

# GARDNER – SO. WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #73

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## BOARD BRIEFS

*Highlights of the  
Public Hearing – 2024 Levy & Regular Meeting*  
**DECEMBER 18, 2024**

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### **PRESENTATION: 2024 LEVY**

Mrs. Avery presented the 2024 Tax Levy to the board members and discussed the Levy Calculation Page. She stated the beginning fund balances and the Public Act 103-0394 Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Disclosure.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:** N/A

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Nate Fretz – Public Finance Director with STIFEL, was present to discuss the Working Cash Bonds for GSW High School. Board members received a hard copy of his presentation, and he reviewed the process with them.

### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:** Mr. Brian Davis, Principal, reported the following:

- December 11<sup>th</sup> – PLC and Mapping continued in the afternoon on our 11:30 AM early out for students. The Professional Learning Communities department met with the administration to discuss plans/courses/issues for FY25 and FY26. CTE discussed course changes, including dual credit classes with JJC. Accounting and Personal Finance classes are being looked into for the upcoming school year. The English Department discussed AI use and course alignment. PE Department met at a later date. The History Dept. discussed course changes and potential dual credit classes. Mr. Kevin Ward showed interest in working towards his Masters Degree to teach dual credit classes.
- December 13<sup>th</sup> – Homecoming Pep Assembly at 2:00 PM with students. Homecoming Court was announced:
  - Homecoming King – Cole Hampson & Queen – Kendall Huston
  - Senior Court: Alison Howard, Tess Brooks, Josh Conger & Logan Conger
  - Juniors: Leanna Freeman & Roman Faletti
  - Sophomores: Ella Mack & Aiden Bodine
  - Freshmen: Lily Buck & Caden Christensen
- Homecoming Basketball Games & Hall of Fame – held Friday night, December 13<sup>th</sup>. JV boys, Varsity girls, and Varsity boys' teams all played. Two members were inducted into the Hall of Fame during the basketball games = Ms. Julienne Coulter and Ms. Leslie Barna.
- PLTW continued = Program Growth – Angel Dallio finished her training class for Intro to Engineering
- Graduation Changes to Handbook – To be board-approved in January at the next meeting.
- Dual Credit Conversations = Began conversations with teachers about what classes we can add to the curriculum.
- December 17<sup>th</sup> – MTSS Professional Development – Mrs. Ruddy and Mr. Davis attended Grundy County ROE regarding the RTI program.
- December 18<sup>th</sup> – Announced our four GSW HS Illinois State Scholars – Ryleigh Dvorak, Alison Howard, Abigail Leveille, and Tyler Wilkey.
- December 18 – 2:00 PM early out for students and PLC for staff
- December 19 & 20 – FINAL EXAMS with an 11:45 AM early dismissal both days
- December 23 through January 6 – Winter Break
- January 6 – Teacher Institute Day
- January 7 – Students return for 2nd-semester classes
- January 20 – NO SCHOOL – MLK Day
- January 22 – 2:00 PM early out for students and PLC for staff

**DIRECTORS' REPORTS:** None at tonight's meeting.

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

- Weekly communication with the Head of Maintenance is going well.
- Pipe leaks – Tri-Co will be coming out to fix/repair some of the pipe leaks. We had a teacher lounge leak on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Wally Debelak was able to repair that one, but we did have damage to one of our lounge chairs.
- Baseball Field – We have lots of high and low areas. The lawn care company was called to assess the situation and discuss options. We will be aerating and reseeding the outfield in the fall. Moth larvae will be sprayed. We will roll and level the outfield.
- Library Flooring / Carpet – Currently discussing asbestos removal, abatement, and project cost.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Mrs. Avery presented on the following:

- Triple I Conference was discussed (annual board convention in Chicago that was held November 22-24)
- IHSA – GoFan – is an electronic system that pays entry fees for sporting events. It can also be used in the concession stand area to purchase food items during games. We are exploring this option for use at GSW HS, which is IHSA-approved. We will still take cash, but GoFan will be an alternative payment option.
- E-Learning Plan – will be used for remote days instead of snow days.
- GAVC update:
  - Minooka High School is renovating to provide in-house Career and Tech Ed at Minooka HS. This will change the financial structure and how much-participating schools will need to contribute moving forward. The participating high schools met to make the determination based on enrollment numbers. This will need to have board approval from all participating schools. Mrs. Avery stated that GSW rates will increase from 3.38 to 4.21 or, at the highest, from 3.38 to 4.27, based on student enrollment.
  - Health Life Safety Time-Line – GAVC is also discussing renovating their existing building and adding classrooms to house more students at their Morris location. This project is on hold until the changes with Minooka High School are finalized and approved.
  - Automotive Class – is receiving a KIT CAR to build in this class
  - Building Trades Class – they are now in the process of completing Project House #27
- Project Lead the Way = Admin would like to hire a full-time CTE teacher for three to four new classes being added to the curriculum. Engineering, AeroSpace, Robotics, etc. Ms. Dallio will be teaching STEAM and Intro to Engineering. Ms. Vertin will be teaching dual-credit Personal Finance and Accounting.
- PLC meetings are being held to talk to the staff and find new ways to teach and add new classes for our students. We need to utilize the skills and talents of our teachers for our kids and the students' futures. We are making good changes, and it is not always easy.
- Grundy County Special Education Cooperative is currently out of room for students and needs to expand. Mr. Neil Sandberg is looking at more space in a building in Morris.
- Software Program – We are exploring other financial packages/programs. We have received quotes from Link Q, Skyward and Teacher Ease. We are currently using E-Finance. We are leaning towards going with Teacher Ease, as we already use this system for grades, student fees, lunch money, etc.
- Grundy County Sheriff's Department Reciprocal Agreement – we renew this every year.

**BOE MEMBERS REPORTS:** None at this time.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Approve 2024 Tax Levy

- Approve Certificate of Compliance with Truth and Taxation
- Appoint the Superintendent to review Closed Session Minutes
- Approve Second Reading of Press Policy 117
- Approve the Reciprocal Agreement for Grundy County
- Approve the Resolution declaring the intention to issue \$750,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the District's Working Cash Fund, and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law.
- Approve hiring an FTE (Full-Time Educator) Teacher to instruct Project Lead the Way (PLTW) classes for the FY26 School Year.

**OTHERS:**

None at this time.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

President: Katy Wepprecht

Vice-President: Kori Speed

Kristen Ashley, Tim Harvey, Terry Schultz,

David Simms & Allison Wright

Principal: Mr. Brian Davis

Superintendent: Mrs. Susan Avery