

# **GARDNER – SO. WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #73**

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## **BOARD BRIEFS**

### **Highlights of the Regular Meeting**

### **December 15, 2010**

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#### **BOARD POLICIES**

Dr. Decman reviewed a summary of the board policies. He plans to ask for approval of the changes/revisions to these policies in the action items.

#### **LUNCH ANALYSIS**

Each board member received an analysis of our Lunch Program per request. Chris Moeller, bookkeeper, gathered this information, so that Dr. Decman could present it to the BOE. We have provided as much information about our lunch/breakfast program that we can at this point in the year. The problem with a mid-year analysis is that there are too many variables to compare one year to another until the end of the year. (State money comes in at different times, student money on their account varies, goods purchased varies from month to month, etc...). We learned that we are serving a lot more state meals than a la carte meals this year. We also have several more Free/Reduced students than last year.

#### **AIR QUALITY ISSUES**

Dr. Decman informed the BOE that Walter Debelak is making tremendous progress in improving the air quality at GSW HS. He has found two pipes that have cracks in them and that were leaking some form of gas (most likely methane). Wally has replaced one of the pipes (approx 3 feet long cracked pipe) and is planning on fixing/replacing the other one as soon as possible. By replacing the first pipe, there is a noticeable absence of sewer-like smell in some rooms. Dr. Decman firmly believes that we are beginning to make some substantial progress with this issue.

#### **ATHLETIC CO-OP**

Dr. Decman was unofficially informed that Dwight HS will be altering our athletic co-operative agreement in some way, shape or form in the 2012-2013 school year. At the minimum, our football co-operative with Dwight seems to be in serious jeopardy. As a result, GSW HS will be looking at possible agreements with other schools to see if we can provide opportunities for our students.

#### **IASB CONVENTION**

Each board member discussed at least one or two of the sessions they attended at the Board Convention that was held in Chicago on November 19, 20 and 21, 2010. They provided information and handouts to the other members.

#### **DISTRICT #73** **OPINION SURVEY**

Dr. Decman has developed a survey that he would like to send to the entire school community. He asked the BOE to take a look at it and give their opinion on the survey. He plans on using the results of this survey to help develop a Strategic Plan for the District in cooperation with the BOE, faculty, students and the community.

## **TEACHER EVALUATION INSTRUMENT**

The “revised” Teacher Evaluation Instrument was distributed to the board members. Dr. Decman, Kris Spiezio and a few of the teachers have spent many hours trying to revise this instrument, so that it would include more specifics for teachers on how to obtain an “excellent” rating. This item was TABLED - waiting for teacher’s approval.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- Approval of the new Teacher Evaluation Instrument – TABLED
- Approval of the 2011 Tax Levy as presented
- Approval of July/August 2010 Board Policy Revisions
- Cancel 2<sup>nd</sup> Board of Education meeting for the month of December

## **Superintendent Information Items:**

- Legislative Up-Date -- Dr. Decman gave the BOE an up-date of some of the latest legislative news.
- Thank You Notes -- Dr. Decman shared with the BOE a couple of “thank you” notes from the family of Sue Howe for flowers (former GAVC secretary who recently passed) and Heartland Blood Center for having a blood drive at GSW HS.
- Faculty/Staff Christmas Bonuses – Gift Cards from Berkot’s – The BOE approved the purchase of gift cards to be given to faculty and staff for Christmas.
- Up-Date on Lighting Grant/Project – Dr. Decman reviewed information how the recently received “Electric Efficiency” grant for \$20, 043 will be spent. Specifically, \$9, 459 will be spent on the installation (20) occupancy sensors (this equipment automatically turns off the lights after a certain period of time). In addition to this, \$12, 208 will be spent for the installation of Accoustical Ceiling Tiles and new lighting for the hallways in the entire second floor of the building. Not all the costs mentioned above will be paid by the grant but a good portion of the work will be re-imbursed by the grant.
- Board & Administrator Notes – Dr. Decman gave the BOE the latest edition of this periodical.
- School Improvement Plan -- Dr. Decman will be going to Joliet next week to the Professional Development Alliance with a group of teachers to work on the state mandated school improvement plan. Dr. Decman hopes to have a completed plan by the end of the day. He is planning on bringing the up-dated plan to the BOE at the January meeting.
- Strategic Plan for GSW HS -- Dr. Decman will be meeting with the teachers during the next Institute Day to discuss the GSW HS mission/vision statements and core values of our teachers. It is his hope to bring this information back to the BOE, so they can then develop a Strategic Plan for the District. (Part of this plan will include the sending of a survey to community members, teachers and even students to determine their respective thoughts and opinions on a variety of issues).

- Next Year's Tax Levy -- Dr. Decman discussed next year's tax levy with the BOE. Dr. Decman informed the BOE that GSW HS's tax rate will be lowered approximately \$.03 (3 cents). The BOE officially recognized at the meeting that during these trying times that all taxing bodies (especially schools) need to budget wisely and return excess funds to the taxpayer(s), hence the approximately \$.03 (3 cents) reduction in the tax rate. In addition to this, Dr. Decman confirmed that even with the proposed sale of new bonds the tax rate WILL NOT INCREASE.
- **Energy Audit/School Dismissal/Proposed Bonds** -- Dr. Decman reviewed with the BOE some of the findings of the most recent energy savings audit. Specifically, it was suggested by both representatives from Chevron and Honeywell that the District needs to do the following in order to become more energy efficient and thus save money in the future: install double-paned windows throughout the building, look at replacing and/or up-dating the roof, seriously look at installing energy efficient heating/cooling systems and to look at the installation of entryways on all the major entrances.

In addition to this, Dr. Decman reiterated to the BOE some of the other major needs: gym bleachers will need to be replaced soon, the gym floor will need to be replaced soon, there currently is no "Male" faculty restroom in the entire school, if it is the BOE's desire to re-institute a Family and Consumer Science program there would be a need for additional classroom space, there is an extreme need to replace the existing pipes as many of them are breaking/bursting (many of these pipes are in the 1920 part of the building).

Dr. Decman also stated that a major part of the GSW HS building was built in 1920. This part of the building is in DIRE need of some renovations and up-dates to get it up to speed. The newest part of the building was built in 1964 (46 years old) and also needs some up-dates, but not to the extent that the 1920 part of the building does. In order to this, Dr. Decman reiterated to the BOE that we are going to need funds. Otherwise, we may have to dismiss school much more frequently due to problems in the building. Specifically, the school was cancelled on Tuesday due to the inability to properly heat the building because the boiler was not working and many of the pipes connected to the boiler were filled with "sediment and gook" from almost 90 years of use.

Finally, Dr. Decman told the BOE, not having heat in some rooms is unacceptable and that we can not allow our children to be in this environment. We need to fix these areas ASAP and this is why a Working Cash Bond is vital to GSW HS.

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

President: David Doglio

Vice-President: Chris Irvin

Pamela Brooks, Ed Fellows, Cindy Gerber,

Craig Male, Rita Wright

Principal: Kristine L. Spiezio

Superintendent: Dr. Richard Decman