

July 21, 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, July 20, 2023 for the regular board meeting and an executive session.

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

- We will treat others the way we desire to be treated. The Governance Highlight is: The Mission of the Gasconade County R-1 School District is to enable our students to reach their full potential and to become responsible citizens.

The Board recognized Malerie Schutt, a May 2022 graduate, with a proclamation from the Missouri House of Representatives. The proclamation from Representative Sassmann, was read by Superintendent Neill and praised Malerie for her leadership and officer service as the FFA State Vice President. The Board thanked Malerie for her commitment and efforts with the FFA program and overall student achievement.

We didn't have individual building reports this month, but the following updates were shared:

- Survey results from a parent survey of our special education services were shared with the Board. Overall, our parents have a positive experience with our staff/school and feel communicated to and involved with their child's learning plan.
- Our teachers have been learning new curriculum programs that focus on enabling our students to learn more effectively. Dr. Leslie Lause stated, we implemented a new math program for Kindergarten through Algebra I; we are already seeing positive growth in our NWEA scores. This year, our teachers will be focusing on learning the Science of Reading that will include Pre-Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- In addition to the new curriculums in Math and Reading, we are continuing our professional development with resources that help us best assist our students with social and emotional needs.

- The transportation department is getting our busses ready for the new school year. We received a new bus in mid-July; this bus was partially funded from a DERA grant.

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

- The MBSA Summer Summit was proud to have Dr. Jacqueline Sanderlin as the key note speaker who spoke about the need to be creative and innovative in our teaching practices while focusing on the critical factors of community, collaboration, capacity and connection.
- During the Summer Summit, Ruth Johnson, of Raymore Peculiar School District was elected as the 2023-2024 MSBA President as well as other MSBA state officers.
- The Advocacy Committee will be reviewing position statements submitted by school districts to be voted on at the MSBA conference in November; school districts are encouraged to submit their position statements to the MSBA Delegate Assembly this summer.

The next item of business was our district's finances. We continue to track positively with our financials. We will transfer \$1 million into Fund 4, which will still leave us with a strong positive balance at the end of the year. The current reassessment of personal and real property has come in much lower than inspected and our increased local money is anticipated to be less than half of what was gained last year. The state has discussed numerous funding changes that could dramatically impact our district in a negative fashion. Given that, we are proactively identifying areas we may have to adjust our budget to absorb the loss of funding.

In the event the assessed valuations are not set by the August 10<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting, the Board agreed to meet on August 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. to set the tax rate for the new year.

Old Business:

- The Board approved the destruction of the 100+ student surplus desks if we haven't received any bids by September 1<sup>st</sup>. To date, no bids have been received.

In New Business, the Board approved the following:

- The Board reviewed the 2022-2023 Professional Development Summary and the Board approved the 2023-2024 Professional Development Plan.
- The Board approved the 2023-2024 District Assessment Plan.
- The Board approved to waive the out of district tuition fee for children of seven staff members for the 2023-2024 school year.
- The Board approved the updated student handbooks for 2023-2024.

An update on summer school was shared with the Board. Summer school ran from May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 23<sup>rd</sup> and we ended the session with 158 students. Our focus was on hands-on learning and all grade levels had a chance to explore Hermann and learn about our culture, heritage and community. Numerous Hermann businesses hosted our students for field trips and provided hands-on learning experiences.

The Consent Agenda was approved. The Board President shared correspondence from a GCR1 School Board Scholarship recipients, Cheyenne Elder, thanking the board for her scholarship. The regular board meeting was adjourned.

In executive session, the Board approved the hire of the following for the 2023-2024 school year:

- Certified teachers: the hire of Dana Kallmeyer (Part-time HS Social Studies), and hiring of Andrea Niebruegge (4<sup>th</sup> Grade).
- Classified staff: Keith Sternberg (Paraprofessional) and Maria Kloessner (Paraprofessional).
- A new assistant football coach.
- Two new substitute teacher hires.

The Board also approved the transfer of Hilary Hays (to HS Library Aide).

The Board accepted the certified resignation of Joshua Schwenck (HS Social Studies), effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

***The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Office Board Room.***

### **Upcoming events:**

- Athletics/Camps– Please see the events section or the athletics page of our website
- August 6<sup>th</sup> – HS Parent Athletic Meeting
- August 8 – 10<sup>th</sup> – New Teacher Orientation
- August 9<sup>th</sup> – HS/MS Registration/Get Schedules
- August 15<sup>th</sup> – Early Childhood Open House
- August 15<sup>th</sup> – Staff returns
- August 17<sup>th</sup> - District/Building Open Houses
- August 22<sup>nd</sup> – Students return – 1<sup>st</sup> day of new school year

