

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights of the Regular Meeting

NOVEMBER 16, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None. No public at tonight's meeting.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- Step-It-Up awards for the students – names were drawn at the end of October - 16 prizes were handed out.
- Employee awards were handed out on the same day – gift cards were given out to 6 employees.
- Ms. Kilmer and Mrs. Wills took 13 Juniors to visit ISU on Friday, Oct. 28.
- Grundy County Police brought in 6 search dogs to search students' lockers - they did not find anything.
- ALICE training - Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate. Our teachers/staff attended this training on a SIP day, and then our students did the same training on the afternoon of Nov. 9th. The Grundy County Police Dept., specifically, Deputy Damron, did all of the training.
- ALICE trainers instruct on practical techniques for how to better barricade a room, what to do with mobile and electronic devices, how and when to communicate with police, and how to use your time in lockdown to prepare to use other strategies (i.e. Counter or Evacuate) that might come into play.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS: Mr. John Engelman, Athletic Director, discussed the following:

- I am very proud to announce that GSW High School received a grant of \$3440 from the Community Foundation of Grundy County to purchase new iPads for our athletic department. Our old iPads were outdated and these new ones will allow for our volleyball, girls, and boys basketball teams as well as our Spiritline program to all have their own iPad to better use technology to help their programs improve. Our coaches are excited to be able to use their new iPad. We are extremely grateful to the Community Foundation of Grundy County for this grant.
- Tri-pods for the new iPads – our Sports Boosters will be purchasing new tripods for use with our new iPads.
- Softball Co-op = Tri-Point High School has approached us to co-op Softball with them for the next school year (2023-2024). They are also low in numbers every year and currently have only a Varsity team. Mr. Engelman met with their current Athletic Director and Softball Coach. GSW would host Softball, but we would hold indoor practice at their Inside facility with batting cages in Kempton and a few practice and games would be at their softball field in Cabery. GSW would have the head coach and the Tri-Point coach would be the assistant. They also discussed purchasing new Jerseys – black with red lettering to combine both school colors. The hope is to build the program so we can have both a JV and Varsity teams for the girls. The board discussed moving ahead with co-op discussions.
- Volunteer Spiritline Coaches = Mrs. Leigh would like to have Char Korelc and Braxton Brassard drive our GSW Panther Bus as a shuttle service during our home competition being held on Saturday, December 2nd. Both of them have their CDL. They would be transporting teams, coaches, and spectators to and from GSW and designated parking lot areas in town.
- Athletic Director – Mr. Engelman is recommending we hire Amber Eisha as our new Athletic Director for the 2023-24 school year. She will also be our Head Volleyball Coach and Head Softball Coach. Mr. Engelman will start mentoring her as soon as possible and for the remainder of the school year. He is also willing to help after he retires. He stated it will be a good, smooth transition for her into the role of new AD.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT: Mrs. Sue Avery discussed the following:

- The water pressure had been low in the building but is now fixed.
 - A new water heater/tank was installed.
- There were some small boiler issues – which have already been repaired.
- The lift has been fixed and is getting student use.
- Working on the bid process for new doors
 - Can use the matching maintenance grant for the majority of this project.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Mrs. Avery presented the following:

- Triple I Conference – Nov. 18, 19, and 20 in Chicago. All board members will be attending this year.
- Holiday breaks – Thanksgiving Break will be Nov 23, 24 & 25. Winter Break will be from Dec. 22 thru Jan. 4 – with a Teacher Institute on Jan. 4 and students return on Jan 5.
- Estimated tax levy presentation – Mrs. Avery went over the numbers and informed the board that due to the increase in the district EAV, we are proposing to capture all the tax dollars by holding a Truth in Taxation hearing at our December 2022 meeting.
- Band awards – Mr. Leone and the Gardner Area Band received National Recognition for their performance at Mount Rushmore over the summer. The band also received a monetary donation from a former band student (Joan Harrop) with the Morris Eagles Auxiliary to support our current band program. Mr. Leone was very thankful for this donation.

BOE MEMBERS REPORTS:

Katy Wepprecht asked about registering students at GSW to vote. She asked if someone in the building could take over the task of registering all students when they turn 18-years old.

ACTION ITEMS :

- Appoint Mrs. Avery and Mr. Engelman as district representatives for the SB7 committee
- Approve Estimate of Aggregate Tax Levy
- Approve Truth in Taxation Resolution since the proposed tax levy exceeds 105% of last year’s tax levy extension
- Approve Volunteer Spiritline coaches – Char Korelc and Braxton Brassard
- Hire Athletic Director for the 2023-2024 school year – Amber Eisha
- Approve contract for school auditor – Mack & Associates – Morris, IL
- Approve the early graduation of a student – Mia Ledlow
- Approve snow removal company – Fatlan Trucking Co.
- Approve Office manager to oversee Treasure’s Bond – Amber Ryle

BOARD OF EDUCATION

President: Pam Brooks
Vice-President: Katy Wepprecht
Kristen Ashley, Tim Harvey, Terry Schultz,
Kori Speed & Allison Wright
Principal: John Engelman
Superintendent: Susan Avery