

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

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2025
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 7:02 p.m. by President, Mrs. Katy Wepprecht.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Ashley, Harvey, Schultz, Simms, Speed and Wepprecht. Also in attendance was Superintendent Mrs. Sue Avery. All members were present “in person.”

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Mrs. Schultz motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve the meeting minutes for the month of *December*: (December 18, 2024 Public Hearing – 2024 Levy minutes, Regular Meeting minutes & Closed Session minutes), bills for the month of *January* and payroll for the month of *December* and Financial Reports for the month of *December*.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Principal’s Report: Mrs. Sue Avery, Superintendent, reported the following:

- Final Exams were held 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-leg 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 – Purchases 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

Director's Report: 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 be visiting the three feeder grade schools and will meet with current 8th graders to discuss registration for incoming freshmen.

Building and Grounds Report: Mrs. Sue Avery, Supt., reviewed 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 – Wall repaired the breaker and boiler meter.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Sue Avery discussed 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Upon the recommendation of the President, Mrs. Katy Wepprecht, Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to go into closed session at 7:37 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 and Wepprecht.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

ADJOURN CLOSED AND RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: Mr. Harvey motioned and seconded by Mr. Simms to adjourn executive session and return to regular session at 8:30 p.m.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

ACTION ITEMS:

APPROVE THE EARLY RETIREMENT OF A TEACHER: Mrs. Ashley motioned and seconded by Mrs. Schultz to approve the Early Retirement of a teacher, Mr. Jon Posing, PE teacher.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE UPDATES TO THE STUDENT HANDBOOK CHANGES FOR GRADUATION: Mr. Harvey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Speed to approve the updates to the Student Handbook changes for graduation.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

DESTRUCTION OF CLOSED SESSION AUDIO RECORDINGS 18-MONTHS AND OLDER: Mr. Harvey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve the Destruction of Closed Session Audio Records 18-months and older.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

OPENING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION CLOSED SESSION MINUTES FROM JANUARY 2024 TO DECEMBER 2024: Mrs. Schultz motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve the Opening of Board of Education Closed Session Minutes from January 2024 to December 2024.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE HIRE OF AN FTE PLTW TEACHER: Mr. Simms motioned and seconded by Mrs. Schultz to approve the Hire of an FTE PLTW Teacher, Ms. Danielle Diamond.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE RESIGNATION OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: Mrs. Schultz motioned and seconded by Mrs. Speed to approve the Resignation of the Athletic Director, Ms. Amber Eisha.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE RESIGNATION OF THE VARSITY VOLLEYBALL COACH: Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mrs. Schultz to approve the Resignation of the Varsity Volleyball Coach, Ms. Amber Eisha.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

OTHER(s): None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 PM.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

PRESIDENT, KATY WEPPRECHT

SECRETARY, CARLA HUSTON