

GARDNER – SO. WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #73

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights of the Regular Meeting

JANUARY 16, 2013

SAFETY PROCEDURES

Mr. Perrott talked about the recent disruption at GSW HS. He informed the board that one of the main questions asked to him was, "why weren't the parents called about this last event?" Answer: The school wasn't threatened. And even though no threat was made we worked with the police and made doubly sure that there was no threat to the school. Of all the students we interviewed not one of them can directly be linked back to the "student" actually saying anything that threatened the school. Mr. Perrott stated that he believes that the administration, faculty, staff, and the police did everything that they should have. We did more and will continue to do more.

Grundy County Sheriff, Kevin Callahan, was present at the meeting to discuss his involvement and his deputies involvement in the situation. Callahan complemented the school administration for how the situation was handled and the cooperation that occurred between the Grundy County Sheriff's Department and the school.

Article from the Morris Daily Herald Newspaper 1/14/13

There was never a threat against Gardner-South Wilmington High School, but rumors caused the Grundy County Sheriff's Department to make deputies present at the school this week. "No threat was ever made to the school," Sheriff Kevin Callahan said. The situation started last month when the sheriff's department received a complaint about a student at the school receiving a threatening text message from another student. The sheriff's department began investigating the 15-year-old male juvenile that made the text-threat. In their investigation, deputies discovered he had some "anti-government beliefs," Callahan said. The name of the student cannot be released because he is a minor. School administration was made aware of the discoveries. Shortly after their follow-up investigation began, "unsubstantiated rumors" began circulating around the school that something may occur Jan. 10 by the actions of this student, Callahan said. The sheriff's detectives investigated the rumors and found no threat to the school by this student or any other. No charges have been filed. Detectives interviewed students, made visits to the school and found nothing, Superintendent Michael Perrott said. Callahan said Grundy County Sheriff's Deputies were present at the school Thursday and Friday as a precautionary measure. School officials have spoken to about 70 parents so far regarding the rumors. "It's flabbergasted us because a rumor has just gotten life," Perrott said. "It's a rumor that unfortunately has taken up a lot of valuable time and resources." On a positive note, Perrott said the situation has made the school review and practice the safety procedures it has had in place, and built relationships between the school and the Grundy County Sheriff's Department.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

There was more discussion this month regarding the bills presented for January payment. Perrott reviewed the GSW attorney's current bill with the Board. Perrott shared that GSW HS is now close to \$14,500 in legal services for the preparation of documents, research, and discussions that the district's attorney has had with the Village's attorney and GSW administration and board. Member Joe Elens inquired if the additional fees were the attorney services for the Monday, December 17 court hearing. Perrott indicated that this additional cost represented the preparation for and presentation at the hearing. Perrott informed the board that Judge Marsaglia ruled in favor of GSW at the December 31, 2012 court hearing. GSW HS may use the funds as they have for the previous 26 years. There has been a Status Hearing set for January 31, 2013 at 9:00 AM at the Grundy County court house.

PRINCIPAL REPORT

Principal John Engelman reported that the School Improvement Plan (SIP) Committee has met 8 times already this year. GSW HS has joined a state wide Special Ed Data Cohort and has met 5 times – 2 times in Springfield and 3 times here at GSW. Surveys have opened up communications in the building. Kellie Doubeck, professional development provider has been at GSW 5 times to assist our faculty develop “Common Core” curriculum. Doubeck is also assisting the faculty to develop strategies to implement Vocabulary and Literacy. We have continued MAP testing and the 2nd test will be given to students in early February. We have started mandated on-line training for teachers and non-certified staff members. There has been a favorable response by the faculty and the sessions are on-going. On October 1st, a speaker was brought in to talk about relieving classroom anxiety for students and/or adults. All teachers are working on implementing: Use of a “bell ringer”, verbally state the lesson objective each day, use verbal and written advance organizer and review every lesson at the end of the period.

SCHOOL NAME CHANGE

Mr. Perrott gathered all the information he received from the web survey and public comments and distributed a hard copy to each board member. Board members requested a copy of the presentation made by the Probability & Statistics class students. The board agreed to further review all the information before bringing the topic up to vote. The board will take action at an upcoming regular meeting.

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2013-2014

Principal, Mr. John Engelman, is currently working on the school calendar. He has been working with Morris, Minooka and Coal City high schools to line up our attendance days for GAVC (Grundy County Vocational Center) sessions. Then, he will try to match up GSW with the three local grade school calendars (Gardner, Braceville and South Wilmington) as close as possible.

OLD BUSINESS:

Roof Project = There are a few projects that need to be wrapped up in order for the roof project to be complete. The electricians will be out this Friday, January 18th to complete installation of the lights over the entrance way doors. The heat tape in the gutters of the vaulted gym roof still needs to be installed. Final payment to the roofing company is being delayed until all work is completed.

Other building work = When cleaning up the sewer project area, the board of education would like to look at making a new front entrance area. Ideas about putting in a window, vestibule and main office entry were discussed. Tearing up the flooring in the teachers’ lounge and hallway to fix and/or replace current pipes was also addressed. The Building committee will select a date for a meeting to discuss potential building maintenance and improvement projects.

Pepsi Contract = The current Pepsi contract ends in July 2014. We currently have 3 beverage machines in our building. GSW HS receives \$2,200 a year plus 35% of all sales.

ROE Health Life Safety Report Follow-up = Assistant Regional Superintendent, Mr. Chris Mehochko came through the building last month and completed the Health Life Safety Visit. Our building received an A-status. There were just a few “easy” fixes that need to be addressed. Ceiling tiles need to be in place, good housekeeping in the shop room and maintenance office areas, door closing mechanisms on the cafeteria doors, electric drop cords need to be addressed, science storage closets need to be properly inventoried. We are currently eliminating visible/ temporary extension cords as we move from room to room installing drop ceilings.

ACTION ITEMS

- School Name Change = TABLED
- Acknowledge & accept \$50 gift from Tri-K Supplies & Service
- Approval to cancel the 2nd meeting for the month of January = January 23, 2013 meeting

Superintendent Information Items:

- FOIA Requests = There were no requests in the month of December.
- Board Election =
 - Six nomination packets picked up.
 - One petition was not returned.
 - Five (5) total running for 4 seats.
 - Order of the ballot will be: (in order of petitions received / turned in)
 - 1st - James Riley
 - 2nd - Allison Wright
 - 3rd - Cindy Gerber
 - 4th - David Doglio
 - 5th - Craig Male
- 2013-14 Curriculum Guide = Copies of the 2013-14 curriculum guide were presented to the Board. The new guides are currently being used to register students for the up-coming school year.
- Grundy County Sheriff Visits = GSW administration has been told that the Sheriff Department has made a commitment to be more visible in all of the Grundy County Schools. GSW has had no less than 6 different deputies tour the building. Perrott stated, "It is good for law enforcement to be familiar with our building and for our students to see them. I am sure that we have received several more visits than other buildings have had because of the recent rumor. We look forward to having the officers in the building in the future."
- Permission has been granted to the tenant who is farming our land to clean-up the fence row and tree line.
- Thank you note received from Arden Wills' family. GSW HS sent a plant from BOE, faculty & staff members.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REQUESTS

- Recording of Votes Question = Robert's Rules: "under minutes and voting". Outside of stating a vote should be taken in alpha order with the presiding chair last there is nothing that states how the minutes should record the vote.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

President: David Doglio

Vice-President: Pam Brooks

Joe Elens, Matt Finn, Cindy Gerber,
Craig Male, Rita Wright

Principal: John Engelman

Superintendent: Michael Perrott