



Board Briefs – January 2023

Greenville Public Schools BHAG – Big Hairy Audacious Goal:

Greenville Public Schools will be known as an educationally progressive leader by ensuring rigorous individualized academic achievement for all students, through community partnerships, and globally diverse cultural and career opportunities in a safe and caring environment.

Core Values:

Integrity ♦ Collaboration ♦ Compassion ♦ Responsibility

Thank you for taking the time to read the Board Briefs. If you have questions, please contact Kara Tiesworth at (616) 754-3686 or email kara.tiesworth@gpsjackets.org. Of course, you are always welcome to attend our meetings.

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, January 9, 2023.

Members Present: J. Anderson, B. Gardner, M. Huff, R. Lentz, C. Mahar, K. Wierda, and M. Wolverton

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: W. Roedel, M. McCullough, L. Steed, M. Andres, M. Blaszczyński, T. Oatley, J. Gilbert, M. Taylor, M. Haist, T. Boyer, M. Walsh, K. Peters, K. Beebe, J. Mahar, B. Zdanowski, R. Harrison, A. Ewing, A. Bradley, D. Kuk, and T. Nielson

- Superintendent Wayne Roedel administered the ceremonial Oath of Office to our recently elected Board Trustees, Brian Gardner, and Maureen Wolverton. The official Oath of Office was administered prior by a notary as required.
- Maureen Wolverton was elected as Board Secretary.

Celebrations/Communications

- January is School Board Appreciation Month, a small reception was held before the regular meeting, and all administrators were invited to attend. Board members received a certificate of appreciation, while Superintendent Roedel, GHS Principal Blaszczyński, and Baldwin Heights Principal Walsh each provided a brief statement to the Board members expressing the district's gratitude for our Board of Education members.
- The GHS Be Nice group shared a brief presentation about their group, an anti-bullying organization and mental health program that believes in education changing, improving, and saving lives. The group also provided Be Nice t-shirts for Board members as another token of appreciation.
- Several district-wide celebrations were highlighted in the ***Inspiring Excellence*** document (below).

Citizen Comments

- The Board took comments from the public.

Consent Agenda - *The following items under the Consent Agenda were approved:*

A. Minutes of December 12, 2022 Regular Meeting

B. Ratification of Bills and Payroll Vouchers – December 2022: \$6,990,893.36

C. Donation – Opportunities for Success from Ken and Mary Schoenborn: \$1,400

Information Items - Generally, these items are for discussion only; no action is requested at the meeting.

- A. Student Representative Report – Kire Wierda introduced the Board's 2023 Student Representative, Sophie Gardner, and Sophie presented her first report. Highlights throughout the district included Baldwin Heights' Talent Show will be on January 20 at GHS Auditorium (free), and 1st & 2nd graders will attend the Lollipops Concert with the Grand Rapids Symphony. Cedar Crest's Running Club is starting strong, and The Flat River Dance Company performed for a school-wide behavior reward. Lincoln Heights' PTO put on a Santa Secret shop for students to buy Christmas presents for their families and The Big Idea group came in to teach students joy and how to be happy when things do not go their way. Walnut Hills students enjoyed GHS Junior Christian Rasmussen performing magic before the break as a reward for positive behavior and are currently gearing up to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Greenville Middle School's Girls basketball & Wrestling tryouts are this week, and Wizard of Oz auditions are also this week. Satterlee School students have established solid learning targets, daily goals, and semester goals and have made their classroom environment very warm and welcoming. Greenville High School's Girls & Boys Varsity Basketball teams won the Holiday Hoops Tournament over winter break, and the Varsity Wrestling team won against Thornapple Kellogg Middleville, ranked fifth in the state. The Village Green Variety show will be held on February 14, and STAR testing starts tomorrow (1/10). GHS students are excited to hear they should get their comfort dog in March; Mrs. Humphrey will be the handler.
- B. Superintendent Report – Wayne Roedel provided a few brief updates, including responding to public comments regarding live streaming/recording Board meetings. Information is being gathered currently and will be shared with the Board so they can make an informed decision. Superintendent Roedel also reported the district would not be moving forward with the bond proposal on the May 2023 ballot. Instead, the new Board and superintendent will work together to create a new strategic plan to help inform and create a new/clarified district vision moving forward. District needs regarding facilities and programming priorities may come to the surface because of this work, and seeking input from all stakeholders on those needs and how to achieve them best would follow.
- C. Assistant Superintendent Report – Matt McCullough invited District Media Specialist Heidi Armock to provide a District Library/Media Center update. Highlights include an electronic catalog to view which books are available at each building, a partnership with local libraries for access to more ebooks, and many more exciting opportunities available to staff and faculty.
- D. Assistant Superintendent of HR & Operations Report – Lisa Steed provided a full staffing update for the District and brief department updates. Transportation Department is fully staffed and continues to focus on culture and climate. The Food & Nutrition Department is exploring ideas on how to add kitchen space at the elementary buildings. The Facilities Department continues working on a fee structure for facility requests and researching possible grant opportunities.
- E. Food & Nutrition Department Van Purchase – Finance Director Matt Andres presented the district's desire to purchase a new transport van with a ramp utilizing food service funds, not to exceed \$60,000. **At this time, this will be an action item during the regular February Board of Education meeting.** Purchasing a new vehicle is subject to availability, and vehicles have been selling quickly. Because of this, we may need to call for a special meeting so we do not miss out on an opportunity.
- F. Social Emotional Learning Update – Assistant Superintendent Matt McCullough reported the Champion Team has selected more lessons to be taught via Michigan Cares (Navigate 360) for secondary students. Board members have received login information to review the chosen lessons. The focus of the lessons includes self-management and relationship skills. GHS is considering letting students choose what lessons to do for their current needs, while GMS will continue doing the same lesson for each student simultaneously. **This will be an action item during the regular February Board of Education meeting.** One other minor update: we have temporarily paused the

teaching of these lessons as we have had some technical glitches with our firewall and the delivery or endless loading of some videos/interactive parts of certain parts of the platform. Our Technology Department believes they have found a fix, and we are excited to continue working with our students on these essential topics very soon.

G. Jim Anderson provided a brief legislative update.

Action Items – *Generally, these items were discussed at a previous meeting as information items.*

- A. The Board approved Board Policy updates to policy 7544.
- B. The Board approved the Reproductive Health updates.
- C. The Board approved the resolution of the Montcalm County School Boards Association to appoint Kire Wierda as representative and Richelle Lentz as the alternate to the Executive Committee of the Montcalm County School Boards Association for the rest of the 2022-2023 school year.
- D. The Board approved the early graduation request.

Upcoming Dates

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|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A. Finance Committee Meeting | Wednesday, February 8, CSF, 5:30pm |
| B. Next Regular Board Meeting | Monday, February 13, CSF, 7:00pm |

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” – Benjamin Franklin

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

January 2023



GMS Peer2Peer Program

GMS Peer2Peer students engaged in a hospitality cart and cooking class. The money raised for items sold to GMS staff are used for additional peer to peer activities. Peer2Peer is a school-wide program where students are supported by peers while they participate in class and social experiences. Students gain skills such as developing relationships and gaining an understanding of social perceptions as they engage in different life skills and social goals.



At the end of the second marking period, students in the GMS Peer2Peer program (led by Amy Gunderson & Kelley Farrell) celebrated the friendships and connections made throughout the semester by partaking in a trip to Jacket Lanes. Students bowled multiple games while enjoying the time to socialize with peers. Thank you Jacket Lanes for your hospitality!



GHS DECA

On January 4, 36 GHS DECA students participated in the DECA District 2 Competition at Ferris State University. Twenty-seven students qualified for state competition and 59 medals were earned. Congratulations to all of our DECA competitors on their efforts and good luck to those advancing to the State Conference, which will be held in Detroit on March 9-11. Thank you for supporting GHS DECA!

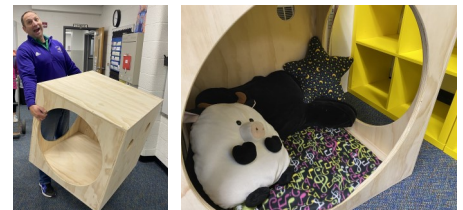


GMS Band & Orchestra

On December 3, GMS 7th/8th grade band and orchestra students had the opportunity to participate in the Solo & Ensemble Festival. Out of the 30 events performed, 20 events earned a Division I rating and 10 events earned a Division II rating! Congratulations to these students for the hard work in preparing their music and performing for an adjudicator. Each year hundreds of students from all over Michigan audition to participate in the Michigan State Band & Orchestra Association's All-State Bands and Orchestras. The auditions consist of prepared excerpts, memorized scales and sight-reading. This year, 8th grader Thijs Behrends auditioned on the Double Bass and was accepted to be one of 11 middle school Bass players in the Middle School All-State Orchestra. They will perform at the DeVos Hall in January as part of the Michigan Music Conference. Congratulations, Thijs!

GHS Woodshop

Thank you Mr. Aittama and GHS Woodshop students for making this awesome privacy cube for Mrs. Tremlin's music class! This cube is designed with the idea that it gives students a spot to rest and be on their own when need be.



AED Donation

Prior to Winter Break, GPS received a HUGE donation of a Philips AED from Kevin McGraw, Founder of SERC (School Emergency Response Coalition). We have a brand new Philips AED with a travel case that includes a first aid response kit, as well as an additional set of adult AED pads and a spare battery. This is over \$2,000 worth of equipment to help keep our students, staff and community safe. Mr. McGraw will also be helping us with expired pads and AED batteries in 2023!



Holiday Giving

Several students at GPS were adopted for Christmas by generous donors in our community. We received gifts for 11 families and approximately 34 students from a local alumni group. In addition, we received approximately \$2,500 in gift cards from various groups in our community. The Spencer Friends of the Library also donated many books, games, snacks, toiletries as well as various gift cards. We are so very grateful and appreciative of the people and organizations in our Greenville community.



CSF Staff Shows Appreciation

GPS staff members across the district were treated to hot cocoa and holiday goodies served by the Central Services staff prior to Winter Break as a way to express appreciation.



Frozen Jackets

It's that special time of year where GPS staff, parents, and students tempt fate and plunge into the icy waters of a frozen lake to benefit the Special Olympics. The Polar Plunge will again be close to home at Turk Lake and take place on Saturday, February 4th. The Special Olympics do some pretty amazing things for some of our very own GPS students. It's a very worthwhile organization and this event is one of their biggest fundraisers. If you'd like to join the Frozen Jackets, please email Mr. Walsh (Principal of Baldwin Heights Elementary and Captain of the Frozen Jackets) at mike.walsh@gpsjackets.org. If you'd rather support the Frozen Jackets by donating, please donate ONLINE at <https://give.classy.org/frozenwalsh23>.

Now Accepting Nominations for a GPS Teacher and a GPS Support Staff of the Year!

Nominations are accepted through March 24, 2023. For more information or to complete a nomination form, please visit gpsjackets.org/nominate.

Nominate
an Outstanding Staff Member
Today!

GPS TEACHER OF THE YEAR!

GPS SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR!

Use the QR code or find the link on our website gpsjackets.org/nominate to complete the nomination form.

Please use a separate form per nominee.
You may nominate multiple staff members.

One teacher per school and one support staff per school and CSF will be announced in June, 2023. An overall winner for both awards will be announced in August, 2023.*

