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## BOARD BRIEFS

### *Highlights of the Regular Meeting*

### AUGUST 19, 2026

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**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

Mr. Rodney Monbrum reported on the following:

- Thank you to the GSW Board and interview committee for hiring him. It has been a smooth transition. Mrs. Avery has been a great mentor.
- Find Your Way Day was held on Thurs, Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> for freshman and any new students.
- Freshman Orientation was held on Thurs, Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7 pm. We had a great turnout.
- Teacher Institute Days were held Thurs, Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> and Friday, Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>.
- On Friday our GSW administration and teachers went to Gardner Grade School to listen to a guest speaker Dr. Kelly Stewart. The topic was Energy Bus and Positivity. Mr. Monbrum is going to incorporate this message all school year to our staff.
- First day of school – our faculty and staff dressed for success and greeted our students for the new school year. Mr. Monbrum played music in the doorway and then in the hallway for our students to enjoy. It was a good start to the new school year.
- Back to School Assembly will be held this Friday, Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 PM in the gym.

**DIRECTORS' REPORTS:**

Mrs. Crystal Aukland was present to discuss her Athletic Director's Report to board members:

- Fall sports season has begun. Boys golf, boys soccer, cross-country and volleyball.
- Parent meetings have been held for Cheer, Dance and Volleyball.
- Volleyball games start next week with our first game away at Lexington on Monday, Aug. 24 at 5:30 PM.
- The GSW Pantherettes Dance Team is working on parade routines for the upcoming fall parades.
- A Coaches meeting was held on Tues, Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> with all head coaches, Athletic Director Aukland and Principal Monbrum.
- SNAP – new software program / APP we are using this school year. We are still adding sports calendars and information to our GSW HS Website, along with SNAP. There is a link for SNAP on our GSW Website. Volleyball, Dance and Cheer can register now.
- Athletics sections on our website is being updated.
- Girls' Basketball –They have started open-gyms.
- Rocket Presentation – Software platform that would be a GSW platform and website for athletics, academics, clubs, band, Hall of Fame, and alumni records and achievements. We would purchase a monitor to display in the gym hallway. There would be a one-time cost for the monitor. We would pay an annual fee for the platform. Total cost for the first year would be approximately \$6,000 and then \$3,500 per year after. This is an interactive site, touch-screen and has a user friendly display. Athletic Boosters, Sports Athletic Funds and Band Boosters would split the cost. Mrs. Avery has asked band boosters if they would be willing to donate as well.

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT:**

Mrs. Avery reviewed this report with board members.

- Building is looking good for the start of the school year. Summer projects are finishing up.
- Power issues – back-up generator problems. Need to repair or purchase a new one.
- Sewer smell - Cap-off pipes on the east side of the building.
- Fire Alarm issues / internet issues – Johnson Controls was here to fix

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Mrs. Avery discussed this report with board members:

- Tentative Budget was reviewed and the Final Budget will be approved next month at our September meeting. Beginning fund balances were discussed, and the Tort/Liability end balance will show a negative. To offset this there will be a fund balance transfer. These tentative numbers may change slightly before the Sept. meeting.
- Threat Assessment Plan – reviewed and approved annually.
- Englert Group – we will approve to re-hire (1-year contract) at the Sept. meeting. Craig has helped tremendously with our audits, new software, and financial situation.
- GSW has been getting ready for our upcoming audit.
- Maintenance Grant – Mrs. Avery would like to apply for this again
- Ceiling Project – this is still on the Wish List for GSW. Mrs. Avery would like to make the Panther Dome a reality with an open ceiling in the gymnasium. We have a drawing sketched out.
- Working Cash Bonds – Health Life Safety Bonds – can we use to fix our boiler system
- ROE Compliance Visit will be completed this school year.
- Feasibility Study on School Consolidation – ISBE Grant – Informational
- Special Education Cooperative Compliance Visit – to review IEP files at GSW HS
- Illinois Central School Bus Company – we are getting an extension on our contract to be approved at our Sept. meeting. There is an increase, but it is now a lower rate increase.
- Sale of Property – GSW has closed on all documents. We have sold our existing property/land and now own the property/land across the street from our high school.
- We are looking at two different companies to invest our money from the property sale & trade. These are investment companies who work specifically with schools. We may move money into a liquid asset fund.
- HVAC update – the exterior hoods on our roof top will be install in Sept. The grills inside the unit will also be installed in Sept. The air in the gym will be on from 6:00 am until 4:00 pm and set on a schedule. We can adjust the times when we host a sporting event. Wally and Adam have been trained, and Sue and Rodney will be trained soon.

### **BOE MEMBERS REPORTS:**

Elli Monferdini-Wilkey asked about the sewer smell inside the school. Is it a Health/Life Safety issue? Mrs. Avery informed the board that Wally has fixed the internal issue, but is still working on the external smell.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- Accept the Resignation of Math Teacher – Mrs. Nicole Leigh
- Affirm the recommendation to hire a Full-Time Substitute Teacher for Math – Mr. Baily Fatlan
- Approve the recommendation to hire School Strength and Conditioning Coaches – Mr. Justin Wharrie and Mr. Gavin Johnston – will split the stipend for this role
- Accept the Resignation of a Board Member – Mrs. Janelle Biros
- Affirm the recommendation to hire a Head Girls' Basketball Coach – Mrs. Janelle Biros
- Approve the Threat Assessment Plan and Protocols for FY27 – reviewed annually
- Approve the Public Hearing for the FY2027 Budget – September 16, 2026 a 7:00 pm
- Approve the First Reading of Press Plus Policy 122 – as presented by IASA
- Approve the recommendation for the FY27 assignment of the Class Sponsors: Freshmen-Patricia Boaz, Sophomores-Angel Dallio, Juniors-Jillian Wills and Seniors-Dani Diamond.
- Affirm the recommendation for assignment of teacher mentors for new teachers: Allan Wills, Jen Arrambide and Justin Wharrie.
- Approve to apply for the School Maintenance Project Grant

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

President: Terry Schultz

Vice-President: Kori Speed

Kristen Ashley, Janelle Biros, Elli Monferdini-Wilkey

David Simms & Katy Wepprecht

Superintendent: Mrs. Susan Avery

Principal Elect: Mr. Rodney Monbrum