

GARDNER – SO. WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #73

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights of the Regular Meeting

May 20, 2020

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public at tonight's meeting – no public comment.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Principal, Mr. John Engelman, reviewed the following:

- Student comments – Mrs. Arrambide had her students write a reflection essay on this school year, and she shared one specific student's comments that were very complimentary to GSW. Mr. Engelman read this e-mail to board members.
- Philanthropy Grants – The Youth Philanthropy Group donated to these groups this year:
 - Catholic Charities - \$2,400 (Mobile Food Truck)
 - GSW HS Student Assistance Fund - \$500
 - Special Connections - \$800
 - Guardian Group - \$500
 - Jump Start - \$400
 - We Care - \$400
- Highlight of surveys:
 - Senior Survey – only 14 of the Seniors responded to this on-line survey. 100% felt safe at school, 100% had a positive learning environment, and 100% said if they needed help, they had an adult in the building to go to. 50% stated that GSW needs more electives.
 - Parent and student surveys regarding remote learning – we received very positive results and comments.
- Total credits to graduate – Students currently need 24 out of 24 possible credits to graduate. We have researched area schools vs. GSW and we are the only school needing a perfect score. Discussion this with potential action in June

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. Engelman, Athletic Director, reported on the following:

- Kaitlynn Kavanaugh was the Runner-up for the RVC Scholar-Athlete award. She received a check for \$250.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT: Mr. Josh DeLong presented the following:

- Building update: Maintenance is doing a great job. They are doing daily cleaning and disinfecting. They are painting throughout the building. We are adding some color (orange and black) in the hallways and painting all of the trim in the building gray. Summer crew has already started working. Locker rooms have been painted, and the gym floor project, gym painting and gym lighting work will be starting soon.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. DeLong presented on the following:

- Closure updates:
 - Remote learning = We are doing the best we can under the circumstances. We have held ZOOM meetings with staff during the closure to keep in touch.
 - Meals = Due to lack of interest GSW ended meals in April. GSW students can get fed at Gardner Grade School. We will re evaluate next fall should we begin with remote learning.
 - Transportation = Settled with Il. Central on 50% of the monthly rate, not the originally invoiced 82%.

- Awards Night(s) = Our Sports Awards were virtual presentations, per coach. These videos were put on our GSW website for all to view. Our Academic Awards was an on-line presentation created by Mr. Kirk Houchin, Guidance Counselor. This link was also put on our GSW website.
- Parent Advisory meeting = We held a Zoom Call with a group of Senior parents on Tuesday night, May 19 at 6:00 PM to discuss the graduation parade, graduation, prom, etc.
- Prom = Still pending
- Graduation Parade – Sunday, May 24 at 1:00 PM through down-town Gardner.
- Graduation = Sunday, June 14 starting at 10:00 AM and ending around 2:00 PM. We will have 1 student at a time with a few family members. We will start with Valedictorian, followed by the Salutatorian, then alphabetical order. Shayla Loring Photography will be taking pictures and J7 Photography will be doing video.
- Financial ramifications = We are being told to potentially expect a 30% decrease in revenues next fiscal year.
- Returning to school = There has been discussion of a delayed start or a remote learning start to the school year. Some dates that have been looked at for a delayed start are September and October. GSW is hoping for a September 8 start for all of the Grundy County schools as a possibility if school can't open in August.
- Non-certified staff for next year, if we were to begin with remote learning – If school should start with remote learning we may be looking at a reduction in staff and/or hours.
- Extra-curriculars for next year = Discussion on working with the union on an agreement that if an extracurricular does not take place next year, the stipend will not be paid.
- Community member discussing annexation – Discussion on a local resident exploring potential annexation into GSW.
- AT&T Fiber Internet – we are currently paying \$800 per month for internet service. This summer, we will start getting FREE fiber internet. There will be no internet fee and no installation fee. E-Rate is helping with this project.
- School Board Conference – Still waiting to see if it will be held in Chicago in November. Registration is next month, so board members discussed who will be attending this function.
- Activity Bus discussion – The existing Panther Bus lease is up on June 30, 2020. Board members discussed 3 different options: Purchasing the bus for \$25,000, Leasing the bus for \$9,000 a year, or giving up the bus all together. Board members agreed to purchase the bus with action expected next month.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2020-2023
- Approve Non-Certified wage increases
- Approve Handbook changes, as presented
- Approve Increase in meal fees
- Approve Auditor bid proposal – Mack & Associates, P.C.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

President: Pam Brooks
 Vice-President: Katy Wepprecht
 Kristen Ashley, Cindy Gerber, Tim Harvey,
 Kori Speed & Allison Wright
 Principal: John Engelman
 Superintendent: Joshua DeLong