

GALLATIN COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #7

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING September 17, 2020
LOCATION Gallatin County Educational Complex, 5175 Highway 13, Junction IL 62954, HS Library
TIME 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

MEMBERS ABSENT

Gary Clayton
(Presiding Officer)

Richard Case

Rob Wood

Steve Galt

Wes Henson

Matt Seely

Dr. Michael Blain

Judy Kaegi
(Superintendent of Schools)



Gallatin County School Board Meeting
Gallatin County High School Library
September 17, 2020 7:00 p.m.

The Gallatin County School Board met on September 17, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library at the Gallatin County Education Complex, 5175 Highway 13, Junction, Illinois 62954. Vice-President Gary Clayton called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Those present: Rob Wood, Gary Clayton, Wes Henson, Matt Seely, and Dr. Michael Blain
Those absent: Steve Galt and Richard Case

--- Motion by Wes Henson, second by Dr. Blain for approval of consent agenda. In a roll call vote, MOTION CARRIED 5 - 0: VOTING: Wes Henson, yes; Matt Seely, yes; Gary Clayton, yes; Rob Wood, yes; and Dr. Blain

The board heard a letter of retirement from Michael Crayne.

--- Motion by Dr. Blain, second by Wes Henson to approve the retirement letter from Michael Crayne, as presented. In a roll call vote, MOTION CARRIED, 5 – 0. VOTING: Gary Clayton, yes; Rob Wood, yes; Wes Henson, yes; Matt Seely, yes; and Dr. Blain, yes.

Approval: Steve Galt _____

Rob Wood _____

The Superintendent's Report was given by Mrs. Kaegi, stating:

- The school year is off to a good start. I would like to compliment all of the teachers and staff for all of their hard work.
- There will be a half day remote plan day and school improvement day on September 18. September 25th students will attend half day with 11:00 dismissal with Remote plan day in the afternoon for teachers.
- There will be a Teacher's Institute on October 9th. And on October 16th, we will have a half day plan day and school improvement day. No students will attend on October 9th or 16th. These days will allow teachers more time to prepare for remote learning.
- There will be no school on Monday, October 12th, in observance of Columbus Day.

The Elementary Report was given by Chris Fromm, stating:

- Picture day is scheduled for Friday, September 11. We have the junior high gym from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. for virtual students to prevent exposure as much as possible. In person learners will use the high school gym for their pictures. We have ensured that all guidelines will be followed during the picture process.
- The elementary teachers and our Assistant Principal have gone above and beyond to keep things running smoothly for our in person and virtual students. They are putting in a lot of extra time and effort and it is greatly appreciated.
- In the elementary wing, the teacher's schedules did not allow for any type of block time to work on virtual material. After seeing the amount of time teachers were putting in after school, Mr. Herrmann created a new schedule for K-4 teachers and aides. After presenting the idea to the teachers, they decided to implement this new schedule beginning Monday, September 14. This will give them a block of time to devote to their virtual classroom.
- Teachers are utilizing mask breaks outside for their class. They continue to follow proper social distancing guidelines while getting some fresh air. Most of the time, they are still conducting some sort of their lesson while they are outside for a few minutes. They notify the office when they leave and return.
- The University of Illinois is still doing their healthy kids nutrition class with us. They do not come to the school, but they send us emails with information for the kids and links that the teachers can use if they choose.
- Mr. Austin and H & H met with our 4th grade students last Wednesday night, September 9th about joining band. Mr. Austin conducted the meetings outside the band room, families had pre-scheduled time slots, and social distancing procedures were followed. During this event, 12 students decided to join the band and purchase their band equipment.
- Chris Siler is finishing our Star testing fall benchmarks. We will use this data to provide individualized intervention strategies throughout the day. Once finished, teachers will receive a comparison of this year's fall benchmarks to last year's final testing data. This data will assist in determining gaps due to the COVID closure last year.

Steve Galt entered the meeting at 7:16 and resumed his duties as President.

The Junior High Report was given by Chris Fromm, stating:

- Both the 8th grade boys' baseball and 8th grade girls softball players were recognized this week during their home ball games. We had seven 8th grade baseball players this year: Ridge Chappell, Thacker Fromm, Elliott Glover, Grant Jackson, Owen Wargel, Grayson Wilson and James Wood. We had three 8th grade softball players this year: Brylee Brazier, Gracie Cox, and Brooklyn Raymer. Congratulations to all of the 8th graders, and best of luck to Coach McGuire & Coach Cruson on their seasons this year.

--- Congratulations to Mrs. Austin and the Jr. High Tech Classes on receiving several grants that will provide even more innovative technology to our Jr. High classrooms. Below is more information directly from Mrs. Austin on the exciting news:

“DonorsChoose is a free grant writing website for educators. When you write a grant, they match you with donors from across the U.S. We have received 11 grants from DonorsChoose for the junior high technology classroom. Since the majority of the grants were for STEM supplies, we received an invitation to write a grant for an Innovation Lab worth \$7,500. Our junior high was one of 200 schools from across the U.S. that was selected! After attending two webinars, going over guidelines and brainstorming, we were given the go ahead to order supplies. Some of the supplies include a Dremel Digilab 3D printer, 5 sets of Google Expedition virtual reality goggles with teacher tablet, 3 doodle pens for 3D drawing, a drone that can be programmed with coding, a green screen with lighting, a digital video camera, a go-pro camera with accessories, 2 sphero bolt robots, snap circuit kits, and many, many more supplies! Some items have already arrived and we are using them in class!” – Mrs. Amanda Austin, Jr. High Tech

The High School Report was given by Mrs. Mitchell, stating:

--- There are 208 students enrolled in the high school, 154 in-person students and 54 remote.

--- Thank you to the FFA for donating the tents to place at the end of the wings. They are much appreciated!

--- Cross Country has begun. We will be hosting two meets this year. This will be our first time hosting.

--- Picture day was Friday, September 11th. ICONIK has been wonderful to work with. We were able to have the remote learners come in for pictures, as well. They were kept isolated from the in-person students by having their pictures taken in the JH gym.

--- There have been no out of school suspensions.

--- The teachers have continued to keep in contact with the remote learners by email, parent phone calls, and a few home visits for the ones we aren't getting much response from.

--- Student Council essays were due today for the 20/21 school year. Interested students were asked to submit an essay about themselves, why they're interested in student council, and 3 things they would do to improve the school.

--- Motion by Wes Henson, second by Matt Seely to approve the administrator reports, as presented. In a roll call vote, MOTION CARRIED 5 – 0: VOTING: Dr. Blain, yes; Rob Wood, yes; Wes Henson, yes; Gary Clayton, yes; and Matt Seely, yes.

NEW BUSINESS:

--- Motion by Matt Seely, second by Wes Henson to the 2020 – 2021 School Budget, as presented. In a roll call vote, MOTION CARRIED 6 – 0: VOTING: Dr. Blain, yes; Steve Galt, yes; Rob Wood, yes; Wes Henson, yes; Gary Clayton, yes; and Matt Seely, yes.

--- Motion by Gary Clayton, second by Dr. Blain to approve the 2020 – 2021 School Improvement Plan, as presented. In a roll call vote, MOTION CARRIED, 6 – 0. VOTING: Dr. Blain, yes; Steve Galt, yes; Gary Clayton, yes; Rob Wood, yes; Wes Henson, yes; and Matt Seely, yes.

The board received the Student Count for informational purposes.

The 2019 – 2020 school audit presentation by Greg McCalley was tabled until a later date.

- Motion by Dr. Blain second by Gary Clayton to move into executive session at 7:40 p.m. in compliance with 5ILCS 120/2 ©(1) stating: *Executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or legal counsel for the District to determine its validity – 5ILCS 120/2 ©(1).* (NOTE: An independent contractor is not an “employee” within the meaning of the Act. 5ILCS 120/2(d) In a roll call vote, MOTION CARRIED 6 – 0: VOTING: Steve Galt, yes; Matt Seely, yes; Dr. Blain, yes; Rob Wood, yes; Wes Henson, yes; and Gary Clayton, yes.
- Motion by Wes Henson, second by Dr. Blain to move from executive session at 9:03 p.m. In a roll call vote, MOTION CARRIED: 6 – 0: VOTING: Dr. Blain, yes; Steve Galt, yes; Wes Henson, yes; Matt Seely, yes; Rob Wood, yes; and Gary Clayton, yes.
- Motion by Matt Seely, second by Wes Henson to approve the closed session minutes as presented in closed session. In a roll call vote, MOTION CARRIED: 6 – 0: VOTING: Rob Wood, yes; Dr. Blain, yes; Steve Galt, yes; Matt Seely, yes; Gary Clayton, yes; and Wes Henson, yes.
- Motion by Wes Henson, second by Gary Clayton employ Matt Lawler as High School Girls’ Varsity Basketball Coach for the 2020 – 2021 school year. In a roll call vote, MOTION CARRIED, 6 - 0. VOTING: Dr. Blain, yes; Steve Galt, yes; Gary Clayton, yes; Rob Wood, yes; Wes Henson, yes and Matt Seely, yes.
- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Wes Henson, second by Dr. Blain, at 9:07 p.m. MOTION CARRIED by acclamation.