

February 9, 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, February 8, 2024 for the regular board meeting and an executive session.

The Regular Board Meeting began with the Board recognizing the High School Art Display in the Board Room. Students in Ms. Schannuth's Drawing 1 class practiced seeing where an object is located in relation to other objects by drawing a reference image upside down. This requires students to see the objects in the image as lines, rather than whole objects that our brain and eyes recognize. They were only able to turn their drawing right side up when it was completed.

Dr. Neill read this month's Board Norm:

- Board Norm - We will treat everyone with dignity and respect. The Governance Highlight was: The Superintendent or designee, will lead the implementation of curriculum offerings and experiences that align with High Quality Career Education Standards.

The building reports were reviewed with the following additional comments:

- The 2024-2025 calendar will be presented to the Board at the March meeting.
- Congratulations to Charlie Schutt, who won the \$10,000 Math and Science Scholarship.
- Students and Teachers voted strongly in favor of keeping the Power Lunch program at the High School.
- The Girls District Basketball Tournament will be played in different school than the Boys District Basketball Tournament, per a MSHSAA change this year.
- There is discussion about offering 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students more exposure to programs at Four Rivers so they can begin identifying their career aspirations earlier than Freshman Orientation.
- We anticipate 52 or more new kindergarten students for next year.
- We are hosting Special Olympics on May 3<sup>rd</sup>; 16 schools are signed up to join us.

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

- The February Board Report took a look back at Governor Parson's State of the State address. This

included Governor Parson's education priorities for the legislative session, which included increased funding in the K-12 foundation formula, fully funding transportation and a focus on increasing teacher baseline pay.

- MSBA encouraged districts and community members to contact their legislators during the legislative session to communicate the impact that legislation will have on public school education.
- MSBA Advocacy Day is April 9<sup>th</sup> in Jefferson City; our board members will be in attendance.
- School Board recognition month is March; this is a great time to recognize the important role that every board member plays as a leader of our public schools.
- MSBA's recent webinar highlighted the AI impact on generating misinformation and how it might impact local elections. It's important to educate our communities on how we can do a better job of identifying misinformation.
- A two-day Behavioral Risk Assessment Summit for K-12 schools will be held in Columbia on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>; we will have several employees and a board member attend this conference.

Board Director, Mr. Pratte shared that the open enrollment bill passed the MO House and is moving on to the MO Senate. Dr. Neill shared that with Governor Parson's increased foundation formula funding, it may put our school at risk of losing, not gaining funding, depending on the funding level. If funding is not above \$6,600, we will fall into a hold harmless clause, which will take away much of our funding. We hope for a positive funding allowance. We are happy about the full funding commitment of the transportation allowance, which will help our district.

The next item of business was our district's finances. We continue to track positively with our financials. We received Gasconade County tax money in February, our December and January collections were strong, and we are currently \$155,000 ahead of budget. The district is trending towards a 2.5 – 3% surplus at year-end.

Dr. Neill shared that he was asked to serve as the South Central Representative to the MARE Board of Directors. This is a dual membership with MSBA. The Board was supportive of Dr. Neill's role on the MARE Board of Directors. The last item Dr. Neill shared were the results of the staff satisfaction survey. The survey held the themes: increase salary and benefits, continue an Assistant Principal position in the Middle School, continued focus on safety and security, and increase staff in the behavioral intervention area.

In Old Business, the Board:

- Confirmed their MSBA Annual Training will be held on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Central Office Board Room.
- Heard an update on the Elementary HVAC Bid Project: the may be split up, with the main focus on replacing the room package units in the oldest portion of the elementary. The bidding period opened on February 5<sup>th</sup> and will close on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. A meeting was set for February 26<sup>th</sup> for the Board to accept a bid.

In New Business, the Board:

- Approved the Assistant Principal Job Description, contingent upon final ADA compliance language.
- Approved the 2024-2025 High School Course Guide. The counselor added that they plan to change to Drury and ECC for dual credit offerings.
- Heard from the Facilities Director regarding the High School Track and the need to have a structural respray which will keep the surface from failing. The track has started to wear and cracks are visible. Preliminary estimates are between \$120,000 and \$130,000. This is scheduled maintenance and will extend the life of the existing track another five to eight years. The Board approved proceeding with the bid process for this project.
- Approved the amended budget as presented.

The Consent Agenda was approved.

In executive session, the Board accepted the resignation of Rebecca Cramer, Special Education Teacher, effective the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

***The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is Thursday, March 14<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
- February 16<sup>th</sup> – Professional Development Day – no students
- February 19<sup>th</sup> – President’s Day – no school
- February 28<sup>th</sup> – Community Bond Presentation – Middle School (6pm)
- March 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> – Spring Play
- March 7<sup>th</sup> – Freshman Orientation
- March 12<sup>th</sup> – NHS Induction Ceremony
- March 13<sup>th</sup> – Choir Concert
- March 13<sup>th</sup> - Community Bond Presentation – High Schools (6pm)
- March 20<sup>th</sup> – Band Concert
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Kindergarten Registration
- March 27<sup>th</sup> – Community Bond Presentation – Elementary (6pm)
- March 28<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup> – Easter Break

