
BOARD BRIEFS
Highlights of the Regular Meeting
MAY 20, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. James Fair, community member, was present at tonight's meeting to discuss the future of the GSW HS tennis courts. He suggested putting up a field house / four season building where the current tennis courts are located.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Dr. Patrick Halloran, Interim Principal, discussed the following:

- Senior Month in May. One of the new Senior events this school year was a Senior Breakfast where Seniors invited their grandparents or special person to spend the morning in the GSW HS café with them. There were about 50 people present on Wed, May 6th to enjoy this special meal.
- End of the school year – The year ended with a Senior Class Field Trip to Brookfield Zoo and the Annual Senior Picnic at the South Wilmington Firemen's Beach & Park Club.
- Being Interim Principal for GSW HS this school year was an unforgettable experience for him and he is so glad he took this opportunity.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

Mrs. Crystal Aukland, Athletic Director, submitted her report online for board members to read.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT: Mrs. Avery reported on:

- The committee met in April to discuss summer projects and plans. Mrs. Avery, Wally Debelak and Elli Monferdini-Wilkey were the members in attendance at this meeting.
 - Plumbing issues in the 1st floor employee restroom – Wally will work on repairing
 - Smell in the café area – coming from students flushing items down the toilet in the boys' restroom on the 2nd floor. The pipes get backed up and the smell is coming from the slop sink in the boiler room. The sewer gas smell leaks into the café area and Freshmen locker area on the 1st floor.
 - Summer Crew staff – Wally Debelak, John Sippel, Ben Fatlan, Adam Leigh, Paige Przybylski, and Marshall Harris (on maternity leave for the start of summer).
 - Painting in a few rooms
 - Installing new vinyl wood planking flooring in a few rooms.
 - Deep cleaning throughout the school
 - Check List from the Life Safety walk-thru will be started.
 - Wish list to extend the garage to house GSW vehicles
 - Open up / un-lock all building doors during big events so that attendees don't have to walk all the way around the building to get in the front gym doors.
 - 4th floor room – work on fixing up so that the Hope Program can be used for a meeting space.
 - HVAC project – will start next week and hopefully be finished by July 1st
 - Dug Outs – take a look at to find a way to better protect the players inside the dugout area. It is a safety issue, as the wall is too far out on the front of each dugout.
 - Exterior doors by the gym area. These are a safety issue as well. Need to be replaced. Could possibly key fob new doors.
 - Future projects discussed
 - Wish list: New student lockers and turn current tennis courts into Pickleball courts.

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

- Neil Sandburg, Director of Grundy County Special Education Cooperative, is retiring at the end of this school year.

- GSW HS Audit – is scheduled for August 25th with Mack & Associates
- Our new software program is working great. Will be rolling over and completing the first new fiscal year.
- Training – Mrs. Avery and Beth Fatlan will be completing training this summer and reviewing summer payroll.
- Amending Budget – working on for June
- Housing Assessment – GSW HS received \$28,000 from Grundy County Special Education Cooperative for the use of classrooms in our building for the Hope Program students.
- NEW Intergovernmental Agreement with Dwight Township High School for dance team for 2-years.
- District Transformation Work – grant funded project - Thanks for Dr. Halloran. This project started three years ago and Dr. Halloran has been mentoring districts through the process. He has attended six meetings and researched data. This will be free to GSW HS. Dr. Halloran will be a coach/mentor to newly elected incoming Principal Rodney Monbrum.
- Job Postings:
 - PE Position – we have received six applications and interviews to begin next week.
 - English Teacher Position – we have received two applications
 - Strength and Conditioning Coach – Mr. Justin Wharrie applied and interviewed for this position. He will be in the weight room this summer to work with students. Then during the school year, students will still have the opportunity to work with him.
- Gardner Area Band attended Music in the Parks on Saturday, May 16th and took 1st place in our Division. Then the students got to spend time at Six Flags park afterwards enjoying the theme park.
- Count down to the Band Trip to New Orleans. Mrs. Avery will be going with the band.
- Dr. Pat Halloran’s Farewell – Mrs. Avery and the board members thanked him for his services and celebrated with cookies.

BOE MEMBERS REPORTS:

Mrs. Biros and Mrs. Monferdini asked about the early dismissal times for teachers during Final Exams. They also questioned the “remote” Teacher Institute Day. They suggested moving the Teacher Institute Day from the last day of the school year for staff to another day earlier in the school year and utilizing the day for teachers to attend workshops or some sort of professional development.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Accept the resignation of Physical Education Teacher – Mr. Corey Haynes, PE/Health
- Approve to Hire a Summer Secretary – Mrs. Carla Huston
- Approve to Split Spiritline into two teams = Cheer and Dance
- Approve to Name the Cheer Team – Spiritline
- Approve to Name the Dance Team – Pantherettes
- Hire a Cheer Coach – Megan Crater
- Hire a Dance Coach – Haley Jett
- Hire a Summer Strength and Conditioning Coach – Justin Wharrie
- Approve the Intergovernmental Agreement GSW/Dwight Dance Team
- Accept the Donation from Greenfield Township for School Lunch - \$1,000
- Approve the GSW Union Collective Bargaining Agreement for FY27-29
- Approve the Second Reading of Press Policy 121
- Amend Board Policy 2:125
- Amend Student Handbook per Illinois Principal’s Association

OTHERS:

Katy Wepprecht asked about our Varsity Boys baseball player who has hit 9 homeruns already this year. She asked if we could blast that information out to the public, as it is probably a record. Mr. Allan Wills was present

at tonight's meeting and informed her that the student is Reed Millette at Junior at GSW and he thinks it is a record. He is hoping Reed can get a few more by the end of the season.

Janelle Biros asked about our girls' basketball program. GSW will only have 5 or 6 total players next school year. How are we going to build the program to give our girls an opportunity to keep playing? Could we possibly co-op with an area school? Mrs. Avery is looking into options and will discuss the situation with our incoming Principal Monbrum.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

President: Terry Schultz

Vice-President: Kori Speed

Kristen Ashley, Janelle Biros, Elli Monferdini-Wilkey

David Simms & Katy Wepprecht

Superintendent: Mrs. Susan Avery

Interim Principal: Dr. Patrick Halloran