

May 12, 2023

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, May 11, 2023 for the regular board meeting, and an executive session.

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

1. We will advocate for what is best for the students of our school district, while remaining nonpartisan.
2. We will advocate for our school district and public education, not for individuals or special interest groups.
3. We will advocate as a school board, not as individual board members.

The Governance Highlight was not reviewed, as that area is covered in the CSIP document that was approved later in this meeting.

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

- GCTA shared that the May 2023 GCR1 retirees have 192 years of combined years of service. In addition, an update to the 2023-2024 GCTA Officer Elects was shared; the Secretary position has been filled with Emily Hischer and the Vice President position remains open.
- High School Graduation planning is complete. The location (outside or inside) will be decided on Tuesday, May 16th. Graduation is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on May 18th.
- The Golf Team finished 2nd in Districts, which qualified them for State (May 15th and 16th). Everyone on the team played well; Trigg Lindahl shot 6 under par and Nolan Brune's score helped our team secure a place at State.
- The Middle School will be moving some classrooms this fall. 5th and 6th grades will be together in one wing. The 4th grades will also be together in one area.
- 8th grade Promotion is Wednesday, May 17th; 8th grade students will not have class on Thursday, May 18th.
- Elementary shared that they have 125 students from Kindergarten to 4th grade enrolled in summer school; additional enrollees are welcome. Summer school starts on May 30th.

- Special Olympics was held Friday, May 5th and we had a tremendous turnout. We hosted 17 schools, over 1200 athletes and volunteers and 200 additional spectators. The Board shared a comment they heard from a participating district about what a wonderful event it was. This event is a success due to all the hard work by Mrs. Ash, her committee and numerous community and district volunteers.

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

- MSBA discussed Swatting Calls, which are hoax phone calls that report serious crimes, attempting to fool emergency services to respond to a supposed emergency. In late March, there were at least 9 of these calls within Missouri Schools. John McDonald from the Council of School Safety Leadership, shared the continued challenge of keeping schools safe and the importance of being prepared. School Districts have the opportunity to subscribe for free to MOEOP for two years; this tool is an emergency operations plan development tool.
- MSBA Summer Summit is June 16th and 17th. Dr. Jackie Sunderlin, will be the keynote speaker. She will focus on the 5 C's: Community, Collaboration, Capacity, Connections and Creativity. Additionally, the Delegate Assembly will meet as part of this event.
- MSBA will continue to highlight positive stories about education on their social media – look for hashtag #itsourwhy.
- Additional information shared:
 - The legislative session ends on May 12th; we will continue to watch legislative bills that impact public schools.
 - The state fully funded transportation which is a tremendous increase over past years.
 - This year the \$38,000 salary grant's funding was split 70 (state) / 30 (school) but next year it will be fully funded by the state. We have applied for this year's grant.
 - Senate Bill 75 allows some additional flexibility (60% of minimum state teacher salary vs. \$15,000 annually) in the allowed amount a retired teacher to make if they work in public education after retirement.

The next item of business was our district's finances. We continue to be positive in our financials and will have a substantial surplus at the end of the year, mostly due to \$1.2 million of ESSER money. We will incur some unexpected charges with required manufacturer deposits for our summer facilities projects but that won't negatively impact our end of the year balance. We continue to monitor our budget and revenue projections.

It was shared that the new High School digital scoreboard is in place and looks great. We have two open sponsor opportunities on the board. Training on how to use the new scoreboard is planned for this summer.

Old Business:

- The Board was presented with and approved a combined policy for KC and BDDH. These were the policies from last month that were not moved forward. The New Policy is BDDH-1 Community Engagement.
- The Board approved the District's CSIP Plan.

New Business:

- Dr. Neill asked a couple of Board members to be part of a committee to meet with the Administrative team and GCTA to further discuss the draft Sick Leave/PTO policy for the district. The recommended policy would combine all paid off into one pool.
- The Board was presented with recommendations for updates to two policies: GBCBC Staff Absences and GCPB Resignation of Professional Staff. This was the first read; no vote was taken.
- The Board approved the HVAC change order which requires 1/3 of the equipment costs to be paid up front. This change is due to a supplier requirement for large equipment orders.

The Consent Agenda was approved. The Board President shared correspondence from the City of Hermann, thanking us for our support in hosting the Vigil for the Hermann Police Officers, Mason Griffith and Adam Sullentrup. In addition, the Board received a thank you from the Brune family for their support during the recent passing of Mrs. Brune's Mother-in-Law. Lastly, the Board received a thank you from former Board member, Becky Whithaus for their support and leadership during her time serving on the Board.

In executive session, the Board approved the hire of the following certified teachers for the 2023-2024 school year: Gregory Dalton (HS English), Morgan Grosse (EL Rhythm and Movement), Andrea See (Title 1 Math & Reading Interventionist – EL and MS), Macharr Schroer (HS & MS Choir Teacher). The Board approved the hire of one summer help worker. Additionally, the Board approved the promotion of Brian Azevedo to Technology Director, effective September 1st and approved the 2023-2024 Coaching Assignments.

The Board accepted the following certified resignations, effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year: Kallie Witthaus (MS Science) and Jennifer Burns (4th Grade). Additionally, the Board accepted the classified resignation of Yona Leimkuehler (Para and IT Support) and the coaching resignation of Kim Forbis (Track).

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is Thursday, June 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
- May 14th – Baccalaureate at St. George
- May 16th – Board Budget Meeting
- May 16th – Kindergarten Celebration
- May 17th – HMS 8th Grade Promotion
- May 18th – Last Day of School (early dismissal)
- May 18th – High School Graduation
- May 19th – All Staff Meeting and Staff Work Day
- May 29th – Memorial Day
- May 30th – Summer School Starts (May 30th – June 23rd)

