

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

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2023  
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. Pamela Brooks.

**ROLL CALL:** Members present: Ashley, Brooks, Schultz, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright. Mr. Tim Harvey arrived at 7:36 PM. Also in attendance were Principal Mr. John Engelman and Superintendent Mrs. Sue Avery. All members were present “in person.”

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Sarah Halpin was present to ask the board about their policies on coaching. Hiring in-house personnel vs. outside staffing. The board told her they planned to discuss policies and procedures during tonight’s Executive Closed Session.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Ms. Wright motioned and seconded by Mrs. Schultz to approve the meeting minutes for the month of *February*: (February 15, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes), bills for the month of *March* and payroll for the month of *February*, and Financial Reports for the month of *February*.

**AYES:** Ashley, Brooks, Schultz, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.

**MOTION CARRIED:** 6-0.

**INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Principal’s Report:** Mr. John Engelman, Principal, reported the following:

- Natural Helpers Training Retreat – 25 students attended a 2-day, overnight trip to Cedar Lake, IN on March 3 & 4 to participate in a workshop. This trip was paid for from Title IV grant money. We are looking at going again next school year, but sometime in the Fall when school starts.
- RVC Leadership Conference at Kankakee Community College = Monday, May 13 GSW took 6 students (2-Freshman, 2-Sophomores and 2-Juniors) to attend this conference on how to be a better leader.
- Tennis courts – a parent/community member approached GSW asking if the current tennis courts could be turned into Pickle Bar Courts. The board agreed to have Mr. Eric Conger attend a board meeting to discuss the planning process, as he is willing to help with the renovations.

**Directors’ Reports:** Mr. Engelman, Athletic Director, reported the following:

- The discussions about having a co-op Softball program with Tri-Point, starting during the 2023-24 school year, have been put on hold. We are going to see if our new Softball Coach can build up the program so that GSW can stay with having their own team.
- Baseball and Softball games started this week.
- JV Baseball Coach – we did not have any success finding and hiring a JV baseball coach, so our GSW Varsity coach, Mr. Allan Wills, will be coaching both JV and Varsity this season.

**Building and Grounds Report:** Mrs. Sue Avery presented on the following:

- Summer work
  - Workers – We plan to re-hire Mr. Adam Leigh as summer crew leader. We also plan to hire 2 student summer workers.
  - Flooring updates – We are looking at the current library carpeting and discussing options for new flooring.
  - Painting / touch-up – The orange paint in the gym will be touched-up and at least 2 classrooms will be painted this summer.
- Health Life Safety Inspection Report – GSW received an A rating on our report this year. We do have some recommendations and will get those corrected.

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

- GAVC Director's Awards – Ryan Cacello received the award for Building Trades II, and Jessica Dominguez received the award for Health Occupations I for the month of February.
- No Spring Play – There will be no spring play this year. Our current Play Director, Stefanie Rymsza, resigned.
- Updated Solar Farm Tax Abatement – The attorney reviewed it and agreed that it was appropriate to approve the tax abatement.
- Sound System Update – We have found a company that will update our current system. They are replacing only what needs to be replaced and making the system scalable to upgrade in the future. The GSW Sports Boosters has offered to pay for 50% of the cost. We hope to complete this project in time for the graduation ceremony.
- Life Update – The parts have been ordered and should be coming in soon. The lift should be up and running by April. Mrs. Avery stated that we will now have a 7-year parts, a 3-year labor, and a 3-year maintenance warranty.
- Copy Machines – We received quotes from three companies and are going with Xerox. They had the best deal and the nicest machines. The copiers will be leased. They will arrive this summer, and the staff will be trained on the new machines at the start of the school year.
- GSW Graduation – Sunday, May 21 at 12 noon inside the GSW gym
- BES Graduation – Thursday, May 18 at 7:00 PM inside the GSW gym
- GAVC Articles of Agreement – This is the Intergovernmental Agreement between GAVC and participating schools.
- GAVC Director's Contract – This is a contract proposal from Mr. Lance Copes – GAVC Director.
- State Police Law Enforcement Agreement – Clear and Present Danger – We approve this every year so that GSW can have back-and-forth communication with the State Police.
- Knights of Columbus Donation = Mr. William Pohl, from the Braidwood Knights of Columbus Council, presented a generous check in the amount of \$596.65 to the GSW High School Special Education Program. Each year, money collected from the Tootsie Roll Fund Drive is donated to local area schools for the special education classes with hopes in helping the students get a better education.

**BOE Members Reports:** None at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Upon the recommendation of the President, Mrs. Pamela Brooks, Mrs. Wepprecht motioned and seconded by Mrs. Speed to go into closed session at 7:24 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, Brooks, Schultz, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

REGULAR SESSION: Mrs. Ashley motioned and seconded by Mrs. Schultz to return to regular session at 8:29 p.m.

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

ACTION ITEMS:

APPROVE JV BASEBALL COACH: Mrs. Ashley motioned and seconded by Mrs. Schultz to approve the JV Baseball Coach – Mr. Allan Wills.

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

MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE THE HIRING OF PE TEACHER: Mrs. Wepprecht motioned and seconded by Ms. Wright to approve the hiring of PE Teacher – Mr. Dan Vashinko.

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

MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE THE 2023 GRADUATION FOR MAY 21 AT 12:00 PM INSIDE THE GSW GYM: Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mr. Harvey to approve the 2023 Graduation for May 21 at 12:00 pm inside the GSW gym.

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

MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE THE 2023 BES GRADUATION FOR MAY 18 AT 7 PM INSIDE THE GSW GYM: Ms. Wright motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve the 2023 BES Graduation for May 18 at 7 pm inside the GSW gym.

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

MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF SCIENCE TEACHER, SADD CO-SPONSOR, SCHOLASTIC BOWL CO-COACH: Mrs. Schultz motioned and seconded by Mrs. Wepprecht to accept resignation of Science Teacher, SADD Co-Sponsor, Scholastic Bowl Co-Coach.

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

MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE THE HIRE OF TEMPORARY SUMMER BUILDING CREW LEADER: Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve the Hire of Temporary Summer Building Crew Leader – Mr. Adam Leigh.

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

MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO BLUE SKY SOLAR FARM REAL ESTATE TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENT: Ms. Wright motioned and seconded by Mrs. Speed to approve the Amendment to Blue Sky Solar Farm Real Estate Tax Abatement Agreement.  
AYES: Ashley, Brooks, Harvey, Schultz, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.  
MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE THE GAVC ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN DISTRICTS: Mrs. Schultz motioned and seconded by Mrs. Wepprecht to approve the GAVC Articles of Agreement between Districts.  
AYES: Ashley, Brooks, Harvey, Schultz, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.  
MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR GAVC DIRECTOR: Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mrs. Wepprecht to approve the Proposal for GAVC Director.  
AYES: Ashley, Brooks, Harvey, Schultz, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.  
MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENT FOR COMMUNICATION: Ms. Wright motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve Law Enforcement Agreement for Communication.  
AYES: Ashley, Brooks, Harvey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht and Wright  
MOTIONED CARRIED: 7-0.

OTHER(s):

Kori Speed asked if GSW plans to have a port-o-potty available for home baseball games.

Katy Wepprecht discussed offering Mr. Dave Bexson the softball field prep job for the 2023 season. He would get paid a stipend for his work.

Pam Brooks stated that she appreciated the GSW board members and for all they do for the kids. She has been serving for a total of 26-years on school boards. She first started at Gardner Grade School and then moved on to GSW High School. She thanked everyone for the food, gifts and party held tonight, as tonight was her last meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 PM.  
AYES: Ashley, Brooks, Harvey, Schultz, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.  
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

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PRESIDENT, PAMELA BROOKS

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SECRETARY, CARLA HUSTON