

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

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 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, Simms, 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. Ashley motioned and seconded by Mrs. Wepprecht to approve the meeting minutes for the month of *January*: (January 21, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes) and bills for the month of *February* and payroll for the month of *January* and Financial Reports for the month of *January*.

AYES: Ashley, Biros, Schultz and Wepprecht.

ABSTAIN: Monferdini-Wilkey, Simms and Speed

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0.

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

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

- 5Essentials Survey – We have had most of our staff complete the survey and will be asking our students and parents to complete it as well.
- Kayla Scheuber – nominated for IHSA All State Academic Team
- Owen Vitko & Maddie Simms – RVC Scholar Athlete Nominees
- Gavin Bafia & Aubree Stein – both qualified for Wrestling All-Academic Team
- KCC Leadership Conference – Dr. Halloran is taking six students (2-Freshman, 2-Sophomores, and 2-Juniors) to Kankakee Community College for this workshop on Thurs, Feb. 19th. The students attending are: Chloe Biros, Ryan Male, Jaci Wilkey, Lilly Scheuber, Abigail Olsen & Ella Mack.
- State Wrestling – Gavin Bafia will be competing at State for his 2nd year in a row. Feb 19-21.
- ISU Jesse W. Fell Scholarship – Britney Fatlan & Nina Siano both received this scholarship.

Director’s Report:

Mrs. Chris Ruddy, Director of Student Services, discussed the following:

- MAP Testing is taking place this week with our Fresh, Soph & Junior students.
- Teacher Ease Training – Chris Ruddy & John Williamsen attended a training session and are going to try and have complete on-line registration set-up and ready for use for the 2026-27 school year.
- NHS Selection Committee – will be meeting and selecting our NHS inductees (sophomores). The NHS Induction Banquet will be held on Wed night, March 4th.

- Registration – Mrs. Ruddy will be going to the three feeder grade schools to meet with the 8th graders and get them registered as incoming Freshman.
- Women’s Leadership Conference at Seneca High School – Mrs. Ruddy and Mrs. Avery will be taking 12 or 13 girls (juniors & seniors) to this conference.
- Elective Fair Day – being held on Wed, March 11th for our students to decide which classes they would like to take next school year and build their schedules.
- On-line Registration for next school year – plan to open to parents on March 1st.
- JJC Next Step Day – JJC staff members will be coming to GSW to meet with any GSW students attending JJC next year. Our students will have the chance to meet with JJC employees to discuss financial aid, registration, etc.

Mr. John Williamson, Technology Director, submitted his report on-line to board members:

- Looking into using our Leasing money to purchase new student and staff computers.

Mrs. Crystal Aukland, Athletic Director, discussed the following:

- Signing Day was held on Feb. 5th with Maddie Simms signing with Parkland College for Softball and Bella Dinelli signing with Central College for Golf.
- Color Guard season is over and awards night is still TBD.
- Spiritline - the girls ended their season at IDTA State on Feb. 14th and came home with a 3rd Place Trophy for 1A-Pom. Their awards night is scheduled for Feb. 24.
- Girls’ basketball – GSW hosted Round 1 of regionals. The season ended on Sat, Feb. 14th for our girls’ team with a loss to Ottawa-Marquette in Round 1 of Regionals. Awards night is planned for March 9th.
- Boys’ basketball. GSW will also host Round 1 of Boys Regionals on Monday, Feb. 23rd. GSW HS Junior Leondre Kemp was the Kankakee Journal - Player of the Week.
- Wrestling – GSW’s Senior Gavin Bafia made it to State for the 2nd year in a row. He will be going to University of Illinois Feb 19-21.
- Softball and Baseball – have started their open gyms.
- Scholastic Bowl – 6-13 record this season. They had an RVC tournament at Grant Park on Feb. 14. Kaden Cavaness and Aiden Himes had 7 correct toss-ups and earned All-Tournament. Second place in the tournament was Roman Faletti with 6 toss-ups. Regionals are March 9th – location TBD.
- Chess Team – they had a great season this year.
- Math Team – Have had a great season. They brought home the RVC Trophy for the 13th year in a row. They will be attending the ICTM Regionals on Sat, Feb. 28th.
- Working on sports schedules and busing for next year.
- Volleyball and Spiritline are in rotation to receive new uniforms for next year.
- Batting cages – working with Athletic Boosters on getting the cages moved to the 3rd baseline.
- Banners in the gym – goal for next year – we need to update / add, but need more room.

Building and Grounds Report: Mrs. Avery reported on:

- Gym projects – still waiting on bids. We will have a Bid Opening at the end of February for the HVAC and ceiling work.
- We need a new water tank for the boiler.
- New batting cages – Athletic Boosters project – move existing cages to the 3rd baseline. Boosters will be funding this project, along with donations from local businesses and help from community members.

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

- Michael Wollgast Night – being held on Wed, Feb. 18th – all money donated will be given to the boys' basketball team.
- ISBE recognition – they are redesigning the accountability plan and performance criteria from 3 to 5 levels for the State Report Card. The redesign will enhance ongoing school improvement and allow for schools to improve in their performance designations.

BOE Members Reports:

Elli Monferdini-Wilkey asked about the NHS new inductee selection process. She asked if we conducted in-person interviews with the students applying. Mrs. Ruddy responded that GSW does not interview students, that they are selected thru a committee and student names remain anonymous. Members are selected thru application, essay, teacher recommendations, community services hours, etc.

Janelle Biros asked about available scholarships for seniors and how parents are made aware of them. She asked if GSW could hold a parent meeting to discuss scholarship opportunities. Mrs. Ruddy informed the board that all of our local scholarships are on our GSW website, along with many other scholarships that our students can apply for. Mrs. Ruddy will look into holding a parent meeting during our Fall Parent / Teacher Conferences to review all of this information.

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 7:40 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. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Biros to adjourn executive session and return to regular session at 8:19 p.m.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

ACTION ITEMS:

MILK CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH CLOVER FARMS: Mr. Simms motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to approve the Milk Contract Renewal with Clover Farms, with a \$0.0150 increase this year.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

APPOINT SUPERINTENDENT TO BEGIN TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2027: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Wepprecht to appoint Superintendent to begin the tentative budget for the fiscal year 2027.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

SCHOOL FEES FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR: Mrs. Wepprecht motioned and seconded by Mrs. Speed to approve the school fees for the 2026-2027 school year.
AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

SB7 REDUCTION IN FORCE (RIF) EMPLOYEE LIST: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve the SB7 Reduction in Force (RIF) Employee List.
AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE RECOMMENDATION TO HIRE PRINCIPAL: Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve the recommendation to Hire Principal – Mr. Rodney Monbrum as the FY27 GSW Principal.
AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION TO HAVE ATHLETIC BOOSTERS RELOCATE THE BATTING CAGES: Mrs. Biros motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to approve the recommendation to have Athletic Boosters relocate the batting cages.
AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

APPROVE THE FY27 Tentative Calendar: Mrs. Wepprecht motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve the FY Tentative Calendar.
AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

OTHER(s): None at tonight's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Simms motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.
AYES: Ashley, Biros, Monferdini-Wilkey, Schultz, Simms, Speed and Wepprecht.
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

PRESIDENT, TERRY SCHULTZ

SECRETARY, CARLA HUSTON