

August 11, 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, August 10, 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 not let situations that happened in the past keep us from serving our students, employees, and community. The Governance Highlight is: The Superintendent or designee will design a process to create a Professional Development Plan for the Leadership Team of the district.

The building reports were reviewed with the following additional comments:

- Over the summer, the FCCLA students brought home three silver medals at the July National Conference: Taylor Lauer for Instructional Video Design Level 2, Michaela Grannemann for Digital Stories for Change Level 3 and Kylie Helming for Teach and Train Level 1 and our FFA students had a leadership retreat, participated in several county fairs and Macy Bader received a gold rating on her national proficiency award in Landscape Management - Entrepreneurship/Placement.
- The Board approved combining men's and women's choir and adding a music theory class to the High School curriculum.
- Due to lower participant numbers, we will not have a 9th grade volleyball team this year.
- We had a great turnout at the Middle and High School Registration/Welcome day on August 9th.
- The Special Education Department was praised for receiving an overall score of 4 (highest level) on our 2023 Annual Determination review by DESE, Office of Special Education; our district has historically received a score of 4.
- The Board approved the 2023-2024 Local Compliance Plan.
- The Board approved the 2023-2024 Bus Routes.

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

- We begin the new school year with challenges and successes. MSBA's "It's our Why" campaign encourages our schools to share their success stories about students excelling and overcoming challenges, teachers going above and beyond, and the innovative programs in our schools.
- Recently MSBA's Board of Directors met in Columbia for their quarterly meeting; several board members spoke about the positive impact of advocating for students.
- MSBA's position on state and federal education issues are determined by the delegate assembly; MSBA encouraged schools to submit position statements to the delegate assembly by September 4th. Delegates will vote on the changes in November.
- The MSBA annual conference is November 2 – 4th in Kansas City; our GCR1 Board will be attending this conference.

The Board was asked to review our position statements and send their feedback to Mike Pratte and Dr. Neill by the next board meeting. Mr. Pratte will represent the GCR1 Board at the Delegate Assembly.

The next item of business was our district's finances. The budget continues to track towards a balanced or slightly surplus ending. This will be the first year since 2020 that we will not receive any Federal Covid-19 funds. The district is working on recouping prior year capital transfers to strengthen our Fund 4 reserves. Overall, we are trending to a balanced or a slight surplus budget.

The tax rate meeting has been set for Friday, August 25th at 5:00 p.m. at the central office board room.

The Board approved the continuing of our Safe Return Policy. This policy will be reviewed at future meetings if updates are recommended.

We didn't have any Old Business so the next item was New Business. The Board:

- Approved tuition waivers for the 2023-2024 for four staff members.
- Approved the adoption of the GCR1 Ordinance for Financial Disclosure for Political Subdivision.
- Rescinded Board Policy GBA and adopted an updated Board Policy GDBB-2; the district will pay overtime pay to non-exempt employees as required; comp time will no longer be utilized.
- Approved the staff handbook for 2023-2024.
- Approved adding Dr. Geoff Neill as a signatory at Peoples Savings Bank.
- Approved the Debt Service Repayment plan; this plan will save the district \$832,000 of interest expense.
- Approved the Speech Language Pathology 2023-2024 services contract with Creative Therapy Services LLC.

The Consent Agenda was approved and the regular board meeting was adjourned.

In executive session, the Board approved the hires of the following staff for the 2023-2024 school year: Certified teachers: the rehires of Cathy Elsenraat (Special Education), Maggie Stiegman (MS Science) and Carol Elsenraat (Special Education – part time) and the hiring of Rebecca Lorey (Title 1 Math and English); Classified staff hires: Luanne Files (Custodian); a new assistant baseball coach, Ben Steiner and Tony Terry as Scholar Bowl Coach. In addition, the Board approved the hiring of three new substitute teachers.

The Board will meet for the Tax Rate Hearing on August 25th at 5:00 p.m. at the Central Office Board Room and the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is Thursday, September 14th 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
- August 15th – Early Childhood through Kindergarten Open House
- August 15th – Staff returns
- August 17th - District/Building Open Houses
- August 22nd – Students return – 1st day of new school year
- August 25th – Tax Rate Hearing
- August 25th – Bearcat Memorial Induction
- August 25th – First Home Football Game
- August 31st – FFA Blood Drive

