

GARDNER-SO. WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
GARDNER, IL 60424

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 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 7:00 p.m. by President, Mrs. Terry Schultz.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht. Also in attendance was Superintendent Mrs. Sue Avery and Interim Principal Dr. Patrick Halloran. All members were present “in person.”

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at tonight’s meeting.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Mrs. Wepprecht motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to approve the meeting minutes for the month of *March*: (March 18, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes) and bills for the month of *April* and payroll for the month of *March* and Financial Reports for the month of *March*.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Principal’s Report: Dr. Patrick Halloran, Interim Principal, discussed the following:

- Senior Month – Mr. Halloran met with seniors to discuss plans for the month of May. Each school day in May will be a special event for seniors up until graduation.
- Mr. Monbrum, Principal elect, was at GSW HS today (Wed, April 15th) to meet with students and staff.
- Academic Awards Night will be held on Wed, April 22nd at 5:30 PM in the gym.

Directors’ Reports:

Mrs. Chris Ruddy, Student Services Coordinator, was present to discuss:

- 7th and 8th grade placement testing – Mrs. Ruddy has been testing students to place them in 8th Grade Algebra Class at GSW HS and determining Freshman Math classes.
- Rhythm of our Youth Heart Screening was held at GSW on April 8th. We had many students tested that day.
- Erin’s Law Presentations – scheduled for Freshman and Senior Classes on Wed, April 15th and Sophomore and Junior Classes on Thurs, April 16th in the library. This is state mandated for all students.
- JJC Placement testing was held on April 14 at GSW HS
- Visits to our three feeder schools to meet with 8th graders to choose classes for next school year.
- Academic Awards Night is being held on April 22nd at 5:30 PM in the GSW HS gym.
- Pre-ACT and ACT testing day at GSW HS is Friday, April 24th. Freshman, Sophomores and Juniors will be tested. Seniors will not be in attendance that day.
- JJC Dual Credit classes – Mrs. Ruddy is on the committee at JJC. They gave her a flyer showing how many dual credit classes were offered at GSW, how many credit hours were obtained by GSW students and how much money was saved by parents.

Mrs. Crystal Aukland, Athletic Director, was present to report on:

- Signing Day for Gavin Bafia was held on March 26th at 3:30 PM in the GSW HS café. Family and friends celebrated Gavin signing with Augustana College for wrestling.
- Spring Sports are underway. Due to the weather, we have had a few baseball & softball games and track meets cancelled or rescheduled.
- Softball Senior Night and Baseball Senior Night will both be held on the same night – May 12.
- Track Senior Night will be held on April 22nd in Dwight.
- Trap Team Senior Night will be held on Sunday night, April 26 in Diamond at the Trap facility.
- GSW Math Team goes to State at ISU in Bloomington on Sat, April 18
- Sports Co-op with Dwight Township High School – discussed Spiritline team. An IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) was developed and is waiting for approval from both boards.
- Coaches needed for next school year – Girls' JV Coach and Spiritline Head Coach. A Spiritline Assistant Coach would be hired after we find a Head Coach.
- SNAP Athletics – currently working with a Rep to be ready for GSW to utilize next school year.
- Batting Cages – project is in the works. Getting a permit, fencing has been ordered (Sports Boosters is purchasing) and several items are being donated by local companies and community members.

Building and Grounds Report: Mrs. Avery reported that they are still waiting to schedule their annual meeting due to schedules. The Building and Grounds Committee consists of four members – Mrs. Avery, Mr. Wally Debelak, Ellie Monferdini-Wilkey and David Simms.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Avery presented on the following:

- HVAC contract has been signed. Mrs. Avery will be meeting with the Project Manager to discuss details. This will be a summer project.
- The GSW gym will not be closed this summer. We can still hold open-gyms, camps, etc.
- Dwight IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) for Spiritline team – Mrs. Avery and GSW Athletic Director, Crystal Aukland, met with Dwight's Superintendent, Mr. Josh DeLong, to discuss details. The schools will share transportation, Dwight will keep their own Cheer Team, any Dwight students that want to join the GSW Spiritline dance team may join the co-op, and GSW will host the team and hire a coach and assistant coach. GSW board members discussed splitting the Spiritline team into two separate sports – a cheer team and a dance team. They want to distribute a survey to all students to get a count to see if we would have enough interest to split into two separate sports teams. The board agreed to table the IGA at this time.
- Job postings for coaches – JV Girls' basketball coach, Spiritline Head Coach and Weight Room supervisor. This new position would be paid as a coach stipend and would start next school year. Our weight room would be open to students a few days a week during after-school hours.
- FY27 Board Meeting Dates were reviewed
- Dr. Halloran will mentor Principal elect, Mr. Rodney Monbrum, to help him transition into his new role next school year. Dr. Halloran is also involved with District Transformation work. It is a state-wide initiative, and he is working with GSW, GGS and CCHS.

BOE Members Reports: None at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Upon the recommendation of the President, Mrs. Terry Schultz, Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Biros to go into closed session at 7:45 p.m. for the purpose of considering information regarding employment contracts or any matter permissible under the open meetings act.

2:220-E2

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

ADJOURN CLOSED AND RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to adjourn executive session and return to regular session at 8:32 p.m.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

ACTION ITEMS:

APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION TO HIRE A SUMMER CUSTODIAN: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve the recommendation to hire a Summer Custodian – Ben Fatlan.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION TO HIRE A SUMMER CUSTODIAN: Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to approve the recommendation to hire a Summer Custodian -Marshell Harris.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE IGA WITH DWIGHT TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL FOR FY27 AND FY28
SPIRITLINE: TABLED

APPROVE THE FY26 BOARD MEETING DATES: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve the FY26 Board Meeting Dates, as presented.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE FY27 NON-CERTIFIED STAFF RAISES: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve the FY27 Non-Certified Staff Raises, as presented.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF PRESS POLICY 121: Mrs. Wepprecht motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to approve the First Reading of Press Policy 121.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

OTHER(s):

Janelle Biros asked about our \$35.00 per sports fee at GSW HS. She asked if any other schools charged a sports fee?

Janelle Biros asked about the Student of the Month. Can GSW bring that back? Mrs. Avery stated that we will implement that program again next school year with our new Principal.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Ashley motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 PM.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Speed and Wepprecht.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

PRESIDENT, TERRY SCHULTZ

SECRETARY, CARLA HUSTON