved back a week due to the Chamber annual awards banquet which is on January 11th.

The Board recognized the 3rd grade art projects that decorate the Central Office Board Room. This month the art students focused on candle art using oil pastels on colored paper.

The Consent Agenda was approved. The Board shared the correspondence from several people: A Christmas Card from L J Hart, a thank you card from Adariana Samuelson for the recognition from her FCCLA STAR presentation last month, a thank you card from Hermann Lumber on being a valued customer, and a thank you from the Glen Kohlbusch Family on the sympathy plant we sent for Glen's wife's funeral. In addition, it was shared that the Board will have a table at the Chamber Annual Awards Banquet on January 11th and at Blue & White Night on March 9th. The regular Board Meeting was adjourned.

In executive session, the Board approved the hiring of Lucas Ori, World History Teacher and Assistant Baseball Coach (begin 1/3/24), Michael Heying, HS Evening Custodian (begin 12/18/23), and one substitute teacher. In addition, the Board accepted the retirement of Eva Erickson, Elementary Physical Education Teacher, effective the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is Thursday, January 18th 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
- December 20th – Choir Concert
- December 22nd through January 4th – Winter Break – no students
- January 3rd – Professional Development Day
- January 15th – Martin Luther King Day – no school

