

**GARDNER-SO. WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL  
GARDNER, IL 60424**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF APRIL 17, 2024  
REGULAR MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Gardner-So. Wilmington High School Board of Education, Counties of Grundy and Kankakee, IL was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President, Mrs. Katy Wepprecht.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Ashley, Harvey, Schultz, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright. Mr. Simms arrived at 7:01 pm. Also in attendance were Superintendent Mrs. Sue Avery and Principal Mr. Brian Davis. All members were present “in person.”

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Stifel Presentation – A representative, Mr. Nate Fretz, from Stifel was present at tonight’s meeting to discuss bonds. He reviewed the different options to consider and informed board members that Working Cash Bonds are the most flexible and GSW usually chooses this option. Working Cash Bonds are available to all Illinois School Districts. Working Cash Bonds are money available to school districts for projects or operational funds for schools.

Meet the new staff = Mr. Justin Wharrie, new PE teacher, was present to meet the board members. He will be teaching PE, Health and Drivers Education.

Guidance Presentation – Mrs. Christine Ruddy, new GSW HS Guidance Counselor, was present to discuss projects she has completed since being hired and plans for the remainder of the school year.

- She implemented three milestones: Student Services, Parent Communication and Teacher Satisfaction.
- On-line transcripts will now be available to our students to send to both colleges and jobs. It will be free for current students and \$4.80 for all alumni. Information about this new program will be coming out soon.
- Student schedules for next school year are finished. Schedules will be sent out / given to both students and parents.
- Mrs. Ruddy has already visited Braceville Elementary School and will be visiting South Wilmington Grade School on May 22 and Gardner Grade School on May 29.
- All teachers have received their schedules and class lists for next school year.
- Mrs. Ruddy has been meeting with Seniors to complete FASFA.
- **Find Your Way Day** will take place on August 7 from 11am - 1pm. This is an opportunity for all incoming Freshmen and new students to 'Find Their Way' around the school.
- August 12 at 6 pm is the official 'first day' for Freshman students. Teachers will be here that day for students to 'meet and greet'. This is a structured day for our Freshman students that will get them ready for their first full day of classes.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. Harvey motioned and seconded by Ms. Wright to approve the meeting minutes for the month of *March*: (March 20, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes & Closed Session minutes), bills for the month of *April* and payroll for the month of *March* and Financial Reports for the month of *March*.

AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Schultz, Simms, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

**Principal's Report:** Mr. Brian Davis, Principal, reported the following:

- GAVC Director's Award – Hunter Purdy, Senior, Computer Graphics & Design
- April 5 – Eva Henderson signed with University of Louisiana Monroe and will be on their water ski team.
- April 6 – GSW Math Team went to State (Illinois State University) and placed 17<sup>th</sup> overall.
- April 6 - Gardner Area Band performed the National Anthem at the Peoria Rivermen Hockey Game.
- April 8 & 9 – GSW Softball Sophomore, Maddie Simms, pitched perfect games back-to-back.
- April 10 – Maddie Simms pitched a no-hitter.
- April 10 – SAT – Juniors tested – 1:00 PM early dismissal for all students. No seniors in attendance.
- April 11 – PSAT – Freshmen and Sophomores tested
- April 12 – Erin's Law Presentations for Juniors and Seniors was held in the library with a guest speaker.
- April 19 – PROM and Prom Lock-in. NO SCHOOL for students.
- April 24 – Academic Awards Night at 5:30 PM in the gym
- April 26 – Spiritline Tryouts
- April 29 – Athletic Handbook Meeting – Mr. Davis, Mr. Simms and Ms. Eisha will review all current handbooks per coach and plan to create only 1 standard handbook for all sports.
- Student Handbook – committee has met and finalized for FY25.
- Update Curriculum
- PLC – Professional Learning Committee – Boaz, Scaccia, N. Leigh, Davis, Avery – this committee will determine vertical alignment with K-12.
- May 13 & 14 – Senior Final Exams

**Director's Report:** None.

**Building and Grounds Report:** Mrs. Sue Avery, Supt., reviewed the following:

- Gym Floors – July 30/31 – floor will be waxed and off-limits
- Parking Lot – Sealcoating Project will be in August – right after the gym floors are completed
- Summer Camps – GSWHS Coaches will be holding camps this summer for their individual sports programs

**Superintendent's Report:** Mrs. Sue Avery discussed the following:

- Bonds – Needed for future projects and operational costs.
- Budget Amendment – Mrs. Avery is currently working on amending our budget.
- Transportation – GSW and the three feeder grade schools have settled on a transportation agreement with Illinois Central School Bus Company. They have spread out the increase over the 3-year contract.
- Accountant Update – Our District Bookkeeper is working closely with The Engler Group, LLC.
- Facility Use Document – This form has been cleaned up and is now on our GSW Website under the District Forms tab. If someone from the community wants to use or facility / gym, they would need to fill out this form and submit for approval.

- Press Policy 114 Update – in the board packet for members to review and approve the First Reading.
- National Recognition Merritt Award – GSW High School and Gardner Grade School were both recognized and received the Support Music Merritt Award. Mrs. Avery recognized all four schools that make up the Gardner Area Band for receiving such an honorable award. We are very proud of all our band students and Director, Mr. Michael Leone.
- Maintenance Grant – Needs to be expended by then end of FY24.
- Public Act 103-0348 – GSW is now in compliance with The Illinois Department of Public Health Public Act 103-0348 that took effect on January 1, 2024 stating that “...all public schools are now required to keep a supply of an opioid antagonist on hand in the event of an overdose.”
- There is an opening for a Building & Trades Instructor at GAVC. The Director of GAVC, Mr. Lance Copes, will keep the board members informed on when the opening is filled.

**BOE Members Reports:** None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Upon the recommendation of the President, Mrs. Katy Wepprecht, Ms. Wright motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to go into closed session at 8:08 p.m. for the purpose of considering information regarding employment contracts or any matter permissible under the open meetings act.

2:220-E2

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Schultz, Simms, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

REGULAR SESSION: Mr. Harvey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Schultz to return to regular session at 9:07 p.m.

AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Schultz, Simms, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

RESIGNATION OF YOUTH PHILANTHROPY SPONSOR: Mrs. Ashley motioned and seconded by Mrs. Speed to accept the Resignation of Youth Philanthropy Sponsor, Mrs. Terese Kukman.

AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Schultz, Simms, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.

MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

RESIGNATION OF NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY SPONSOR: Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mrs. Schultz to accept the Resignation of National Honor Society Sponsor, Mrs. Terese Kukman.

AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Schultz, Simms, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.

MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

HIRE YOUTH PHILANTHROPY SPONSOR: Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to hire Youth Philanthropy Sponsor, Mrs. Jillian Wills.

AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Schultz, Simms, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.

MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

HIRE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY SPONSOR: Mr. Harvey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Schultz to hire National Honor Society Sponsor, Mrs. Christine Ruddy.  
AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Schultz, Simms, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.  
MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0

TEMPORARY SUMMER BUILDING CLEANING: Mrs. Ashley motioned and seconded by Ms. Wright to approve the Temporary Summer Building Cleaning, Ben Fatlan.  
AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Schultz, Simms, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.  
MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

HIRE SCIENCE TEACHER: Ms. Wright motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to hire Science teacher, Samantha Johnson.  
AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Schultz, Simms, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.  
MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

HIRE PE TEACHER: Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mr. Harvey to hire PE Teacher, Mr. Justin Wharrie.  
AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Schultz, Simms, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.  
MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

ASSIGN BOAT CAPTAINS FOR FISHING TEAM: Mrs. Ashley motioned and seconded by Mr. Simms to assign Boat Captains for Fishing Team, Greg Olsen, Ryan Olsen & Dave Schultz.  
AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Schultz, Simms, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.  
MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

FY25 BOARD MEETING DATES: Ms. Wright motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve the FY25 Board Meeting Dates, as presented.  
AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Schultz, Simms, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.  
MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

FIRST READING OF PRESS POLICY 114: Mrs. Schultz motioned and seconded by Mr. Harvey to approve the First Reading of Press Policy 114.  
AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Schultz, Simms, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.  
MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE THE FY25 HANDBOOK REVISIONS: Mrs. Ashley motioned and seconded by Ms. Wright to approve the FY25 Handbook Revisions, as presented.  
AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Schultz, Simms, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.  
MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE NON-CERTIFICATION RIF: Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Ms. Wright to approve the Non-Certification RIF of part-time secretary, Holly Stellano.  
AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Schultz, Simms, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.  
MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE ILLINOIS CENTRAL BUS CONTRACT RENEWAL 3-YEAR EXTENSION: Ms. Wright motioned and seconded by Mrs. Schultz to approve the Illinois Central Bus Contract Renewal 3-year extension.  
AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Schultz, Simms, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.  
MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

OTHER(s): None.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Harvey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Schultz to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 PM.

AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Schultz, Simms, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

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PRESIDENT, KATY WEPPECHT

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SECRETARY, CARLA HUSTON