GARDNER – SO. WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #73

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights of the Regular Meeting
January 21, 2009

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Edward Fellows was sworn in at the meeting. He will be serving the remainder of Ruby Fazio's term, who resigned from the BOE at the December meeting.

SENIORITY LISTS

Dr. Decman reviewed this year's Seniority Lists (certified & non-certified). These lists are very important due to the possibility of having a Reduction in Force (RIF). For instance, if we no longer need a Social Studies teacher due to a decrease in enrollment, by law we need to lay-off (RIF) the least senior person. Enrollment in classes will dictate which classes run and which ones do not. Then depending on which classes run, we will determine the teaching schedule.

ACT/PSAE CLASS

Mrs. Jenny Kilmer, our Guidance Counselor, has organized a preparation class for Juniors to help them prepare for the above-mentioned tests. Our GSW teachers will teach these classes as we did last year.

MAINTENANCE/ CUSTODIAL POSITION

Dr. Decman began the discussion on the replacement of Leo Bacigalupo, who just submitted his resignation letter for his retirement as of August 28, 2009. He recommended that we post the position as "Head Custodian/Maintenance" with the salary that is dependent on experience and qualifications.

VOLUNTEER COACHES

Both baseball and softball are requesting Board approval for volunteer coaches. Dr. Decman recommended approval of these coaches, since the head coach has requested their assistance. Dr. Decman has asked Mr. Shane Tucker, Athletic Director, to make sure the lines of communication are open between he and his coaches, in regards to un-needed or un-warranted extra assistance from adults in the community and other sports-related issues.

LAND DISCUSSION

Dr. Decman, Superintendent, reported to the Board of Education that he received a visit from one of the city Commissioners. The city commissioner wanted to discuss a couple of items, but most notably inquired about why the High School had purchased land that the city had zoned "industrial".

Dr. Decman reported to the Board of Education that he informed the city commissioner that the high school purchased the land (former Allison property located just northeast of Gardner Grade School) for future use as a possible site for a new high school or 6-12 campus because of its close proximity to Gardner Grade School. This new building would only be possible if one of the following were to occur: the communities of Braceville, South Wilmington and Gardner decided to consolidate their four districts into one school district -- the building of a new campus which would house students in grades 6-12 may be feasible, or the high school enrollment were to increase significantly -- a new building may be needed to house the additional students, or the State of Illinois offered some type of building/construction incentive -- a new school may be possible, or finally, if some type of catastrophic event were to happen to the current building -- it may

be necessary to build a new building at the site recently purchased by the school district.

Dr. Decman also reviewed with the Board of Education where the money came from to purchase the land. Specifically, approximately 5 years ago, the Gardner-South Wilmington High School District #73 was notified by the Gardner Village Board that there was a developer who was going to build at least 200 new houses in Gardner. As a result, the High School Board of Education decided to sell bonds with the intent to prepare for the future by purchasing land for a new school. The proceeds from the selling of the bonds was the money that was used to purchase the 41.45 acres of land located just northeast of the current Gardner Grade School. Specifically, Dr. Decman informed the Board that taxes were not and will not be raised to pay for this land purchased by the District. Due to years of fiscal responsibility, the high school district had saved enough money to pay for the land. Also, Dr. Decman informed the Board, that the school district has not and can not abate the taxes on this recently purchased land. In addition to this, Dr. Decman informed the Board that the school district will continue to pay taxes on this land. Specifically, taxes will be paid on this land until a building has been built on the land.

Dr. Decman also reported to the Board of Education that he informed the city commissioner about the legal opinion (based upon at least four court cases in the state of Illinois) received from the school attorney, Ken Florey (from the legal firm of Robbins, Schwartz, Nicholas, Lifton & Taylor) that the school has the authority to purchase land that a city has zoned "industrial" and to build on this land if the school deems it necessary. Dr. Decman offered a copy of this legal opinion to the city commissioner and/or the attorney for the city for review. Dr. Decman notified the Board of Education that he hopes to continue to work cooperatively with the city for the betterment of the school district and all the citizens of Gardner.

ACTION ITEMS

- Approval of the Employment of Special Education teachers – Erin Ferrari & Jeanne Pickett
- Approval of the retirement of our head custodian – Leo Bacigalupo
- Approval of volunteer softball coach – Norm Lardi
- Approval of volunteer baseball coaches – Darren Sorensen & Terry Grimler
- Approval of the Certified and Non-Certified Seniority Lists
- Approval of the resignation of Assistant Volleyball Coach – Phebe Perino
- Cancel 2nd Board of Education meeting of the month of January

Superintendent Information Items:

- Legislative Up-Date – Dr. Decman presented the latest information to the BOE about the issues w/the Governor and the State.
- New Board Policies – Dr. Decman will be reviewing these policies with the Policy Committee before the next meeting.
- School Board Election – Please see Carla Huston at the High School if you are interested running for the GSW Board of Education.
- Board & Administrator Notes – The monthly newsletter was given to the BOE.
- Superintendent Messages are now posted on the GSW website. Feel free to check them out.

B O A R D O F E D U C A T I O N
President: David Doglio
Vice-President: Don Pfeifer
Pamela Brooks, Ed Fellows, Chris Irvin,
Craig Male, Rita Wright
Principal: Kristine L. Spiezio
Superintendent: Dr. Richard Decman