

January 19, 2024

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, January 18, 2024 for the regular board meeting and an executive session.

The Regular Board Meeting began with the Board recognizing Haley Sunfield who was honored by the Chamber of Commerce with the Distinguished Youth Award. Dr. Neill and the Board congratulated her on this high honor and highlighted her accomplishments and leadership skills.

Dr. Neill read this month's Board Norm:

- We will maintain confidentiality and refrain from using our board positions for personal benefit. The Governance Highlight was: a consistent framework to proactively teach and responsively manage behavior will be identified and supported with training for sustained, District-wide implementation.

The building reports were reviewed with the following additional comments:

- The Board welcomed Nolan Kopp, GCR-1 Board Student Advisor to his first meeting.
- The Middle School Freshman Orientation is scheduled for the first week of March; this will include Ms. Creech sharing information on a variety of career education programs.
- The Board congratulated Mrs. Brune on her Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Educator Award.
- Dr. Lause shared the progress regarding our focus on safety protocols.

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

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming more intertwined into all industries, including education. Sadie Lawrence, CEO & Founder of Women in Data, was the key note speaker for the first general session of the MSBA 2023 Annual Conference held in November. Sadie provided an overview of AI as well as its benefits, innovations, and potential pitfalls.
- MSBA is hosting a free AI webinar on January 29th which will include an overview of AI and a discussion with MSBA leadership, the Missouri Municipal League and the Missouri Association of Counties.

- The MSBA Delegate Assembly gathered on November 3rd where they approved two current advocacy positions and five new advocacy position; details can be found on the MSBA Website. You may visit your legislators at Advocacy Day on April 9th in Jefferson City.

Board Director, Mr. Pratte shared information on how a bill becomes a bill in the MSBA legislative session. In addition, Mr. Pratte noted that the charter school and open enrollment bills are still active in the legislative process. Dr. Neill shared that the current DESE Commissioner, Margie Vandeven will be attending the Superintendent Regional Meeting next week.

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 \$1 million from Gasconade County in December. The district is trending towards a 2% reserve and we continue our trend to a balanced or ahead of budget at year end.

In Old Business, the Board heard updates on the timeline of the High School and Elementary School HVAC systems. Due to supply chain shortages, the replacement HVAC systems are now scheduled for the Summer of 2024 (High School and potentially part of the Elementary School) and the Summer of 2025 for the full Elementary School HVAC system replacement. We are working with an engineering consulting firm to determine the best design to maximize efficiencies and minimize costs.

In New Business, the Board:

- Decided to meet as a group to take the Annual MSBA BOE Training; date to be determined.
- Approved the first and second read for the updated Bearcat Memorial Policy; this update moved the date to share the nominee name with the Board to the March meeting and the final approval of the nominee to the April BOE meeting. This allows additional time to submit candidates.
- Approved the HADH Sports Coverage Agreement; Dr. Penton will be our on-site medical trainer for home athletic events.

The Consent Agenda was approved. The Board shared a thank you from the Leslie Lause family on the sympathy plant we sent for Leslie's father-in-law's funeral.

In executive session, the Board approved the hiring of Madalyn Peterson and Christel Kreftmeyer (internal transfer) as Special Education Teachers for the 2024-2025 school year. The Board accepted the retirements of Tammy Lane, 4th Grade Teacher and Rebecca Summers, 5th Grade Teacher, effective the end of the 2023-2024 school year. The Board accepted the resignations of Christina Crowe, effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year and Nathan Borgmann, effective January 19th. In addition, the Board approved 1 year contract extensions for the Associate Superintendent (Dr. Lause), and the Superintendent (Dr. Neill).

In a special board meeting on January 17th, the Board approved the Bond Language for Proposition I and Proposition N, which will be on the April 2, 2024 ballot. In addition, in the January 17th Executive Session, the Board approved the Hire of Mr. Andrew Emmons for the High School Principal for the 2024-2025 school year.

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is Thursday, February 8th 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
- February 8th – FFA Blood Drive
- February 9th - Courtwarming



