

BOARD BRIEFS
Highlights of the Regular Meeting
October 21, 2020

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Community member and parent, Angie Grieff, was present to speak to the board about JV cuts. She stated that she is in favor of cuts at the JV level for all sports and gave several reasons why they would be a good thing for GSW.

The board responded that this topic has been discussed a few times already and that it is being put on the back-burner for now.

FY 20 AUDIT REPORT:

Erica Bloomberg, Auditor from Mack & Associates, was present via Zoom to review the FY20 Audit Report. GSW received a 4.0 summary rating from ISBE for the fiscal year 2020 which is the highest rating they give.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Principal, Mr. John Engelman, reported on the following:

A new program has been implemented by the Problem Solving Team. Any student who has two or more F's in their classes will be required to stay after school. This program will be a learning lab on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 - 2:00 PM in the library to work on bringing grades up to passing. Teachers will also be available to help students. Students' grades will be checked on Monday, Oct 26th and this program will start on October 27th. Then grades will be pulled every Monday for the week.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT: Mr. Josh DeLong presented the following:

- Building update: Mr. DeLong stated that he is very impressed with the cleanliness of the building. The boiler is up and running, but have had a couple of minor issues so far with steam leaks.
- Gym mats: We will be ordering new gym mats to replace our existing ones, that are about 10-years old. The Sports Boosters and the Class of 2020 will be splitting the fee of these new mats. The old ones will be put in the weight room.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. DeLong presented on the following:

- Board Vacancies: There will be 4 seats on the 7 member Board of Education that need to be filled.
- 2nd Quarter: Based on previous surveys and discussions, GSW returned to ALL students half-days on Monday, October 19th.
- Transportation update: Due to the current rates this year and anticipated increases for next year, Mr. DeLong is being told to expect double digit increases for next year from Illinois Central. We will most likely need to go out for bids and/or get creative in potential cooperatives with other districts.
- Technology update: We were approved for the Technology Grant and have begun ordering. The problem is that Chrome books are in such high demand they are on a 2-month backorder. We currently have 90 Chrome books, 5 laptops, 12 docking cameras and 6 projectors on order, all paid for from the Digital Equity Grant. In addition, we can update our network server and switches with funds from this grant.
- CTE Grant update: We can pursue this "Career Tech Ed" Grant. There are some major hoops and obstacles to jump through. Mr. DeLong is currently trying to figure out how to utilize the money, but we may or may not qualify for it. He is looking at course loads, career development and technology.
- Solar Project: Mr. DeLong received an update from Nancy Norton at GCEDC. The project is moving forward and they are setting a meeting with those impacted on November 2 via Zoom. 15 taxing bodies

are impacted. We should be receiving a proposal to review soon, but most likely they will be looking for a 3-year tax abatement. The project is 2,600 acres between Gardner and Dwight and should start in 2022 and be completed by 2023. The district would most likely not start to see any revenue from this project until 2026-2027.

- Commendable Summative Designation on State Report Card: This means our School Report Card is in Good Standing with ISBE.
- Meets requirement for Annual LEA determination: This means we are in Good Standing.
- JV Sports: No further comment on this topic from the board at this time.

OTHER(s):

ACTION ITEMS:

- Hire Chris Halpin as Supplemental Basketball Coach
- Hire Dallas Hensley as Part-Time Custodian
- Approve Fall Baseball Season with a Flat Stipend of \$1,500
- Approve District e-Learning Plan, as presented
- Approve FY2020 District Audit, as presented
- Approve FY2021 Seniority List, as presented

BOARD OF EDUCATION

President: Pam Brooks
Vice-President: Katy Wepprecht
Kristen Ashley, Cindy Gerber, Tim Harvey,
Kori Speed & Allison Wright
Principal: John Engelman
Superintendent: Joshua DeLong