

**GARDNER-SO. WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
GARDNER, IL 60424**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF AUGUST 20, 2025
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, Simms, Speed and Wepprecht. Also in attendance were Superintendent Mrs. Sue Avery and Principal Mr. Andrew Johnson. All members were present “in person.”

PUBLIC COMMENT: We had several community members and faculty/staff in attendance at tonight’s meeting to discuss sports & coaching. The following individuals publicly addressed the board – Sarah Halpin, Scott Halpin, Scott Grimes, Jillian Wills, Susan Heerd, Terese Kukman, Jim Lesaik, Pete Millette, Rick Enerson and Jen Arrambide.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Wepprecht to approve the meeting minutes for the month of *June*: (June 18, 2025 Budget Amendment Hearing, Regular Meeting minutes and Closed Session minutes) and bills for the month of *August* and payroll for the month of *June & July* and Financial Reports for the month of *June & July*.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Principal’s Report: Mr. Andrew Johnson, Principal, reported on:

- Theme for this year is – Ignite the Spark, Illuminate the Future.
- Teacher Institute Days – Aug. 11 and Aug. 12.
- Staff reviewed new procedures in Teacher Ease
- New staff members this year – Andrew Johnson, Crystal Aukland, Travis Duley, Corey Haynes, Danielle Diamond, Kathy O’Hagan, Cole Westmoreland, and Jan Lestina.
- Find Your Way Day – Aug. 7 and Freshman Orientation – Aug. 11
- First day of school – Aug. 13 – went well. Freshman class received their Chromebooks. Seniors discussed Open Campus for lunch.
- Aug. 14 – School photos and bus evacuations were completed.

Director’s Report:

Chris Ruddy, Director of Student Services, submitted her report on-line to board members reviewing the start of the new school year:

- Find Your Way Day was held on Thursday, Aug. 7th for incoming freshman and new students.
- We have 10 brand new students this school year. Our enrollment is growing and is up from last year. Currently our enrollment is 173 students.
- PSAT – Juniors can test for FREE in October.

- SAT – GSW is an approved testing site again this year. We will hold SAT testing on Saturdays throughout the school year, starting this Saturday, Aug. 23. We have 15 students signed up.
- Senior Interviews will start in September.
- Official High School Transcripts – students will need to use Parchment, an online program. It will be FREE to Seniors until July 2026.

Crystal Aukland – Athletic Director – reported on the Fall Sports Season:

- Golf – We have one girl and seven boys golfing in our co-op with Dwight Township High School.
- Cross-Country – We have three students, all freshman, running c/c with Dwight Township High School.
- Boys Soccer – We have five boys playing soccer with Reed Custer High School.
- All supplies have been ordered for coaches for the school year.
- First Aid Kits – every coach now has their own kit.
- EMTs – we are currently scheduling for home games.
- Coach Evaluations – Mr. Johnson, Principal, will be evaluating coaches.

Building and Grounds Report: Mrs. Avery reported on:

- We have several leaks in our boiler system that require repair.
- Maintenance Grant – this is submitted yearly.
- HVAC project – still looking into pricing on this project.
- Marquee – is at the end of its life. We are considering purchasing used panels from another school to replace our damaged ones. We are also looking at new models and pricing options.
- Window Vinyl – GSW window design for our gym door area and a few other big window areas around the building. This project will elevate our gym with a sense of Panther Pride and offer security within the building.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Sue Avery discussed the following:

- Reported on the Tentative Budget Report – We do have a balanced budget. We will present next month at the Sept. board meeting. We have to hold a Public Meeting, which is scheduled for Sept. 17, 2025 at 7:00 pm.
- Threat Assessment Plan and Protocols – we have to review and approve annually. All school districts have to approve this annually.
- FCA – Fellowship of Christian Athletes – Two teachers are going to start up this group. It is strictly a volunteer position, and the teachers will be providing supervision. A new group will meet on Saturdays at GSW HS. Students will lead this group. They will be sent to a training camp to learn how to instruct these meetings.
- Student Growth Assessments – A rule change made this evaluation piece mandatory for teacher evaluations, but the GSW PERA Committee has decided that teachers are no longer required to do it.
- Grundy County Special Education Co-op update – Mrs. Susan Avery and board member, Katy Wepprecht, attended a meeting on Aug. 19th. GCSPEC has 240 total employees. They have acquired an additional property. The strip mall location will house programs with the Grundy County Special Education classes for their students.

BOE Members Reports:

None at tonight's meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Upon the recommendation of the President, Mrs. Terry Schultz, Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to go into closed session at 8:14 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, Simms, Speed and Wepprecht.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

ADJOURN CLOSED AND RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: Mrs. Wepprecht motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to adjourn executive session and return to regular session at 9:06 p.m.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

ACTION ITEMS:

ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF CAREER AND TECH ED TEACHER: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mr. Simms to accept the Resignation of Career and Tech Ed Teacher, Mrs. Donna Vertin.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

AFFIRM THE RECOMMENDATION TO HIRE A CAREER AND TECH ED TEACHER: Mrs. Wepprecht motioned and seconded by Mrs. Biros to affirm the Recommendation to Hire a Career and Tech Ed Teacher, Mr. Travis Duley.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION TO HIRE A SPRING PLAY DIRECTOR: Mrs. Wepprecht motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to approve the Recommendation to Hire a Spring Play Director, Ms. Marshall Harris.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION TO HIRE AN ASSISTANT GIRLS SOFTBALL COACH: Mrs. Ashley motioned and seconded by Mr. Simms to approve the Recommendation to Hire an Assistant Girls' Softball Coach, Elaina Bach.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE THE THREAT ASSESSMENT PLAN AND PROTOCOLS FOR FY26: Mrs. Ashley motioned and seconded by Mrs. Wepprecht to approve the Threat Assessment Plan and Protocols for FY26.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Schultz, Simms, Speed and Wepprecht.

ABSTAIN: Monferdini-Wilkey

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FY2026 BUDGET – SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 AT 7:00 PM: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Wepprecht to approve the Public Hearing for the FY2026 Budget – September 17, 2025 at 7:00 pm.
AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF PRESS PLUS POLICY 119: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mr. Simms to approve the First Reading of Press Policy 119, as presented by IASA.
AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF CLASS SPONSORS: Mrs. Ashley motioned and seconded by Mrs. Biros to approve the Recommendation for the Assignment of Class Sponsors, Freshman – Angel Dallio, Sophomores – Jillian Wills, Juniors – Danielle Diamond, Seniors – Patricia Boaz.
AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

AFFIRM THE RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSIGNMENT OF TEACHER MENTORS FOR NEW TEACHERS: Mrs. Ashley motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to affirm the Recommendation for Assignment of Teacher Mentors for New Teachers, Allan Wills, Jen Arrambide, and Nicole Leigh.
AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION TO HIRE BOYS BASKETBALL SUPPLEMENTAL COACH FOR BOYS JV AND VARSITY BASKETBALL: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Wepprecht to approve the Recommendation to Hire Boys' Basketball Supplemental Coach for Boys' JV and Varsity Basketball, Chris Bexson.
AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE TO APPLY FOR THE SCHOOL MAINTENANCE PROJECT GRANT: Mrs. Wepprecht motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve to apply for the School Maintenance Project Grant.
AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

AFFIRM HELM CONSTRUCTION TO DO BOILER REPAIRS : Mr. Simms motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to affirm Helm Construction to do boiler repairs.
AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF ORANGE CRUSH SPONSOR: Mrs. Ashley motioned and seconded by Mrs. Wepprecht to accept the resignation of Orange Crush Sponsor, Mrs. Nicole Leigh.
AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE THE FCA CLUB BEFORE SCHOOL: Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mrs. Biros to approve the FCA Club (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) before school.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE AN ORANGE CRUSH SPONSOR: Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to approve an Orange Crush Sponsor, Ms. Danielle Diamond.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

OTHER(s): None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 PM.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

PRESIDENT, TERRY SCHULTZ

SECRETARY, CARLA HUSTON