
BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights of the Regular Meeting

OCTOBER 21, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Mr. Rodney Monbrum reported on the following:

- Discipline – minimal so far this school year. Only one In-School Suspension in Quarter 1.
- Senior Open-Campus – if students are failing any class, they can't go off campus for lunch.
- Attendance – letters are being mailed home for 5, 7, 10, and 13-day absences.
- Tardies – our biggest issue is late to school / tardy to 1st hr class for the day.
- Recognition Programs:
 - Staff Spotlight for teachers – highlight one teacher every few weeks
 - Panther Way for students – Friday raffles during lunch hours – students receive gift cards, candy, hats, t-shirts, etc.
- Professional Development:
 - State Mandated On-line training sessions – staff has 13 to complete by winter break.
 - December 9 half-day – staff will spend the afternoon working on a data dive into local testing, school report card, etc.
 - Mr. Pat Halloran has been a mentor to Mr. Monbrum and working with our admin team.
- Weight Room – has been being used after school by students.
- Events:
 - Autumn Ball was held on Sat, Oct. 3. We had around 80 students attend.
 - The Gold Star Bike Event was on Fri, Sept. 25. We had 50-60 bicyclists, including adults and students from Poland, arrive at GSW as one of their rest stops. They ride in honor of fallen veterans. The students and staff greeted and interacted with the riders for about an hour.
- School Branding – Mr. Monbrum is working on cleaning up the commons area / gym entry area. He is looking at wrapping gym doors, band doors, concession area, ticket booth area, etc. using school colors and logos.
- Rocket Board – TV monitor being placed inside the trophy case by the gym entry doors. This is an interactive, touch screen TV monitor that will display GSW athletics, clubs, events, faculty & staff, alumni hall of fame and much more.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

Mrs. Chris Ruddy, Student Services Director, submitted her report to board members on-line:

- GSW won first place for the largest number of students enrolled at JJC from a small school.
- Parent Information Sessions were held during PT conferences on the following topics. 1-2 parents attended each session.
 - College 101, a new dual credit course. JJC announced this will run in the fall of 2027 and will be open to Juniors and Seniors
 - JJC admissions information session
 - Financial Aid planning for college and the FAFSA
- 18 students (Juniors) took the PSAT/NMSQT. We are waiting on scores and hope a few of our students are National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists. This test will also be used for JJC dual credit placement.
- Health Exclusions occurred on October 15th. As of October 21, at 8:00 am we have one student that is excluded. The parent is aware they may return to school with proof of an upcoming appointment or religious exemption.

Mrs. Crystal Aukland submitted her Athletic Director's Report to board members on-line. Principal Monbrum highlighted a few items:

- Golf has ended. The boys had a great season. Golf awards still TBD.
- Boys Soccer Senior Night was held on Sept. 29 with three GSW students being honored.
- Volleyball Senior Night will be held on Thurs, Oct. 22 with six seniors being honored.
- Dance Team / Pantherettes marched in the Corn Festival Parade on Sept. 27 and performed during the JV half-time at the Dwight home football game on Mon, Oct. 12. Their competition season starts on Oct. 26.
- Cheer Team / Spiritline – new uniforms have been ordered.
- Princess Party Fundraiser being held on Sat, Nov. 7th from 1 – 4 PM for 3-yr olds to 8th graders at GSW HS. The event is being sponsored by both Pantherettes & Spiritline teams.
- Winter Sports:
 - Senior Banners - pictures for Girls' Basketball, Boys' Basketball and Band will be taken by J7 after school on Oct. 22.
 - Team pictures will be taken by J7 on Monday, Nov. 16.
 - Orange & Black Night will be held on Sat, Nov. 14.
- GSW HS Website – Athletics Tab has been updated
- Rocket App – announcement will go out the public once we have our new TV monitor up and running.
- Volleyball Regionals – GSW HS is hosting Regionals next week (Oct. 26 – 29)

BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT:

Mrs. Avery reviewed this report with board members.

- Wally Debelak fixed / cleaned out the grease trap, and now the foul odor is completely gone. He had to dig up and replace a lot of original pipe with new PVC.
- Fence quotes – we received a 2nd quote and are still waiting on one more to come. We will then have three total quotes before making a final decision on the baseball fencing.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mrs. Avery discussed this report with board members:

- Triple I Conference in Chicago (Annual Board Convention for all members) in November.
- Early Levy Workshop – Mrs. Avery attended and has completed the tentative Levy for next month.
- Marquee – we had an issue on the west side of the board with a few panels out. Repairs are scheduled.
- GAVC Open House was held on Thurs. night, Oct. 8
- FCA Group – Mrs. Avery discussed her legal findings about this particular group and the legal end of verbiage. It has to be student led, and any announcements need to be handled by students. GSW does have a few students going to an upcoming training session.
- School Report Card – this data will be released to the public soon. GSW will be taking a deep dive into this data. We will see what we are doing well and what we need to improve on. We do know that our math scores are up and our ELA needs improvement. GSW did go up / improve in this category this time.
- ISBE training for the Admin team – learn about School Report Cards and how numbers are determined.

BOE MEMBERS REPORTS:

Board member Kristen Ashley asked about our tennis courts. Are we still planning to turn them into Pickleball Courts? Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey mentioned we might need that area for more parking in the future, if we plan to build a field house across the street on our newly purchased land. Mrs. Avery suggested waiting on our new investment to see what happens. Board members also discussed fixing the existing bench by the tennis courts or replacing it with a new concrete bench.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Approve the FY27 Seniority List – per PERA and done annually
- Approve Snow Removal Company for 26-27 school year – Fatlan Trucking
- Approve to apply for Maintenance Grant

BOARD OF EDUCATION

President: Terry Schultz

Vice-President: Kori Speed

Kristen Ashley, Timothy Harvey, Elli Monferdini-Wilkey

David Simms & Katy Wepprecht

Superintendent: Mrs. Susan Avery

Principal Elect: Mr. Rodney Monbrum