GARDNER – SO. WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #73

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights of the Regular Meeting

July 15, 2009

HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATE

Our health insurance benefits from BlueCross/BlueShield have risen for the second consecutive year more than 15%. Dr. Decman has asked our broker, Wells-Fargo, to bid out the insurance. However, our teachers are not in favor of having a different insurance provider and according to the Union leadership are willing to pay the additional increase in premiums. This will be approximately $60 per month for individual insurance for each certified staff member.

INCREASE OF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES TO SWGS

South Wilmington Grade School has requested the use of our Technology Director, Ben Seeman, from a ½ day to a full-day. Dr. Decman is recommending that the BOE approve this increase. This will help cut costs and increase our continued cooperation with the grade schools.

GARBAGE DISPOSAL BID

Dr. Decman called and received a bid from Heartland Disposal for our garbage removal. The Heartland bid is almost identical to what we pay now, so he would not recommend changing waste management providers at this time.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY VOCATIONAL FEES

Principal Kris Spiezio contacted the Livingston County Vocational Co-op to inquire about their vocational fees. She found out that each feeder school has a flat $30 fee per student that attends their vocational classes. This lesser fee for vocational classes is due to the facility in Pontiac being attached to the school. Whereas Grundy County has a stand-alone facility, which increases costs.

SUMMER ATHLETIC ISSUES

Dr. Decman has asked Mr. Ben Bailey, Athletic Director, to put together a group of coaches, Principal and two BOE members to investigate and recommend solutions to the variety of summer athletic issues. Mr. Ed Fellows and Mrs. Cindy Gerber agreed to be on this committee for the BOE which will report back to the whole BOE at a later date.

CELL PHONE TOWER

Per BOE member request, Dr. Decman requested information on putting a cell phone tower on our recently purchased property. To date, he has not received a response from Verizon. He was asked by the BOE to contact the other phone companies.

BUDGET CUTS

The BOE discussed whether or not to move forward with any additional cuts for this year. At this time, even with the $60,000 less in General State Aid (due to decreasing enrollment), Dr. Decman believes we can and have saved a large portion already. Specifically, the elimination of a part-time teaching position, the elimination of the part-time kitchen help position, the sharing of additional technology services with SWGS, the cutting of department budgets, the reduction of field trips, the reduction of professional development, reduction in BOE Convention attendance and the savings with the decentralization from Grundy County Special Ed Co-operative. With the previously mentioned reductions/cuts, GSWHS should be fine financially, if we receive our allotment of State and Federal money. However, it is important that as a District, we show our taxpayers

and our school community as a whole that we are trying to be as fiscally conservative as possible.

PSAE/ACT RESULTS

Dr. Decman received the tentative results for the PSAE/ACT. Unfortunately, the bottom line is that we did not meet AYP. Specifically, only 47.7% of our students met or exceeded stands in Math. We needed 70% of our students to meet or exceed the standards to make AYP. As a result of this, Principal Kris Spiezio and Superintendent Dr. Decman are developing a plan that they will put into action as soon as the first day of school. They are hoping that this plan will not only help our Math scores, but should help our Science and Reading Scores. Part of this plan includes the hiring of a Math Consultant.

MATH CONSULTANT

As a result of our poor Math scores over the past five years and clearly as a result of not making AYP because of these Math scores, Dr. Decman has contacted a Math Curriculum Consultant to ask for advice and recommendations. Dr. Decman handed out a packet of some of the ideas from the consultant. Basically, the consultant would like to meet once a month with our math teachers to re-structure our Math curriculum and to teach our teachers how to teach a rigorous curriculum that will prepare our students for the PSAE/ACT test as well as post-secondary life. We will be receiving approximately $11,000 of ARRA money (American Recovery Reinvestment Act) that we can use to pay for the consultant. The ARRA money must be used for student academic improvement and cannot be used to supplant current educational activities. Dr. Decman asked the BOE to approve the hiring of SEC/LLC Consulting Group to help us improve our math curriculum.

ACTION ITEMS

- Approval of New Biology/Agriculture Teacher – Stephanie Pasek
- Approval of New Technology Sharing Agreement with SWGS
- Approval of Destruction of Closed Meeting Minutes of all Recording Prior to January 2008
- Approval of the Opening of all Closed Meeting Minutes from January 2008 to June 2008.
- Approval of Athletic Cooperative Agreement with Dwight
- Approval of Math Consulting Firm – SEC/LLC Consulting Group
- Cancel 2nd Board of Education meeting of the month of July

Superintendent Information Items:

- Board & Administrator Notes
- Legislative Up-Dates
- National School Lunch Grant
- Letter from Village of Gardner Attorney
- Letter from Architects – Healy/Bender

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