

GARDNER – SO. WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #73

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights of the Regular Meeting NOVEMBER 20, 2013

PUBLIC COMMENT

Correspondence: Mr. Perrott received correspondence from the Dick Hileman, Finance Commissioner for Village of Gardner. Perrott read the letter from Commissioner, Dick Hileman, to the board members. Perrott informed the board that Mr. Hileman delivered the letter and a check for \$65,000. The letter stated, “After review of the 2013-2014 budget the village of Gardner would like to thank Gardner-South Wilmington High School for correctly applying TIF expenditures per state law.”

Perrott reported that the funds, by contract, were supposed to be forwarded five days after the Village received the money from Grundy County. The Village was holding the money since September 30 and delivered the money on Friday, November 15, 2013.

Public: President, David Doglio, asked audience member, James K. Riley, if he was still planning on submitting a petition to the working cash bond and to give board members his reason for doing so. James stated that he is not following through with the petition. The board members then explained the reasons why schools do working cash bonds.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Principal John Engelman reported on the following:

- SADD = The group held activity days during Red Ribbon Week, which was October 23 thru 31.
- College Kick-off = Ms. Kilmer, Guidance counselor, held several activities related to applying for and attending college during the last week of October. There were surveys filled out and a contest held, with several winners. Students and faculty members were encouraged to wear college apparel on Friday, Nov. 1st.
- RVC/SVC Meetings = Mr. Engelman attended an SVC meeting on Oct. 9th. They discussed merging schedules for some of the lower participation sports together with the RVC. Mr. Engelman planned a meeting for Nov. 5th for both SVC and RVC. This was the 1st meeting with both conferences. They discussed soccer, golf, cross country, and wrestling. They agreed to align scheduling. They met a second time to finalize plans and sporting events. For GSW HS, this will affect Cross County only. The fees involved would be a 1-time fee per school of \$72.00 for traveling trophies, which would be good for 20-years. In wrestling, there would be only the entry fee for conferences. They plan to meet again in January 2014.

ESTIMATE OF AGGREGATE TAX LEVY

Mr. Perrott reviewed the spreadsheet with board members. The levy will be submitted to the County in December 2013. There will not be a truth in taxation hearing because we are not requesting a levy above 105% of last year’s tax extension. The county forwarded an estimated EAV for properties within the GSW High School district that shows a 1.22% decrease in property value. Although the district is pursuing a working cash bond it is anticipated that property taxes will remain constant because the capital improvement bond is being paid off and the working cash bond is replacing it.

MAINTENANCE GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Perrott has prepared a Maintenance Grant application from the state. Projects being presented in the grant are electrical upgrades, HVAC on third floor, and concrete work around the building. The grant will provide up to \$50,000 of matching funds for the projects.

ENERGY GRANT APPLICATION

Perrott is submitting a grant focusing on energy reduction. For this particular grant, GSW has to work with an Architect to determine energy savings that can be realized by the project. New boiler controls, burners, temperature controls, and ventilation are being pursued. Upgrades to the heating system should save the district energy costs. The grant will match up to \$250,000.00.

CLASS RANK CALCULATIONS

The board had a lengthy conversation regarding moving to a 4.0 GPA model. This is at standard for college entrance and is used by many high schools. Since the October BOE meeting, Mr. Engelman and Ms. Kilmer have been working on a recommendation and have been in contact with several area high schools and colleges. Partnered with this issue is the designation of challenge classes / advanced classes within the courses offered at GSW. The Guidance Dept and Administration is recommending reducing our current 14 challenging classes down to only 9 challenge classes. To be considered for Valedictorian / Salutatorian, students would need to take at least 6 out of these 9 challenge classes. Additionally the grade scale would be changed to 60-70-80-90-100. The board discussed these recommendations and will review again next month.

GSW LIBRARY PROGRAMMING

Each year the Illinois School Library Grant requires that the board review the “progress toward meeting the Illinois standard for school library media centers.” Mr. Perrott presented a review of the library services by GSW librarian, Mrs. Becky Morgan. We receive approximately \$500 every year from this grant. The funds are used to purchase library books and materials.

SNOW REMOVAL BID INFORMATION

Snow removal Bids were opened on Monday, November 18 at 1pm. Mr. Perrott informed the board that we received only 1-bid. Fatlan Trucking from Gardner is being recommended for our snow removal. Fatlan Trucking has been the successful bidder last year and in years past.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Perrott distributed several Board Policies to board members for review. This will be a 1st reading on these policies. Mr. Perrott informed the board that his goal is to go thru the entire Policy Book and make a notation as to the date they are reviewed, revised, and approved. The Policy Committee (Mrs. Brooks and Mrs. Gerber) will meet in the near future to review the next set. Sample policies and legal reference materials are provided to the district by the Illinois Association of School Boards Policy Services.

SURVEY OF LEARNING CONDITIONS

A survey was distributed to each board member. This year the ISBE surveyed every school's teachers and students 6th – 12th grade. The surveys will be part of the new school report card. The information will be brought to the school improvement team for review and action. The school improvement team will meet on December 16th at 11:44am to review these surveys.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Building Items:
 - Front Entrance work: Steel has been bought to span the entrance way. Work is in progress at this time.
 - Baseball fence: completed.
 - Library HVAC: We have looked into replacing the existing unit with 2 smaller units.

- Electronic Sign: Information is being gathered regarding the sign.
- Electronic System: investigating the capacity of bringing electric into the building and panels in the building. This is a project that we might be able to do in phases.

ACTION ITEMS

- Approval of Estimate of Aggregate Tax Levy
- Approval of Maintenance Grant Application
- Approval of Energy Grant Application
- Approval of 1st Reading of Board Policies
- Approval of Snow Removal Bid – Fatlan Trucking
- Board Recognition of GSW Library Process
- Medical Leave of Absence / FMLA
- Approval of JV Boys Basketball Coach Stipend Split
- Cancel the November 27, 2013 meeting

Superintendent Information Items:

- FOIA REQUESTS: a spreadsheet was handed out to each board member showing all FOIA requests.
- PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES: On October 25 and 26 we had parent/teacher conferences. We had parents of 88 of our 202 students attend parent-teacher conferences. The spring conferences will be held on March 20 and 21.
- GAVC DIRECTOR AWARDS OCTOBER: GSW Student Ann Webb was named Early Childhood Education award recipient for October.
- GAVC STUDENT TOURS: On November 21 our Sophomores will be going to GAVC for a tour of the programs. This is an event that our sophomores participate in each year.
- NHS OCTOBER FOOD DRIVE: NHS held a food drive October 7-11. The school collected about 2500 food items. The items were donated to the Garfield Township Food Pantry and the Church of Hope pantry. Another food drive was held on Oct 27th
- GRUNDY COUNTY STATES ATTORNEY PRESENTATION
On October 29, Grundy County State's Attorney, Jason Helland, presented and spoke about making good decisions regarding drinking, drugs, texting, and driving. Then Doug Petit spoke who lost his son several years ago when he was still in high school when he drowned in a lake after drinking an excessive amount of vodka. The vodka was given to him by a friend's mother at her house. The woman and her son both received prison sentences for their actions. The last speaker was a man named Adam in his 20s who was convicted on aggravated DUI after crashing his motorcycle with a female passenger on the back. He will be considered a felon for the rest of his life. This was his very first time speaking, and it was obviously extremely emotional for him. The presentation was orchestrated by Rita Kreslin of AAIMs who lost her son about 10 years ago when he was riding in a car driven by a drunk driver who crashed the car. The entire GSW student body was attentive and many even spoke with the speakers personally after the assembly.
- STUDENT COUNCIL AMERICAN CANCER ASSOCIATION WALK
Student Council held a walk on Saturday, October 12. They raised \$1100.
- OTHER ITEMS: Mr. Perrott handed out information for the Annual Board Convention

BOARD OF EDUCATION

President: David Doglio

Vice-President: Pam Brooks

Joe Elens, Matt Finn, Cindy Gerber,

Craig Male, Allison Palermo

Principal: John Engelman

Superintendent: Michael Perrott