

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

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## **BOARD BRIEFS**

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

### **September 15, 2010**

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#### **AUDIT REVIEW**

Janet L. Brown, certified public accountant, was present to review GSW High School's financial situation from the 2009 fiscal year via the audit that was conducted this past August. There were no major findings in the audit.

#### **ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS**

Dr. Decman reviewed the enrollment projections for the next 9-10 years. After a brief analysis of these figures, we can see that our enrollment is going to hit a low of 193 in 2011 and then again in 2014 before we start increasing to a high of 234 in 2018. It looks like the next 3-4 years will be tough before we begin growing again. However, Dr. Decman highlighted that these numbers do fluctuate greatly due to the high percentage of transition that we have in our feeder communities.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> READING – BOARD POLICIES**

A summary of these policies was given to each Board Member. Since it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, these policies will be approved at tonight's meeting.

#### **MANDATORY SUMMER SCHOOL PLAN**

We created the concept of mandatory summer school for students who do not reach a minimum criterion of the PLAN and EXPLORE tests. These two tests are given in the Spring of every year to our Freshmen and Sophomores. We are estimating that this mandatory summer school will affect between 20-40 students. Dr. Decman sent out an ALERT NOW, wrote a letter to parents, posted an explanation of this plan on our website and even created his first and second blogs to elicit parent and community comments. At this point, he has received only a couple of comments.

#### **TAX BONDS**

Dr. Decman was contacted by our Bonds salesman, David Pistorius. David notified him that if we want to keep our tax rate stable, that we need to strongly consider levying tax bonds in the next couple of months. However, in order to levy for additional bonds, we must spend or transfer the money to the Education Fund from the bonds we levied a few years ago. Several ideas and issues were presented. Some of the highlights of the discussion included: how much money GSW High School should put into the current building, whether or not GSW should start putting facilities on the recently purchased land or whether GSW should save the money for future use.

#### **TIF UP-DATE**

Dr. Decman received a call from our attorney stating that he has spoken with Dick Hileman, Village Commissioner, and that we are very close to having an agreement. Our attorney's next step is to contact the attorney for the Village of Gardner to "iron out" the last details of the agreement.

#### **PSAE/ISAT DIFFERENCES**

Students in Grades 3-8 take a State test called the ISAT. In high school, students take a mandated National test called the ACT/PSAE. Dr. Decman highlighted some of the differences between the test to answer the question as to why it seems students in our grade schools score very well

on the ISAT, but not as well on the PSAT/ACT. Specifically, Dr. Decman informed the BOE that when the 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Braceville, Gardner and South Wilmington were given the EXPLORE test (which is a practice test for 8-9<sup>th</sup> graders for the ACT) last November, they did not score as well as they did on the ISAT. As a result, Dr. Decman is hoping to work closely with the Grade Schools to better prepare our students to be successful on the ACT.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- Approval of the Board Policy revisions, as listed.
- Approval of the FY 2011 Budget, as presented.
- Approval of Mandatory Summer School for all students who do not meet minimum criterion on the EXPLORE and PLAN tests.
- Approval of Jennifer Wzorek's request for two "personal days." These days will be considered "dock days."
- Approval of Cassie Bexson as volunteer Assistant Softball Coach for the 2011 season.
- Approval of the revised 403 B Plan – added a vendor (Midland Insurance)
- Approval of the employment of Aaron Henrickson as Fall and Spring Play Director for the 2010-2011 school year.
- Cancel 2<sup>nd</sup> Board of Education meeting for the month of September
- Approval of the Annual Audit, as presented by Janet L. Brown.

### **Superintendent Information Items:**

- Legislative Up-Date = Dr. Decman reviewed the latest information from the State & Federal governments concerning education.
- Wind Power Article = Dr. Decman provided the BOE w/an article that demonstrated how many school districts in the State are putting up wind mills to save on energy costs.
- Workforce, college require the same reading skills article
- Certificate of Financial Recognition from ISBE for maintaining excellent financial records and a balanced budget.
- Thank You Note from the "Gardner Angels" for allowing their group to use the Panther Bus and supporting their event this summer.
- Mineral Rights on our recently purchased property = GSW has received the "mineral rights" on the recently purchased property.
- Bus Routes shared with GGS = GSW has been informed that GGS is no longer going to share any regular routes with high school. This will increase the high school transportation costs approximately \$12,000 a year.
- Board & Administrator Notes

### **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