

BOARD BRIEFS

*Highlights of the Budget Hearing
& Regular Meeting*
September 19, 2018

BUDGET HEARING

Presentation of FY 2018-2019 District Budget:

Mr. Perrott presented the FY 19 District Budget to board members. There were a few small number changes since the August meeting. There were no questions from board members on the budget.

Public Comment:

Mrs. Jennifer Smykowski asked for an explanation of the Life Safety funds. Mr. Perrott explained that certain building projects are considered “Life Safety” and the funds in that particular account can be used, instead of coming from the Operations & Maintenance account. The architect would come out and inspect the building and make recommendations for projects to be considered “Life Safety”. The state then has to approve the project as “life safety”, then “Life Safety” monies can be spent. For example, the band room exterior stairway was crumbling. GSW used Life Safety money to pay for this project after the state approved the architect’s assessment of the condition of the project.

REGULAR MEETING

PUBLIC:

Presentation of FY2018 Audit – Janet Brown, Auditor, was present to discuss & review the FY18 Audit with board members. She informed them that she received all requested information from GSW in a timely matter, all bills are paid on time, all board minutes were available, and the books are in really good shape. She praised the board for being very involved in making sure monies are spent wisely. She told them they do a good job budgeting and that they use personal property taxes correctly. The tax levy rate is down to rates as low as before 2010. When GSW levies less, it is good for tax-payers.

Mrs. Jennifer Smykowski presented several concerns to the board.

- School safety – Kids making threats at school. She stated that there have already been 2 incidents this school year and it is only September. She asked how many threats are made each school year? How many last year? Does the Board keep track of this?
- Metal Detector – Mrs. Smykowski asked the board if they have ever considered purchasing and using a metal detector at GSW. She stated she would get involved and with the communities help raise money to help pay for one. It would cost \$5-7,000 for one the size to accommodate the number of students at GSW HS. She told the board that she is concerned with safety & mental health issues. It is an epidemic in our country and needs to be addressed. She would like to help out in any way she can.
- Air-Conditioning – She asked if the project was completed within the entire school. Board members responded that YES, the project is finished and every room in the building has air-conditioning, with the exception of the gym and hallways.
- Transportation for Football – The verbal agreement between Dwight High School and GSW is that Gardner would provide transportation on the Panther Bus to and from Dwight. This is how it has been in the past. This year, students are providing their own transportation. Mr. Perrott stated that we do not have staff to drive the bus this school year. Mrs. Smykowski stated that she would make herself available for the school to use her to drive the Panther Bus. She said she would drive for football, wrestling and any other co-op sport.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mr. Engelman presented on the following:

- Richard Vana, temporary drivers' education instructor, who worked at GSW the first 3-weeks of school, reported a number positive things regarding his time here. He said the kids were very nice, the teachers and staff were very helpful, and the community was very welcoming. He really enjoyed coming to work at GSW High School.
- Rhythm of our Youth Cardiac Screening – was conducted on Wed, Aug. 29th in the GSW HS gymnasium by the Morris Hospital staff. Students were tested during their PE class and/or Learning Lab. Almost every student participated. This will take place every 2-years.

RECIPROCAL REPORTING AGREEMENT WITH GRUNDY COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY:

This document between GSW High School and the Grundy County Sheriff's Department is reviewed and approved every year. This will be an action item tonight.

OTHER: The board discussed having “cuts” at the Varsity Level for both Boys Basketball and Boys Baseball teams. Athletic Director, Mr. Matthew Eggert, will be invited to the September board meeting for further discussion. Board members were in agreement with cuts at the Varsity Level. This school year, coaches were expecting approximately 20 to 25 students on the Varsity teams, which is way too many kids for 1-coach to have at practices and games. Such a high number hurts the teams' overall ability to improve. The board discussed providing as many opportunities for students to participate in activities as possible, but also wants Varsity teams to be competitive. Varsity teams may be cut down to 12-15 players, at the coach's discretion.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Perrott presented on the following:

- Building:
 - Air-Conditioning was completed in 2-phases. Last summer the 1st phase (2nd floor) was installed and in the second week in September 2018 the 2nd phase (1st floor) was completed. Almost all of the installation was completed by district employees. GSW purchased system components and engineering from Thermo-Systems. Installation and completion of the project by district employees saved the district a great deal of money and made the project possible. As of today, the entire building is air-conditioned, with the exception of the gym & hallways. These units can also be used for “a little heat – just to take the chill out of the rooms” – before the boiler system needs to be turned on for the winter months. Each room has its own thermostat and can be individually regulated.
 - 1st floor wall – still working on putting up the wall where lockers were removed.
 - Panther Wall of Fame – will be displayed in the hallway by the gymnasium, across from the restrooms. A shallow trophy case is being built to host images of the nominees.
 - Wall of Fame Committee is being formed and will have one representative from each era. So far, we have received 4 to 8 nominations.
 - Diaper changing stations have been installed and are ready to be used in the male and female restrooms in the gym hallway.
 - Gym ventilation – our architects have been out and are working on this project.
 - Water Fountains – students have requested new fountains with bottled water filling stations and filters. We have purchased one and will be installing it on the 1st floor by the main office. Additional ones may be installed at a later date.
- Social Media: A Face Book page for GSW is currently being created.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Approval of FY 2019 District Budget
- Approval of FY 2018 District Audit
- Boys Basketball Coaching Staff: The recommendation to approve the candidate for the position did not pass.
- Approval of Reciprocal Reporting Agreement with Grundy County State's Attorney
- September 26, 2018 Board Meeting – cancel the 2nd meeting for the month of September.

SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION ITEMS: Mr. Perrott reported on the following:

- FOIA Requests – only one recent request – HBO Real Sports

BOARD OF EDUCATION REQUESTS:

None at this time.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

President: Pam Brooks

Vice-President: Katy Wepprecht

Cindy Gerber, Allison Palermo, Kori Speed

Kristen Ashley & Timothy Harvey

Principal: John Engelman

Superintendent: Michael Perrott