

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

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2026
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. Terry Schultz.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms and Speed. Also in attendance was Superintendent Mrs. Sue Avery and Interim Principal Dr. Patrick Halloran. All members were present "in person."

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at tonight's meeting.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve the meeting minutes for the month of *February*: (February 17, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes and Closed Session minutes) and bills for the month of *March* and payroll for the month of *February* and Financial Reports for the month of *February*.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms and Speed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Principal's Report: Dr. Patrick Halloran, Interim Principal, reported on the following:

- 5 Essential Survey percentages from staff and students are great. We will be able to receive and use this information / results.
- Our Principal elect Mr. Rodney Monbrum will be at GSW HS on April 15 to meet the GSW faculty and staff members. He will be picking a day in May to come and meet the students.
- March 11 – ½ day – We had staff meetings in the afternoon to discuss curriculum. Our feeder grade schools sent over staff to meet with our high school teachers.
- Evaluations are completed for the school year. Mrs. Samantha Johnson is being recommended for tenure.

Director's Report:

Mrs. Crystal Aukland, Athletic Director, submitted her report on-line to board members. A few of the items were discussed:

- Signing Day – Thurs, March 26 at 3:30 PM will be signing day for Senior Gavin Bafia. He will be going to Augusta College for wrestling.
- Winter Sports – wrapped up for the season.
- Congratulations to Senior Maddie Simms for being named to the Kankakee Daily Journal All Area Third Team for Girls' Basketball! This season, Maddie averaged 12.3 points and 12.7 rebounds per game. She became the first player in program history to surpass 1000 career rebounds on Senior night, and finished her career with a school-record of 1133 total rebounds.
- Spring sports are starting up for Baseball, Softball, Trap and Track - (co-op with Dwight)
- Game Changer – Both softball and baseball will be using this app
- Math Team – JJC Math Competition on Friday, March 20th

- Resignation of Head Spiritline Coach – Mrs. Holly Faurot
- Discussing a co-op with Dwight High School for dance team
- Resignation of Girls' Basketball Assistant Coach – Mrs. Janelle Biros
- Posting of jobs – Head Spiritline Coach, Assistant Spiritline Coach, and Girls' Asst. Basketball Coach
- New Uniforms – both Volleyball and Spiritline are up in the rotation for new uniforms. We are going to hold off on the Spiritline uniforms until a new coach is hired.
- SNAP Manage – looking into purchasing this software (\$1,500 – yearly license fee) to use for Athletics.

Mrs. Chris Ruddy, Student Services Coordinator, submitted her report on-line to board members. A few of the items were highlighted:

- MAP testing for Winter is done.
- NHS Induction Ceremony was held on Wed, March 4th at 6PM in the GSW gym with 9 new 10th graders being inducted.
- Meeting with students every day to build their schedules for next school year.
- Elective Day was held on Wed, March 11. We had 8th graders here from our three feeder schools.
- Placement Testing – Mrs. Ruddy is going to GGS, BES and SWGS to conduct testing with 7th and 8th grade students.
- JJC Next Step Day was held on Thursday, March 12 for all GSW student attending JJC next year.
- Real World Field Trip to Coal City High School is Thursday, March 26 from 8 AM until 10:15 AM. GSW is taking the Freshman Class.
- Rhythm of Our Youth Cardiac Screening is being held at GSW on April 8th. Students will receive this test, FREE of charge, if they choose to. It will take place in the GSW gym.
- JJC will be back at GSW again on April 9th to meet with any students planning on attending JJC after high school.

Building and Grounds Report: Mrs. Avery reported on:

- HVAC bid – was in the board packet for review. The project will be completed this summer.
- Boiler System – has had some long-term issues – we are looking at a long-term solution
- Building and Grounds Meeting – will be scheduled for some time next week to review a long-term facility plan and summer projects.
- IL State Fire Marshall and ROE conducted the annual walk-thru at GSW. We received an A. We had several items checked off our list that were corrected from their last visit. Then they added about 10 to 15 more items that need attention.
- Our small back-up boiler is currently leaking. Korellis is coming out this Friday to repair.
- We may hire a summer work for additional help, if needed.

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

- Graduation dates have been set for GSW, SWGS and BES to be held in the GSW gym.
- Resignations and new hire recommendations were discussed
- Sports Co-op with Dwight – looking into a co-op with our dance team
- Thank You letter to the Board of Education from the Wollgast family for allowing them to Host their Michael Wollgast Night. They donated the money raised to our basketball program to be used for the new shot clocks. They are also still planning on giving one scholarship to a graduating senior this year.
- IHSA renewal – yearly membership renewal

- Weight Room Supervisor – The official job description has been written up for this new position. The information was given to the Union to approve. We are waiting for response / approval from them at this time.
- Student Handbook – the Committee met on Wed, March 11th. Changes to next year's book are ready for board approval.
- Board of Education Photo – will be taken for the yearbook at our April meeting.

BOE Members Reports: None at this time.

ACTION ITEMS:

APPROVE THE 2026 GSW GRADUATION FOR MAY 17 AT 12:00 PM INSIDE THE GSW GYM: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mr. Simms to approve the 2026 GSW Graduation for May 17 at 12:00 pm inside the GSW gym.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms and Speed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE 2026 BES GRADUATION FOR MAY 14 AT 6 PM INSIDE THE GSW GYM: Mrs. Ashley motioned and seconded by Mrs. Biros to approve the 2026 BES Graduation for May 14 at 6 pm inside the GSW gym.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms and Speed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE SWGS GRADUATION FOR MAY 15 AT 6 PM INSIDE THE GSW GYM: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve the SWGS Graduation for May 15 at 6 pm inside the GSW gym.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms and Speed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE HIRING OF A SUMMER WORKER: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Biros to approve the hiring of a summer worker, if needed.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms and Speed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE STUDENT HANDBOOK CHANGES, AS PRESENTED: Mr. Simms motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve the Student Handbook changes, as presented.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms and Speed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF ASSISTANT GIRLS' BASKETBALL COACH: Mr. Simms motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to accept the Resignation of Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach – Mrs. Janelle Biros.

AYES: Ashley, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms and Speed.

ABSTAIN: Biros

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF HEAD SPIRITLINE COACH: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to accept the Resignation of Head Spiritline Coach – Mrs. Holly Faurot.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms and Speed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF CAREER AND TECH ED TEACHER: Mrs. Biros motioned and seconded by Mr. Simms to accept the Resignation of Career and Tech Ed Teacher – Mr. Travis Duley.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms and Speed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION TO HIRE A WORLD LANGUAGE TEACHER: Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to approve the recommendation to hire a World Language Teacher – Shaylynn Hubbard – Spanish teacher.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms and Speed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION TO HIRE A CAREER AND TECH ED (CTE) TEACHER: Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to approve the recommendation to hire a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teacher – Raven Saper.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms and Speed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION TO HIRE COMPANY TO INSTALL HVAC IN THE GYM: Mrs. Ashley motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey approve the recommendation to hire company to install HVAC in the gym – GRP Wegman for \$453,875 bid.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms and Speed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

ACCEPT THE DONATION FROM WOLLGAST NIGHT: Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mrs. Biros to accept the donation from Wollgast Night of \$2,686 for the GSW basketball program and put towards the shot clocks.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms and Speed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE MEMBERSHIP TO IHSA FOR FY27: Mr. Simms motioned and seconded by Mrs. Biros to approve the Membership to IHSA for FY27.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms and Speed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE TO HIRE A SUPPLEMENTAL BASEBALL COACH: Mrs. Biros motioned and seconded by Mrs. Simms to approve to hire a Supplemental Baseball Coach – Mr. Corey Haynes.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms and Speed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

OTHER(s):

Kori Speed asked why GSW is not registering students to vote and registering 18-year old male students for selective services.

Elli Monferdini-Wilkey discussed the GSW website. She stated that it needs to be updated. There are currently several links that are not working. She asked if this can be addressed and taken care of.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 PM.

AYES: Ashley, Biro, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms and Speed.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

PRESIDENT, TERRY SCHULTZ

SECRETARY, CARLA HUSTON