

GARDNER – SO. WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #73

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights of the Regular Meeting

FEBRUARY 19, 2025

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Working Cash Bonds – Mr. Nate Fretz – Public Finance Director with STIFEL, was present to discuss the Working Cash Bonds process for GSW High School. Board members received a hard copy of his presentation, and he reviewed the process with them.
- Band Trip 2026 – Mr. Michael Leone, Band Director, was present to discuss the Summer 2026 Band Trip to Nashville, TN and New Orleans, LA. The dates will be May 28 – June 2, 2026.
- Softball Team Trip for Spring Break 2025 – The GSW softball team will be going to Future Champions Sports Complex in Jacksonville, IL on March 28 and 29. They will play one game on the night of March 28, stay overnight, and then play two games on March 29.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Brian Davis, Principal

- February student of the month – Nina Siano and Kayla Scheuber
- GAVC Director's Award – Kayla Scheuber for Health Occupations
- Math Team – 1st place at RVC Conference on January 16 – 12 years in a row
- RVC Principal's Meeting – discussed the 35-second shot clock. Each school will have to purchase, install, and then hire/pay an individual to run this clock at each home game.
- Athletic Boosters – raising money to help pay for the 35-second shot clock.
- Feb. 11th – interviews for Varsity Volleyball Coach
- Feb. 12th – 11:30 AM early dismissal day – we held an “Elective Fair Day” – 9th, 10th, and 11th-grade students split up into groups and rotated to different sessions to learn about available elective courses offered at GSW HS next school year.
- Feb. 13th – interviews for Athletic Director. We had a team/committee interview two individuals for this position.
- IDTA in Springfield – held Feb. 14 and 15 – GSW Spiritline placed 3rd in the Pom category.
- RVC Leadership Conference -Friday, Feb. 21st – we have 2 students from 9th grade, 10th grade, and 11th grade going to represent GSW – Freshmen: Lilly Scheuber & Blake Brassard, Sophomores: Abby Galass & Grace Vitko and Juniors: Maddie Simms & Roman Faletti.
- Teacher Evaluations – currently wrapping up and should be finished by end of February.
- RVC Scholarship Athletes – Cole Hampson & Kendall Huston – seniors – representing GSW.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

- Mrs. Chris Ruddy, Director of Academic & Student Services:
 - Hearing & Vision Screenings were held for all 9th graders
 - Elective Fair Day was held on Wed., Feb. 12th
 - Student registration is in progress for next school year
 - Student schedules – will meet with each student individually, starting with the Junior class
 - NHS Induction Ceremony – March 5th at 6:00 PM
 - JJC Step Up Day for students – April 9th
- Mr. John Williamsen, Director of Technology, was present and reported on:
 - New financial software program – Teacher Ease. He reviewed the pros and cons of transitioning to the new system.
 - Chromebook repairs & updates
 - ACT/SAT programs/portals

- o Update / integrate system filters
- o Changed passwords for ALL students
- o State Reporting
- o Networks, servers - update – key fobs and cameras
- o Wireless access points
- o Computer updates in the STEAM room and lab
- o Work on interactive boards in each classroom

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

- Plumbing issues: Wally Debelak has been working on these issues with TriCo.
- Building & Grounds Committee – we will need to meet sometime in March to discuss summer work and long-term plans.
- ROE Inspection / Health Life Safety Walk-through conducted on Tues, Feb. 18th – complete walk-through of the building.

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

- Working Cash Bonds / Account – We were advised to open a separate account just for the working cash bond funds.
- New Software – We will be switching over to Teacher Ease.
- Online registration – Early Registration for next school year - parents will receive a \$10 discount if they register their students online before the deadline.
- Milk Contract -sa light increase of \$0.0150
- School Fees – raise fees for the 25/26 school year. The board discussed and reviewed our current school fees and agreed to raise them for next year.
- Interviews:
 - o Varsity Volleyball Coach
 - o Athletic Director
 - o IGAs for Sports – Dwight is not renewing the football contract. GSW will still co-op for other sports = Cross-Country, Golf, Wrestling, and Track.
 - o Hypoallergenic Therapy Dog – we are currently discussing adding one to our staff.

BOE MEMBERS REPORTS:

None at this time.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Milk contract renewal with Clover Farms – approve \$0.0150 increase
- Appoint Superintendent to begin tentative budget for the fiscal year 2026
- School fees for the 2025-2026 school year, approve increases, as presented
- Accept the Resignation of Temporary ELL Paraprofessional – Cassie Boudreau
- Hire Varsity Volleyball Coach – Mrs. Heather Muzzarelli
- Hire an Athletic Director for the 2025-2026 School year – Crystal Aukland
- Approve the Resolution providing for the issue of \$750,000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2025, of the District for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.
- Approve the Superintendent to open an account at Old National Bank for Working Cash Bond funds
- Approve Softball Trip for Spring Break
- Accept the Resignation of Jerry Olsen as GSWHS Bass Fishing Coach

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