

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

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 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 7:02 p.m. by President, Mrs. Katy Wepprecht.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Schultz, Simms, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright. Also in attendance was Superintendent Mrs. Sue Avery. Mrs. Kristen Ashley arrived at 7:18 PM. All members were present “in person.”

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Working Cash Bonds – Mr. Nate Fretz – Public Finance Director with STIFEL, was present to discuss the Working Cash Bonds process for GSW High School. Board members received a hard copy of his presentation, and he reviewed the process with them.
- Band Trip 2026 – Mr. Michael Leone, Band Director, was present to discuss the Summer 2026 Band Trip to Nashville, TN and New Orleans, LA. The dates will be May 28 – June 2, 2026.
- Softball Team Trip for Spring Break 2025 – The GSW softball team will be going to Future Champions Sports Complex in Jacksonville, IL on March 28 and 29. They will play one game the night of March 28, stay overnight, and then play two games on March 29.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Ms. Wright motioned and seconded by Mrs. Speed to approve the meeting minutes for the month of *January*: (January 15, 2025 Public Hearing – Issuance of Working Cash Bonds minutes, Regular Meeting minutes & Closed Session minutes), bills for the month of *February* and payroll for the month of *January* and Financial Reports for the month of *January*.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Principal’s Report: Mr. Brian Davis, Principal:

- February students of the month – Nina Siano and Kayla Scheuber
- GAVC Director’s Award – Kayla Scheuber for Health Occupations
- Math Team – 1st place at RVC Conference on January 16 – 12 years in a row
- RVC Principal’s Meeting – discussed the 35-second shot clock. Each school will have to purchase, install and then hire/pay an individual to run this clock at each home game.
- Athletic Boosters – raising money to help pay for the 35-second shot clock.
- Feb. 11th – interviews for Varsity Volleyball Coach
- Feb. 12th – 11:30 AM early dismissal day – we held an “Elective Fair Day” – 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students split up into groups and rotated to different sessions to learn about available elective courses offered at GSW HS next school year.

- Feb. 13th – interviews for Athletic Director. We had a team / committee interview two individuals for this position.
- IDTA in Springfield – held Feb. 14 and 15 – GSW Spiritline placed 3rd in the Pom category.
- RVC Leadership Conference -Friday, Feb. 21st – we have 2 students from 9th grade, 10th grade and 11th grade going to represent GSW – Freshmen: Lilly Scheuber & Blake Brassard, Sophomores: Abby Galass & Grace Vitko and Juniors: Maddie Simms & Roman Faletti.
- Teacher Evaluations – currently wrapping up and should be finished by end of February.
- RVC Scholarship Athletes – Cole Hampson & Kendall Huston – seniors – representing GSW.

Director's Report:

- Mrs. Chris Ruddy, Director of Academic & Student Services:
 - Hearing & Vision Screenings were held for all 9th graders
 - Elective Fair Day was held on Wed., Feb. 12th
 - Student registration is in progress for next school year
 - Student schedules – will meet with each student individually, starting with the Junior class
 - NHS Induction Ceremony – March 5th at 6:00 PM
 - JJC Step-Up Day for GSW students – April 9th
- Mr. John Williamsen, Director of Technology, was present and reported on:
 - New financial software program – Teacher Ease. He reviewed pros and cons transitioning to the new system.
 - Chromebook repairs & updates
 - ACT/SAT programs / portals
 - Update / integrate system filters
 - Changed passwords for ALL students
 - State Reporting
 - Networks, servers - update – key fobs and cameras
 - Wireless access points
 - Computer updates in the STEAM room and lab
 - Work on interactive boards in each classroom

Building and Grounds Report: Mrs. Sue Avery, Supt., reviewed the following:

- Plumbing issues: Wally Debelak has been working on these issues with TriCo.
- Building & Grounds Committee – we will need to meet sometime in March to discuss summer work and long-term plans.
- ROE Inspection / Health Life Safety Walk-through conducted on Tues, Feb. 18th – complete walk-through of the building.

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

- Working Cash Bonds / Account – We were advised to open a separate account just for the working cash bond funds.
- New Software – We will be switching over to Teacher Ease.
- Online registration – Early Registration for next school year - parents will receive a \$10 discount if they register their students on-line before the deadline.
- Milk Contract – a slight increase of \$0.0150
- School Fees – raise fees for 25/26 school year. The board discussed and reviewed our current school fees and agreed to raise them for next year.

- Interviews:
 - Varsity Volleyball Coach
 - Athletic Director
 - IGAs for Sports – Dwight is not renewing the football contract. GSW will still co-op for other sports = Cross-Country, Golf, Wrestling and Track.
 - Hypoallergenic Therapy Dog – we are currently discussing adding one to our staff.

BOE Members Reports: None at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Upon the recommendation of the President, Mrs. Katy Wepprecht, Ms. Wright motioned and seconded by Mr. Simms to go into closed session at 8:08 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, Schultz, Simms, Speed, Wepprecht and Wright.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

ADJOURN CLOSED AND RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: Mrs. Ashley motioned and seconded by Ms. Wright to adjourn executive session and return to regular session at 8:39 p.m.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

ACTION ITEMS:

MILK CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH CLOVER FARMS: Mrs. Schultz motioned and seconded by Ms. Wright to approve the Milk Contract renewal with Clover Farms.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPOINT SUPERINTENDENT TO BEGIN TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026: Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to appoint Superintendent to begin tentative budget for the fiscal year 2026.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

SCHOOL FEES FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR: Mr. Simms motioned and seconded by Mrs. Speed to approve the School Fees for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

RESIGNATION OF TEMPORARY ELL PARAPROFESSIONAL: Mrs. Schultz motioned and seconded by Mr. Simms to accept the resignation of Temporary ELL Paraprofessional, Mrs. Cassandra Boudreau.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

HIRE VARSITY VOLLEYBALL COACH: Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to hire Varsity Volleyball Coach, Mrs. Heather Muzzarelli.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

HIRE AN ATHLETIC DIRECTOR FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR: Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to hire an Athletic Director for the 2025-2026 school year, Mrs. Crystal Aukland.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

APPROVE THE RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUE OF \$750,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BONDS, SERIES 2025, OF THE DISTRICT FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE WORKING CASH FUND OF THE DISTRICT, PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF A DIRECT ANNUAL TAX SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON SAID BONDS, AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SAID BONDS TO THE PURCHASER THEREOF: Ms. Wright motioned and seconded by Mr. Simms to approve the Resolution providing for the issue of \$750,000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2025, of the District for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District, providing for the Levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said Bonds, and authorizing the sale of said Bonds to the purchaser thereof.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

OPEN AN ACCOUNT AT OLD NATIONAL BANK FOR WORKING CASH BOND FUNDS:

Mrs. Speed motioned and seconded by Mr. Simms to approve opening an account at Old National Bank for Working Cash Bond Funds.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

SOFTBALL TRIP FOR SPRING BREAK: Mr. Simms motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve the Softball Trip for Spring Break.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF JERRY OLSEN AS GSWHS BASS FISHING COACH:

Mrs. Schultz motioned and seconded by Ms. Wright to accept the Resignation of Jerry Olsen as GSWHS Bass Fishing Coach.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

OTHER(s): None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Schultz motioned and seconded by Mr. Simms to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 PM.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

PRESIDENT, KATY WEPPRECHT

SECRETARY, CARLA HUSTON