GARDNER-SO. WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
GARDNER, IL 60424

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 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 7:11 p.m. by President, Mrs. Terry Schultz.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Ashley, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht. Also in attendance was Superintendent Mrs. Sue Avery and Principal Mr. Rodney Monbrum. All members were present "in person."

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

SWEARING IN AND SEATING OF NEW APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER: The President swore in the newly appointed board member, Mr. Timothy Harvey. The oath was read. Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to appoint Timothy Harvey as new board member.
AYES: Ashley, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Wepprecht to approve the meeting minutes for the month of *August*: (August 19, 2026 Regular Meeting and Closed Session minutes) and bills for the month of *September* and payroll for the month of *August* and Financial Reports for the month of *August*.
AYES: Ashley, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht.
ABSTAIN: Harvey
MOTION CARRIED: 5-0.

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Principal's Report:
Mr. Rodney Monbrum reported on the following:

- Smooth start to the school year with minimal discipline. We had a few reports from the bus company regarding crazy drivers in our parking lot. This issue was addressed with students.
- Open Campus for Seniors – if they have a failing grade, this privilege is taken away until they are passing or have disciplinary action.
- Attendance Letters – will be mailed out at 5, 7, 10 and 13 days absent. Will be working with the Grundy County Truancy officer.
- Creating a positive environment this school year for faculty, staff and our students. Panther Way Coupons will be given out by teachers to recognize students. These coupons will be collected in boxes in the cafeteria and winners will be drawn during both lunches every Friday. Student winners will receive gift cards, spirit wear, etc. as prizes.
- Panther Torch – teachers will pass it around to each other throughout the school year. Mr. Adam Leigh received it first from Mr. Monbrum, and it has since been passed to Mr. Allan Wills and Mrs. Rebecca Ridgway.
- Staff Spotlight – to introduce new staff / teachers this school year.

- Theme this year is WIN THE DAY. Bracelets were distributed to all students, faculty and staff during our back to school assembly. Trying to create a positive culture this school year. There is a WIN board in the staff lounge for staff to share daily WINS in our school.
- Professional Development – Wed, Sept. 9th during our half-day. Our school resource officer, Dept. Josh Slattery, presented on school safety.
- Plan Book – some of our staff is currently using this program. By January 2027 it will be mandatory for ALL staff to be using it.
- Weight Room – is now open 3 days a week after school for students / athletes. Mr. Wharrie and Mr. Johnston are splitting the supervision duties.
- Gardner Area Band – will be performing this Sat, Sept. 19th for Band Day at the University of Illinois in Champaign during the football game. They will also be marching in the Harvest Days Parade on Sunday, Sept. 20th in Dwight and in the Morris Corn Festival Parade on Sunday, Sept. 27th.
- Field Trip for Juniors and Seniors – Tues, Sept. 24th GSW will be taking our students over to Coal City High School for their College and Career Day.
- Spanish Class will be going on a field trip to Chicago.
- Gold Star 500 – this group will be stopping by GSW on Friday, Sept. 25th during their 500-mile bicycle journey on Route 66. They will be at GSW for about 30-mins for a water break and to visit with our students. They have scholarship opportunities that our Senior students can apply for.

Directors' Reports:

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

- Fall sports are under way and going good: Volleyball, Boys soccer with Reed-Custer, Cross Country with Dwight, and Golf with Dwight.
- Our Pantherettes dance team is performing at Band Day on Saturday, Sept. 19th at U of I. They will also be performing on Monday, Oct. 12th in Dwight during the JV football game.
- IHSA has recognized and approved our Girls Basketball co-op with Tri-Point High School. Open gyms have started and are going great. We may have enough girls participating to have both JV and Varsity teams this year.
- Hall of Fame – application deadline has been extended to November 1st. We are looking forward to receiving applications for review. The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is planned for January 29, 2027 during a home basketball game.

Mrs. Chris Ruddy, Student Services Director, was present at tonight's meeting to discuss:

- Health Exclusions will take place on October 15. All freshman must have a current physical exam and immunization record on file. All seniors must have a current meningitis vaccine on file. Students that do not meet requirement will be sent home on Oct. 15.
- Testing updates:
    - All 9-11 grade students will take MAP math, reading, and language arts tests the first 2 weeks of October.
    - All juniors can sign up for the PSAT/NMSQT until September 23rd, the district covers the cost. This is the best way for students to qualify for dual credit English and Math during senior year. The test will take place on October 14th from 8am - 11am. This is the test that enters students into the National Merit Scholarship Competition.

- Class of 2027: Senior meetings are almost complete. Students received a copy of their transcript, graduation information, and a college checklist. The cap & gown graduation assembly was held on Sept. 10 with Jostens. Transcripts can be sent to multiple schools for free for all seniors until July 1st.
- College Events:
    - Juniors and seniors will visit Coal City HS for their college and career fair on sept. 24.
    - JJC will be presenting a half hour presentation during PT conferences on October 7th at 5pm for 30 minutes. JJC will share information about what they have to offer, support services, and paying for college.
    - Illinois Student Assistance Commission is working on a presentation for parent teacher conference night at 5:30pm on the topic of 'College 101'.
    - JJC admissions reps will be at GSW to help students complete their JJC application. Students can sign up for this free event taking place during 4th hour on November 4th
    - Scholarships will be updated on the GSW website as we get closer to the holidays.
    - Mrs. Ruddy attended a free training by U of I to learn how admissions reps make decisions and the admissions process from behind the scenes on Oct. 15.
- Dual Credit Course - We are offering the same dual credit courses as last year. Data science, MAT127, ENG101 and ENG102. All dual credit students have been successfully registered, this is a very complicated task that our teachers, Mrs. Boaz, and Mr. Fatlan, take on to ensure our students get JJC credit.

Building and Grounds Report:
Mrs. Avery reviewed this report with board members.

- Fire Alarms – were tested last week.
- Baseball Fencing – still gathering quotes.
- Rocket Digital Solutions – Mrs. Avery is recommending to purchase this digital showcase for GSW HS. This touch screen interactive monitor will be displayed in the gym hallway. A team of employees will submit our school data to the company. The company uploads data to the monitor. Athletic Boosters and GSW will split the cost. It is approximately a $3,000 per year subscription. The information on the digital display will also be on the website for no extra charge.

Superintendent's Report:
Mrs. Avery discussed this report with board members:

- Triple I Conference in Chicago (Annual Board Convention for all members) in November: Still waiting on confirmation of hotel rooms. In the planning process for Saturday night group dinner.
- IASB Workshop with Board Members – date to be determined
- Illinois Central School Bus Company – extended contract with a 3% increase annually until 2031
- Investment Company for district funds – Studio Invest Calmly

BOE Members Reports: None.

AUDIT PRESENTATION:

Lori Pope with Mack & Associates, PC was present at tonight's meeting to review our Annual Audit. She informed the board that the audit was performed for FY ending June 30, 2026. She thanked Mrs. Avery and Beth Fatlan for a great audit year. She saw significant improvement, and stated there was a smooth software transition. The audit was pushed back a little to September this year, and she is hoping for July or Aug. next year. She stated that Craig at the Englert Group is a great resource and that he is a tremendous asset. Having an outside company looking in with a 2nd pair of eyes is the best control to have over financials. GSW has controls set in place. Financial statements were discussed and all funds and end balances were reviewed. GSW has a "healthy fund balance." There are no Audit findings this fiscal year.

ACTION ITEMS:

APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 DISTICT BUDGET: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 District Budget, as presented during the budget hearing.
AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 TEACHER / ADMINISTRATION COMPENSATION REPORT: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Wepprecht to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Teacher / Administration Compensation Report.
AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF BOARD POLICY 122: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve the Second Reading of Board Policy 122, per IASB as presented.
AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE FY27 REVISED BULLYING & HARASSMENT POLICY: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Wepprecht to approve the FY27 revised Bullying & Harassment Policy, per ISBE.
AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE ENGLERT GROUP CONTRACT FOR FY27: Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to approve the Englert Group Contract for FY27.
AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE MENTORS FOR NEW TEACHERS: Mrs. Ashley motioned and seconded by Mrs. Schultz to approve the mentors for new teachers – Mrs. Patricia Boaz and Ms. Angel Dallio.
AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE INVESTMENT COMPANY FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FUNDS: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Wepprecht to approve the Investment Company for the school district funds – Studio Invest Calmly.
AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE ROCKET SOLUTIONS: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve Rocket Solutions Digital Alumni Showcase.
AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE BUS CONTRACT: Mrs. Wepprecht motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to approve the Bus Contract with Illinois Central School Bus Company – extended contract with 3% increases until 2031.
AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

OTHER: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 PM.
AYES: Ashley, Harvey, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

PRESIDENT, TERRY SCHULTZ

SECRETARY, CARLA HUSTON