
BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights of the Regular Meeting
NOVEMBER 19, 2025

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Girls Softball Trip Presentation: Ms. Tawnya Mack was present to discuss the 2026 Southern Warrior Classic Softball Tournament being held in Murphysboro, TN over Spring Break. The Varsity softball team will be traveling to TN to participate in this tournament. She asked the board if GSW would approve this team trip and be willing to cover the coaches' expenses and the tournament entry fee.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Dr. Patrick Halloran, Interim Principal, discussed the following:

- Dr. Halloran announced he has been at GSW for 11-days now. He will be working three days a week to help with administrative needs. He started at GSW 40 years ago as an English and Social Studies teacher, and it has come full circle for him now as he returns to GSW as Interim Principal.
- Day of the Dead – Friday, October 31st – Spanish and Art classes presented in our cafeteria.
- GAVC Winners: Congratulations to Brock Enerson and Luca Byers – GAVC Director Award Winners for October 2025. Brock – Building Trades II and cash winner. Luca – Computer Graphics Multimedia Design II.
- Teacher Evaluation Process – started evaluations and will continue.
- School Report Card – GSW received a commendable status
- Panther Pause – Motivational piece that will go out to all staff.
- Trip to Bolingbrook High School – Our Rhetoric and Sociology students traveled to Bolingbrook High School on Tuesday, Nov. 18th for an educational opportunity. Our goal was to provide students with exposure to new ideas, people, and cultures that are different from our small, rural school environment. Opportunities like this help broaden perspectives and encourage meaningful learning experiences. During the visit, students had the opportunity to shadow students at Bolingbrook High School, observe a larger and more diverse school environment, and engage in activities designed to complement their course work. Then on Monday, Nov. 24th, Bolingbrook students will be coming to visit GSW.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

Mrs. Crystal Aukland, Athletic Director, submitted her report on-line to board members. Mrs. Avery reviewed some of the highlights:

- Orange & Black Night was held on Saturday, Nov. 15th. This is our yearly athletics fundraiser.
- Cross Country Awards Night was held on Wed, Nov. 12th in Dwight. David Allen and Chloe Biros both received Varsity letters. David and Chloe also both received Most Improved Runner awards.
- Golf Awards Night was held on Mon, Nov. 17th in Dwight.
- Volleyball Awards Night is scheduled for Mon, Nov. 24th at GSW HS.
- Winter sports season has started. Our Color Guard has 4 members, our Spiritline team has 10 members, our girls' varsity basketball team has 11 players with two of them currently injured, our boys' JV basketball team has 15 and our boys' varsity team has 14, 3 of which are playing both JV and Varsity. Our girls are playing this week in the Reed Custer Tournament and our boys will be playing in the Coal City Turkey Tournament the week of Nov. 24 – 29. Girls' basketball is having a Community Night on Mon, Dec. 1st for their home game. Our Spiritline team is hosting their Annual Dance Competition at GSW on Saturday, Dec. 6th. There will be 54 performances. GSW has seven students participating in Dwight wrestling, 6 boys and 1 girl. There will be a wrestling match held at GSW HS on January 21st, along with Senior Night for the wrestlers. Our Scholastic Bowl has 8 members. Our Chess Team has 7 members and have won

2 matches already this school year. Our Math Team has 35 members and is currently at a meet at Beecher High School tonight.

- Working on next year's sports schedules. Currently working on Volleyball for Fall 2026.

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

- Student Field Trip to Bolingbrook High School on Tues, Nov. 18th – She recapped this trip giving board members feedback from students. GSW took 20 students total. They separated into groups of 4 and were there for four hours. They took a 1-hour tour of the school and didn't even see the entire building. Our GSW students realized just how small our school is. The students really enjoyed this field trip and the opportunity to see such a big school. Mrs. Ruddy told board members that she had a student request asking if GSW would allow students to “drive anything but a car to school” on Monday, Nov. 24th when the Bolingbrook visited. She also presented an alternative to this request – showing Bolingbrook students a slide show with photos from our “drive anything to school day” so those students could see different events held at our small school. The board members agreed to the slide show presentation.
- GAVC Sophomore Tours – being held Thurs, Nov. 20th. Our GSW students will be leaving at 9:15 and returning around 11:45 AM. They will be touring the Morris GAVC building and getting the opportunity to see three different classrooms / programs of their choice.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT: Mrs. Avery reported on:

- Boilers – are up and running for the school year. We have had a few leaks which Wally has repaired.
- Parking lots and school grounds are in good shape.
- Railing down on the front step stairs – Wally has placed a call to get it welded back on
- Snow Removal Bids – we have received two bids. Faletti Trucking and Fatlan Trucking. The board will review these bids, and it will be an action item at our December meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mrs. Avery presented on the following:

- Itinerary for the upcoming Annual Board Convention being held in Chicago this weekend.
- Holiday Breaks: Thanksgiving Break = November 26, 27 & 28. Winter Break: December 22 thru January 5. Students return on Tues, Jan 6th.
- Teacher Institute Day – Monday, January 5th – we are going to partner with Coal City High School and attend a seminar / presentation with a guest speaker in the morning and then return to GSW for the afternoon.
- E-Learning Plan is set and has been distributed to staff, students and parents. This is a 3-year plan.
- Estimate of Aggregate Tax Levy – Mrs. Avery reviewed funds and dollar amounts with the board members. She distributed the 2025 Levy Calculation Sheet.
- Cardiac Arrest Plan – We need to develop a plan that indicates our staff is trained on AED / CPR every 2-years.
- School Report Card – GSW received a commendable rating.
- Welcome Dr. Patrick Halloran to GSW HS. Mr. Halloran is helping make us better. He cares and wants GSW to succeed. He will be involved in the interview process of hiring a new principal and will stay to help transition a new principal to GSW.

BOE MEMBERS REPORTS: None at this time.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Appoint district representatives for the SB7 committee – Mrs. Susan Avery and Dr. Patrick Halloran
- Approve the Estimate of Aggregate Tax Levy – based on 2025 EAV
- Approve the Truth in Taxation Resolution since the proposed tax levy exceeds 105% of last year's tax levy extension

- Approve the First Reading of Press Policy 120 – as presented by IASA
- Approve Cell phone stipend for Athletic Director – Mrs. Crystal Aukland
- Approve the Interim Principal Contract – Dr. Patrick Halloran
- Approve the CFO Consultant Contract – Englert Group Chief Financial Officer, Craig Englert
- Approve the recommendation to apply for the Maintenance Grant – ROE matching maintenance grant
- Accept the Letter of Retirement for GSW Spanish teacher – Mrs. Marsha Ortega
- Approve the Spring Softball Team Trip over Spring Break to Murphysboro, TN, as presented

OTHERS:

Board member, Katy Wepprecht, asked when Homecoming was this school year? Our GSW Homecoming week is December 8-12. We will have our School Pep Assembly at 2:00 PM on Friday, December 12. Our Homecoming Dance is Saturday, December 13 from 7 – 9 pm. She asked if we can separate the Hall of Fame Night from Homecoming this year? Can we move Hall of Fame to the month of January and honor those inductees on their own special night? Mrs. Avery will look into it and announce the date.

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

Interim Principal: Dr. Patrick Halloran