

GARDNER-SO. WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
GARDNER, IL 60424

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF MAY 20, 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: Mr. James Fair, community member, was present at tonight’s meeting to discuss the future of the GSW HS tennis courts. He suggested putting up a field house / four season building where the current tennis courts are located.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Wepprecht to approve the meeting minutes for the month of *April*: (April 15, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes and Closed Session minutes) and bills for the month of *May* and payroll for the month of *April* and Financial Reports for the month of *April*.

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

ABSTAIN: Simms

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0.

INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

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

- Senior Month in May. One of the new Senior events this school year was a Senior Breakfast where Seniors invited their grandparents or special person to spend the morning in the GSW HS café with them. There were about 50 people present on Wed, May 6th to enjoy this special meal.
- End of the school year – The year ended with a Senior Class Field Trip to Brookfield Zoo and the Annual Senior Picnic at the South Wilmington Firemen’s Beach & Park Club.
- Being Interim Principal for GSW HS this school year was an unforgettable experience for him and he is so glad he took this opportunity.

Directors’ Reports:

Mrs. Crystal Aukland, Athletic Director, submitted her report online for board members to read.

Building and Grounds Report: Mrs. Avery reported on:

- The committee met in April to discuss summer projects and plans. Mrs. Avery, Wally Debelak and Elli Monferdini-Wilkey were the members in attendance at this meeting.
 - Plumbing issues in the 1st floor employee restroom – Wally will work on repairing.
 - Smell in the café area – coming from students flushing items down the toilet in the boys’ restroom on the 2nd floor. The pipes get backed up and the smell is coming from the slop sink in the boiler room. The sewer gas smell leaks into the café area and Freshmen locker area on the 1st floor.

- Summer Crew staff – Wally Debelak, John Sippel, Ben Fatlan, Adam Leigh, Paige Przybylski, and Marshall Harris (on maternity leave for the start of summer).
- Painting in a few rooms.
- Installing new vinyl wood planking flooring in a few rooms.
- Deep cleaning throughout the school.
- Check List from the Life Safety walk-thru will be started.
- Wish list to extend the garage to house GSW vehicles.
- Open up / un-lock all building doors during big events so that attends don't have to walk all the way around the building to get in the front gym doors.
- 4th floor room – work on fixing up so that the Hope Program can use this area for a meeting space.
- HVAC project – will start next week and hopefully be finished by July 1st.
- Dug Outs – take a look at to find a way to better protect the players inside the dugout area. It is a safety issue, as the wall is too far out on the front of each dugout.
- Exterior doors by the gym area. These are a safety issue as well. Need to be replaced. Could possibly key fob new doors.
- Future projects were discussed.
- Wish list: New student lockers and turn current tennis courts into Pickleball courts.

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

- Neil Sandburg, Director of Grundy County Special Education Cooperative, is retiring at the end of this school year.
- GSW HS Audit – is scheduled for August 25th with Mack & Associates
- Our new software program is working great. Will be rolling over and completing first new fiscal year.
- Training – Mrs. Avery and Beth Fatlan will be completing trainings this summer and reviewing summer payroll.
- Amending Budget – working on for June.
- Housing Assessment – GSW HS received \$28,000 from Grundy County Special Education Cooperative for the use of classrooms in our building for the Hope Program students.
- NEW Intergovernmental Agreement with Dwight Township High School for dance team for 2-years.
- District Transformation Work – grant funded project - Thanks to Dr. Halloran. This project started three years ago, and Dr. Halloran has been mentoring districts through the process. He has attended six meetings and researched data. This will be free to GSW HS. Dr. Halloran will be a coach/mentor to newly elected incoming Principal Rodney Monbrum.
- Job Postings:
 - PE Position – we have received six applications and interviews to begin next week.
 - English Teacher Position – we have received two applications.
 - Strength and Conditioning Coach – Mr. Justin Wharrie applied and interviewed for this position. He will be in the weight room this summer to work with students. Then during the school year, students will still have the opportunity to work with him.

- Gardner Area Band attended Music in the Parks on Saturday, May 16th and took 1st place in our Division. Then the students got to spend time at Six Flags park afterwards enjoying the theme park.
- Count down to the Band Trip to New Orleans. Mrs. Avery will be going with the band.
- Dr. Pat Halloran's Farewell – Mrs. Avery and the board members thanked him for his services and celebrated with cookies.

BOE Members Reports: Mrs. Biros and Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey asked about the early dismissal times for teachers during Final Exams. They also questioned the “remote” Teacher Institute Day. They suggested moving the Teacher Institute Day from the last day of the school year for staff to another day earlier in the school year and utilizing the day for teachers to attend workshops or some sort of professional development.

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 8:10 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. Ashley motioned and seconded by Mrs. Wepprecht to adjourn executive session and return to regular session at 9:03 p.m.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

ACTION ITEMS:

RESIGNATION OF TEACHER: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to accept the resignation of teacher – Mr. Corey Hayes, PE/Health.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

SUMMER SECRETARY: Mrs. Biros motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to approve the summer secretary, Mrs. Carla Huston.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

SPLIT SPIRITLINE INTO TWO TEAMS: CHEER AND DANCE: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to approve to Split Spiritline into two teams: Cheer and Dance.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

NAME THE CHEER TEAM SPIRITLINE: Mrs. Biros motioned and seconded by Mrs. Wepprecht to approve to name the Cheer Team Spiritline.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

NAME THE DANCE TEAM PANTHERETTES: Mrs. Wepprecht motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to approve to name the Dance Team Pantherettes.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

HIRE A CHEER COACH: Mrs. Ashley motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to hire a Cheer Coach – Megan Crater.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

HIRE A DANCE COACH: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to hire a Dance Coach – Haley Jett.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

HIRE A SUMMER STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING COACH: Mrs. Wepprecht motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to hire a Summer Strength and Conditioning Coach – Mr. Justin Wharrie.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT GSW/DWIGHT DANCE TEAM: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Wilkey to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement GSW/Dwight Dance Team.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

DONATION FROM GREENFIELD TOWNSHIP FOR SCHOOL LUNCH: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Ashley to accept donation from Greenfield Township for School Lunch - \$1,000.00.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Wepprecht to approve the GSW Union Collective Bargaining Agreement for FY27-29.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

SECOND READING OF PRESS POLICY 121: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Biros to approve the Second Reading of Press Policy 121.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

AMEND BOARD POLICY 2:125: Mrs. Wepprecht motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to amend Board Policy 2:125.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

AMEND STUDENT HANDBOOK: Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey motioned and seconded by Mrs. Wepprecht to amend Student Handbook.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

OTHER(s):

Katy Wepprecht asked about our Varsity Boys baseball player who has hit 9 homeruns already this year. She asked if we could blast that information out to the public, as it is probably a record.

Mr. Allan Wills was present at tonight's meeting and informed her that the student is Reed Millette at Junior at GSW and he thinks it is a record. He is hoping Reed can get a few more by the end of the season.

Janelle Biros asked about our girls' basketball program. GSW will only have 5 or 6 total players next school year. How are we going to build the program to give our girls an opportunity to keep playing? Could we possibly co-op with an area school? Mrs. Avery is looking into options and will discuss the situation with our incoming Principal Monbrum.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Wepprecht motioned and seconded by Mrs. Monferdini-Wilkey to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.

PRESIDENT, TERRY SCHULTZ

SECRETARY, CARLA HUSTON