GARDNER – SO. WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #73

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights of the Regular Meeting
February 18, 2009

SOCIAL WORKER PRESENTATION

Beth Lawless, GSW Social Worker, was in attendance to present some information to the BOE about what she has accomplished this year and what some of her plans are for the future. She had a short PowerPoint Presentation.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dr. Decman is recommending the approval of next year's school calendar. GSW should be very similar to the schools in our area. However, we are starting earlier next year in an attempt to balance our two semesters. The high schools in the area have very similar calendars. Our feeder schools have chosen to start later and take a couple of different days off during the year. Some changes in next years' calendar are: We will be in attendance on Dec 21 & 22 and Spring Break will be in connection with Easter in April.

GRADUATION DATE

Dr. Decman is recommending that we set our graduation date for May 17th at 2:00 PM. Hopefully, we will not have any more snow days. Also, Mr. James Fair, former GSW faculty member, will be our speaker on graduation day.

MAINTENANCE/ CUSTODIAL POSITION

Dr. Decman, Ms. Spiezio, Craig Male and Don Pfiefer will be reviewing the 100+ applications on March 4th. The plan is then to interview the following week and hopefully recommend a candidate at the March or at the latest the April BOE meeting.

SUMMER WORK & INSURANCE/ROE REVIEWS

Dr. Decman reviewed a summary of the recent recommendations from our liability insurance provider and the Regional Superintendent. Leo has already fixed or done a few of the recommendations. We are planning on finishing most of the rest over the summer.

LEASE AGREEMENT FOR LAND

Dr. Decman reviewed the Lease Agreement for the farming of the recently purchased land. He has contacted Brian Christensen and he has agreed to pay $180 an acre to farm the land. Brian has already signed the agreement and now the BOE has to approve and sign.

REORGANIZATION FEASIBILITY STUDY

The topic of consolidation has long been on the "backburner." In the effort to provide the highest quality of education to our communities in the most cost-effective way, the four Superintendents agreed to ask our respective BOE's to pass a motion to approve a "reorganization feasibility study." Fortunately, most of this study can be paid for, by a grant from the Illinois State Board of Education. Dr. Decman distributed all the information about this opportunity.

SNOW REMOVAL

Dr. Decman has received a bid from Joe Hollis for about half the price that we are paying Fatlan's. He is recommending that we accept this bid beginning next year, unless Fatlan's can match the bid. Dr. Decman will be contacting Fatlan's to see if they will match the lower bid.

ACTION ITEMS

- Approval of Gardner-South Wilmington High School Graduation Date – May 17, 2009
- Approval of Lease Agreement for Land
- Approval of Reorganization Feasibility Study
- Acceptance of Resignation of Athletic Director – Shane Tucker
- Approval of Attached Resolution Regarding Honorable Dismissal of a Certified Employee – Dan Jerbi
- Approval of Employment of Secretary for Maternity Leave – Tiffany Berger
- Cancel 2nd Board of Education meeting of the month of January

Superintendent Information Items:

- Legislative Up-Date – Dr. Decman reviewed the latest news from Springfield.
- New Board Policies –Dr. Decman met with the Policy Committee to review the newest changes to Board Policy.
- School Board Seminars/Clinics – The BOE received an invite to attend a BOE Professional Development Clinic.
- Board & Administrator Notes – The BOE received the Monthly Newsletter from Dr. Decman.
- Institute Day Speaker – Brian Mendler, a former Special Education teacher, will be addressing the faculty/staff of the 3 local Grade Schools and High School on Friday, February 27th. His topic will be "Motivating Students to Believe, Achieve & Succeed."

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