

April 14, 2023

# BEARCAT BOARD STORY



Below: New GCR1 Board of Directors (not pictured: Jeff Englert)



Educating for Excellence....the Bearcat Way!

## IT'S ALWAYS EXCITING TO BE A BEARCAT!

The Gasconade County R-1 School Board met Thursday, April 13, 2023 for the regular board meeting, the board re-organization meeting and an executive session.

The Regular Board Meeting began with Dr. Neill reading this month's Board Norm:

- We will approve a protocol for committees that is clearly defined and focused, with clarity of board member and district responsibilities. The Governance Highlight: The Superintendent and administrative team will develop a process in order to prepare a long-range facilities plan based on enrollment, department and capital needs, as well as the financial considerations of the District.

The next item of business was the Building reports with the following updates:

- The Student Advisor highlighted the many activities happening around our campuses. He added that our FFA team had four 1<sup>st</sup> place winners (Floriculture, Sales, Mechanics and Management) at Districts last week. Additionally, our HHS FFA teams will be participating in State FFA events on April 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

- GCTA will be honoring their retiring members on May 3<sup>rd</sup> with an ice-cream float party in the Middle School.
- The Middle School and Elementary have submitted grants for a therapy dog for each building; more information will be shared as we have updates.
- The High School is considering a move from Google Classroom to Canvas. The transition will benefit our students as they move to colleges and universities as Canvas is utilized in the university setting.
- Special Olympics is May 5<sup>th</sup>; we have 17 schools attending.

Dr. Scott Patrick EGL Association, shared the Draft Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP). EGL conducted focus group interviews with staff, parents and the community in late February and that feedback created eight district goals: safety and security, professional development, recruitment and retention, effective teaching and learning, academic achievement, assessments, student behavior and integrated technology. The final CSIP Plan will be presented to the Board for approval at the May board meeting.

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

- MSBA's Advocacy Day on March 28<sup>th</sup> included presentations from Senator Karla Eslinger who emphasized the importance of the School Board and their impact at the local level to control what is good for their children and Kisha Lee (Ladue School District Board), recipient of the Excellence in Advocacy Award who stressed the importance of collaboration when facing challenges of public education. In addition, First Lady of Missouri, Teresa Parson, observed the Student Showcase and shared her praise for the efforts and hard work of our public schools.
- MSBA, in partnership with the Missouri Department of Public Safety, is offering a free two-year subscription to the Emergency Operations Plan Development tool. Sign-ups are due June of 2023; GCR1 will subscribe to this tool.
- MSBA Summer Summit is June 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> in Branson; the Delegate Assembly will also be held in conjunction with the June Summit.
- MSBA welcomed all new School Board members.

The Associate Superintendent report complemented our transportation team for scoring 100% for the sixth consecutive year on our state inspections.

The next item of business was our district's finances. We continue to be positive in our financials which includes a \$1.2 million surplus in our running ledger. Much of this surplus is due to ESSER money but even outside of ESSER monies, and forecasts for increased salaries, our financials are trending well. We continue to monitor our four county growth projections/changes to ensure our budget and revenue projections are appropriate.

Old Business:

- The Board approved the second and final read of four MSBA policies:
  - JFGA-C.1B - Interviews with or Removal of Students
  - JHC.C1H.GC1 - Student Health Services and Requirements
  - JHDF-C.1B - Suicide Awareness and Prevention
  - JHG-C.1Q - Reporting and Investigating Child Abuse and Neglect
  - JECA-1C.1N - Eligibility to Enroll
  - ICGD-C.1C - Virtual Courses
  - IGCDA--C.1B - Full time MOCAP Virtual Courses
  - BDDB-2C.2C – Agendas
- The Board did not approve the second and final read of two of MSBA policies. They will review them further at the May board meeting.
  - KC-C.1C - Community Engagement
  - BDDH-1C.1C.GC1 - Public Participation at Board Meetings

The Board approved and signed the contract with United Mechanical Service for the High School HVAC replacement system.

The Superintendent shared the Final 2023 Election Results and welcomed the newly Elected GCR1 Board Members. Elections results were: Mike Pratte (will fill the remaining 2-year term), Jeff Englert (3-year term), Ashley Kopp (3-year term) and Amy Grannemann (3-year term). Mr. Pratte and Mr. Englert are incumbents and Ms. Kopp and Ms. Grannemann are new to the Board.



Dr. Neill and the Board thanked Craig Schannuth and Becky Whithaus, for their service and commitment. They are both rolling off the Board this year.

In addition, Dr. Neill presented Ms. Whithaus with an engraved board president gavel as a thank you for her service as a past GCR1 Board President.

The Board President handed out MSBA's recognition certificates for School Board Leadership to the current GCR1 Board Members. The meeting was adjourned sine die and we moved into the Reorganization meeting.

The Board Reorganization Meeting began with approving the agenda. The first order of business was to have the current Secretary of the Board, Kevin Stiers, present the administration of the Oath of Office for the three elected Board of Directors, Mike Pratte, Ashley Kopp and Amy Grannemann. Jeff Englert, was presented with his Oath of Office on Wednesday as he was not available for last night's meeting. The election of officers resulted in the following:

- Dot Schoening – Board President
- Jeff Englert – Vice President
- Kevin Stiers – Secretary
- Karen Morton – Recording Secretary
- Sarah Hackmann – Treasurer
- Mike Pratte – MSBA Delegate and Memorial Liaison
- Ashley Kopp – Memorial Liaison (with Mike Pratte)
- Jeff Englert – HRED Committee Delegate
- Kevin Stiers – Alumni Community Representative

#### New Business:

- The Board was asked to provide Spirit of the Bearcat Nominees individually to Dr. Neill; this award is presented to an outstanding community member each May at our end of the year meeting.
- The Board approved the 2023 Graduation list.
- The Board approved moving forward with exploring the MOCAAT Investment further to determine if it would be an option for financial management of our assets and liquidities.
- The Board was presented with a bid for the secure entrances; it was recommended to wait for additional bids to be submitted before making a motion to approve the bid.
- The annual Board Budget Meeting work session was scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
- The Board approved piloting a program to offer free day care to our staff's children (approximately 30 months to 4 years of age); we anticipate having eight children in the program.
- The Board approved the bid from Burke ABCreative for new playground equipment at the Elementary School.
- The Board approved the 2023-2024 Medical and Ancillary Insurance annual renewals. This renewal includes changing our ancillary insurance from Principal to The Standard. This change will not change the benefits offered to our staff and will result in an 8% renewal savings.
- The Board approved a co-op agreement with Mighty Kingdom Academy for middle school cross country, track and band.

The Consent Agenda was approved. The Associate Superintendent shared documents that Representative Sassmann's office compiled for Hermann students who had their pictures in the paper.

The documents are laminated and a memento for each student in the photo. The Reorganization Meeting was adjourned.

In executive session, the Board approved the hire of the following certified teachers for the 2023-2024 school year: Emma Zanin (5<sup>th</sup> Grade), Briana Rettinghaus (5<sup>th</sup> Grade), Megan Rose (6<sup>th</sup> Grade). Additionally, the Board approved the hire of Anna Azevedo (School Behaviorist), three substitute teachers, and three summer help workers. The Board also approved the transfer of Mallorie Leavy (to 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA), Kaitlynn Murphy (to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade) and Tara Englert (to ½ Special Education and ½ Process Coordinator/Psychological Examiner). At the March 27<sup>th</sup> Executive Session, the Board approved the hiring of Amanda Koch (At Risk & HS Spanish/German Teacher).

The Board accepted the following certified resignations, effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year: Kimberly Chasteen (Special Education Teacher), Sophie Errante (HS English), Holly Peters (HS/MS Vocal Music) and Tabitha Olson (HS Math). Lastly, the Board accepted the following classified resignations: Kevin Marsch (Technology Director – effective end of August), Reyawanna Poole (Paraprofessional), and Victoria Tate (HS Librarian).

***The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is Thursday, May 11<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
- April 15<sup>th</sup> – District Scholar Bowl
- April 19<sup>th</sup> – National Honor Society (NHS) Induction Ceremony
- April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Drama Presents SNL
- April 26<sup>th</sup> – NHS Blood Drive
- May 5<sup>th</sup> – Special Olympics
- May 10<sup>th</sup> – Band Concert
- May 11<sup>th</sup> – Choir Concert
- May 14<sup>th</sup> – Baccalaureate at St. George
- May 17<sup>th</sup> – HMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion
- May 18<sup>th</sup> – Last Day of School (early dismissal)
- May 18<sup>th</sup> – High School Graduation

