

GARDNER – SO. WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #73

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights of the

Public Hearing – Issuance of Working Cash Bonds & Regular Meeting

JANUARY 15, 2025

Public Hearing:

PRESENTATION: ISSUANCE OF WORKING CASH FUND BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE WORKING CASH FUND OF THE DISTRICT: Mrs. Avery stated that Stiefl presented the issue of the Working Cash Bond for Gardner South Wilmington High School. The Public Hearing was held for any public questions.

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

Regular Meeting:

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mrs. Sue Avery, Superintendent, reported the following:

- Final Exams were held on December 19 & 20 – All students tested this year.
- Teacher Institute Day – Mon, Jan. 6th – School Improvement Day – Agenda:
 - Academic Dishonesty
 - Teacher Conversations - Student confidentiality
 - MAP Testing
 - PLC / Mapping Protocol
- PlanBook Program Pilot – we currently have nine teachers piloting the program. Teacher feedback is excellent. Teachers will train other teachers in using Planbook for lesson planning and aligning State Standards.
- Pawsitive Panther Student of the Month – student-led and created for this year and is still under development for next school year. Each month, we will have two students announced. Criteria was discussed.
- Sports Boosters Meeting was held on Mon, Jan. 13th – Purchased, made, and/or approved: Shot clock, dumbbells for the Lifetime Fitness Area, and new basketballs for both the boys' and girls' teams. Coach Evaluations will be added to the GSW HS Athletic Handbook.
- Upcoming Events:
 - RVC Math Contest at GSW – Jan. 16
 - RVC Principals' Meeting – Jan. 17
 - NO SCHOOL – MLK Holiday – Mon., Jan. 20
 - 2:00 PM Early Dismissal for students and PLC for staff – Wed., Jan. 22

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

Mrs. Chris Ruddy, Director of Student Services report was reviewed:

- ACCESS Testing – State mandated – English Language learners – GSW has a few students who need to take this assessment.
- Registration for the 2025-26 school year – The paper packet for incoming freshmen has been revised for the next school year. Mrs. Ruddy will visit the three feeder grade schools and meet with current 8th graders to discuss registration for incoming freshmen.

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

- Weekly communication with the Head of Maintenance is going well.
- The boiler – still having a few leaks. Maintenance is looking at purchasing and installing a new feed boiler pump adding steam traps, and the thermostats need to be replaced. To preserve the current boiler, we will need to purchase a reverse osmosis system to work in conjunction with our water softener system. Other items- Wally repaired the breaker and boiler meter.

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

- Grundy County Special Education has board approval to purchase property (Unit H) in the existing plaza where they are housed for program growth expansion.
- ESSR Grant – our funds are gone. GSW relinquished \$12,000 to ISBE.
- Software comparisons – Technology Director Mr. John Williamsen presented three different financial software options. Currently, GSW is using E-Finance, it is a costly system, tech support is not timely or efficient, and we are having ongoing issues with bank reconciliations. GSW did a demo of one software program – Teacher Ease (School Insight Systems). GSW already uses this system, but we would add the financial and HR components to our account. Our faculty and staff are already familiar with this program, and it would be an easy transition. Mr. Williamsen reviewed fees for three programs: Teacher Ease, Skyward Finance, and Link Q (formerly SDS), stating that our best option is Teacher Ease.

BOE MEMBERS REPORTS:

Principal’s recognition – board members congratulated Mr. Brian Davis for receiving the Three Rivers Region Principal of the Year Award. He will be honored by the Illinois Principal Association at our February meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Approve the early retirement of a teacher – Mr. Jon Posing, PE teacher
- Approve updates to the student handbook changes for graduation.
- Destruction of closed session audio recordings 18 months and older
- Opening of Board of Education closed session minutes from January 2024 to December 2024
- Approve the hire of an FTE PLTW Teacher – Ms. Danielle Diamond
- Approve the resignation of the Athletic Director, Ms. Amber Eisha
- Approve the resignation of the Varsity Volleyball Coach, Ms. Amber Eisha

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