

**GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5**  
**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**January 22, 2018**

The Board of Education of Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley Community Unit School District #5 met in regular session on Monday, January 22, 2018, at 6:15 p.m. in the GCMS Board Room located at 307 N Sangamon Ave., Gibson City. The board was called to order by Board President Josh Johnson. Roll was called with board members Whitehouse, Elder, Young, Swearingen, Tucker-Davis and Leonard in attendance. Also present were: Elementary School Principal Justin Kean, Middle School Principal Kyle Bielfeldt, High School Principal Chris Garard, Curriculum Director Erin Nuss, FCSEC Director Jesse McFarling, Ross Brown with the Ford County Record, GCMS Education Association President Susan Riley, School Board Secretary Lori Kristensen and District Superintendent Jeremy Darnell.

Absent:

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance being recited by all present.

**Recognition of Visitors:**

Walker Willis, Instructional Technologist for GCMS School District presented the board with an overview of the new GCMS website. Willis requested those in attendance to look over the new website and to use the feedback tab on the homepage for suggestions, positive comments or areas of improvement for the new site.

A motion to **go into executive session** was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Leonard at 6:27 p.m. for the purpose of discussing matters pertaining to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the district including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Motion was carried by roll call, with all members present voting yes.

Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).

Discussion of lawfully closed meeting minutes, whether for the purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(21).

A motion to **return to open session** was made by board member Elder and seconded by board member Swearingen at 7:23 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote, with all board members present voting yes.

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**Action Items to Consider From Executive Session**

**Accept Requests for:**

Motion to **approve the maternity leave request for Jordan Ryan** beginning approximately on April 16, 2018 and extending for approximately 6 weeks pending medical needs. Motion was made by board member Swearingen and seconded by board member Leonard. Motion carried by voice vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **hire Michelle O’Neall as the GCMS Middle School Scholastic Bowl coach**. Motion was made by board member Swearingen and seconded by board member Young. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **approve the following volunteers** pending background checks for the 2017-2018 school year. Motion was made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Young. Motion carried by voice vote with all members present voting yes.

Baseball: Bob Huppert

Girls Track: Taylor Leake

**Additional Agenda Items:**

None

**Consent Agenda**

**GCMS Accounts Payable bills approved were \$538,823.74**

Education fund	\$376,945.51
Building fund	\$51,173.12
Debt Service fund	\$0.00
Transportation fund	\$57,538.93
IMRF/FICA fund	\$28,803.21
Capital Projects fund	\$0.00
W/C	\$0.00
TORT	\$24362.97
F/HLS	\$0.00

**GCMS Payrolls approved were \$393,972.39**

Education fund	\$347,585.25
Building fund	\$16,349.08
Transportation fund	\$2,472.56
TORT	\$27,565.50

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**FCSEC Accounts Payable bills approved were \$99,682.84**

Education fund	\$98,780.75
Building fund	\$197.99
IMRF/FICA Fund	\$704.10

**FCSEC Payrolls approved were \$36,400.77 all in the Education fund**

Financial/treasurer's report on behalf of the GCMS District and the FCSEC, Lunch Report, the summary of investment report on behalf of the GCMS District and the FCSEC, and the destruction of executive session tapes through the end of July 2016.

**Approve Field Trips for:**

- Media Club to Heartland College for Students In Technology on February 10, 2018
- FFA to Springfield, Illinois for Horse Fair Judging on March 2, 2018
- FFA to the University of Illinois for Women in Agriculture on March 9, 2018

**Approve the following donations:**

Amount	From	Designation
\$1,000	Exxon Mobil	Science Department
\$250	Arends & Sons	FFA
\$99	GCMS Booster Club	Wrestling
\$2151	GCMS Booster Club	GCMS Athletics

**Approve Facility Use Agreements or Request for Use of School Kitchen/Cafeteria pending proof of insurance and all other district requirements for:**

- Elementary School, High School and Middle School gyms (depending on schedule openings) for GCMS Youth Basketball League in January and February 2018 with fees waived.

Approve the minutes of the GCMS Regular and Executive Session Minutes of December 18, 2017.

Motion to accept the **consent agenda** as presented in the board packet. Motion was made by board member Young seconded by board member Elder. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

**Advisory Reports:**

**Policy:** Members - Adam Elder and Miranda Leonard

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**Motion to approve the policy changes for policy: 2:260, 4:10, 4:15, 4:80, 4:110, 4:150, 4:170, 5:10, 5:20, 5:90, 5:100, 5:200, 5:220, 5:240, 5:250, 5:290, 5:330, 6:20, 6:50, 6:60, 6:140, 6:150, 6:280, 6:300, 6:310, 6:340, 7:10, 7:15, 7:20, 7:70, 7:150, 7:180, 7:190, 7:250, 7:260, 7:270, 7:275, 7:305, 7:340 as recommended by the IASB and the GCMS Policy Advisory.** Motion was made by board member Young seconded by board member Tucker-Davis. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

**Building, Grounds, and Transportation:** Members - Steve Swearingen and Emily Tucker-Davis

The advisory will schedule a meeting in the next couple months to consider capita projects once pricing options have been received. These projects will include small scope summer maintenance projects and larger scope projects that are on the districts radar for long term facilities improvements.

**Personnel and Finance:** Members - Josh Johnson and Phil Whitehouse  
Report - Jeremy Darnell shared in Superintendent's report.

The finance advisory reflected on the district's current position which is on pace to achieve budget goals on expenditures, but the district is lacking in revenue due to delays in some state payments. The district is yet to receive the Pre-K grant which would fund the added classroom. The total in shortage in revenues is approximately \$500,00. This shortage does not currently threaten any programming or staff positions.

**Strategy and Enrichment:** Members – Tyler Young and Josh Johnson  
No meeting scheduled.

**Building Administration Reports:**

**Principal's Reports:**

**High School Assistant Principal, Mike Allen**

**Enrollment**

Freshman - 78

Sophomores - 84

Juniors - 78

Seniors - 65

Total: 305 students

Student of the Month is Senior Clay Bane

**SAT**

Approximately 130 freshman, sophomore and junior students volunteered to take a practice SAT on January 16. Additionally, a SAT Boot Camp will be held at the High School from 7:30-8:00 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Fridays.

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Junior in-service will be on Thursday, January 25 at the Gibson City Bible Church.

Junior students will receive information on their SAT practice results and will hear from guest presenters from Parkland College, Eastern Illinois University, Western Illinois University, Universal Technical Institute, Paul Mitchell, Gibson Area Hospital, Eastern Illinois Electric Co-op, and Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

2018-2019 scheduling

The class scheduling process has begun for the 2018-2019 school year. 8th grade orientation for High School classes will be held on January 26.

Grant

The High school received a \$1,000 grant from Exxon Mobil to be used towards science technology in the classroom.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location & Time
February 9	Distinguished Alumni Presentation	Boys Varsity Basketball Game 7:00 p.m.
February 9	GCMS Education Foundation Chili Supper	HS Commons 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
February 16	GCMS Legends Night	Boys Varsity Basketball Game 7:00 p.m.
February 25	Band Double Donation Dinner Concert	HS Gymnasium & Commons 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**Middle School Principal, Kyle Bielfeldt**

Enrollment

6th Grade - 77  
 7th Grade - 79  
 8th Grade - 68  
 Total: 224 students

Career Day

The middle school will be hosting its first 8th grade Career Day on January 26. All 8th grade students are going to be able to meeting with individuals from our community to discuss career opportunities in tfiels in which they currently show interest. Students were assigned different career fields based on their Career Cruising scores. We currently have 8 different fields and 25 volunteers willing to present on their field.

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In the afternoon, all 8th grade students will meet at the high school with Principal, Mr. Garard and High School Guidance Counselor, Mr. McDevitt to discuss expectations and scheduling. 8th grade students will also meet with high school students to discuss elective opportunities available high school.

In-service

Middle School staff met to discuss current grading and homework policies. Teachers were surveyed using Kahoot to see how they used homework, the homework grades and their assessments to provide feedback to students and parents on student abilities. Overall the conversation was positive and will continue to be an ongoing discussion item for classroom best practice.

Athletics

8th grade night for boys basketball will be Thursday, January 18. Regionals for 7th grade boys basketball will start on Saturday, January 20 with the 7th grade team playing Paxton-Buckley-Loda at 9:00 a.m. 8th grade regionals begin on Saturday, January 27.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location & Time
January 18	8th Grade Night - boys basketball	MS gymnasium, 6:30 p.m.
January 20	7th grade boys regionals	PBL
January 26	8th grade Career Fair	MS
January 27	8th grade boys regionals	
February 1	Longitudinal Study Testing, Character Assembly	MS
February 2	School Dance	MS cafeteria
February 7	Boys basketball Sectional	Hosted by GCMS MS

**Elementary Principal, Justin Kean**

Enrollment

Early Childhood - 16

PreK - 37

Kindergarten - 61

1st Grade - 85

2nd Grade - 64

3rd Grade - 70

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4th Grade - 72  
5th Grade - 67  
Total: 472 students

BUG (Being Unbelievably Good) Assembly was on January 12. The theme for the month of January is Empathy.

Absences

During the week of December 18-22, 2017, the elementary school experienced a high number of absences due to student and staff illness. Mr. Kean thanked the staff that were able to adjust and help cover classes during the week so many students and staff were absent.  
Absences during the week: 12/18 - 132, 12/19 - 140, 12/20 - 155, 12/21 - 131, 12/22 - 119.

Reading incentive party

Mrs. Lindelof and other staff members hosted the reading incentive party on January 10. Students who met their reading incentive for 2nd quarter participated in the afternoon event that included 5 stations with different activities.

Staff social events

80's workout on January 18  
Winter Blues Party in Mahomet on January 27

Upcoming events

Date	Event	Location & Time
January 22-26	Book Fair	ES library
January 27	Winter Blues Staff Party	Mahomet
February 2	BUG assembly	ES gymnasium

**Special Education Director, Jesse McFarling**

No report

**Curriculum Director, Erin Nuss**

Mrs. Nuss thanked the 13 staff members (Jenny White, Elizabeth Maske, Rick Ertel, Jess Titus, Tom Stone, Taylor Leake, Susan Riley, Ryan Tompkins, Jesse McFarling, Bethany Rodrigues, Walker Willis, Ashley Young, and Erin Nuss) who planned IGNITE Presentations for our January 8 Institute Day. The passion and efforts of these staff members is greatly appreciated!  
Several hundred final exams, course evaluations, rubrics, and voluntary SAT's were scored and evaluated by Mrs. Sullins in the Curriculum Office this winter. Her knowledge of assessments and data is extremely useful to staff.

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**Superintendent's Report**

**2018-2019 Mowing Season**

Mackinson Lawn Care was the lawn care provider last year for the GCMS School District. Darnell proposed to the board that the contract be extended to the same provider. The bid came in \$15 less than last year's bid due to a pollinator strip at the middle school which will require less mowing.

**Motion to hire Jason Mackinson Lawn Care and Landscaping for the 2018-2019 mowing season at the contractual rate.** Motion was made by board member Swearingen and seconded by board member Whitehouse. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

**Financial Review**

Current Fund Status

Superintendent Darnell reported to the board the district's fund status is right on pace with where they should be. One fund is over 50% debt service while the others funds are below.

State of Illinois Financial Recognition

GCMS was recognized from the State level for financially being in "good shape" according to state expectations.

New Funding Formula

Superintendent Darnell communicated to the board the fund balances and cash balances are all in good shape. Additional mandated categorical payments have not been received, nor has any transportation payments. With the new funding formula, Darnell noted the district is expecting to receive \$60,000-\$80,000 in new money.

GCMS Education Association Contract Negotiations

Motion to send the invitation letter to the GCMSEA to initiate the negotiation process. Motion was made by board member Young seconded by board member Swearingen. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

A motion to **adjourn the regular session** was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Swearingen at: 7:23 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote, with all members present voting yes.

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Board President Josh Johnson

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Board Secretary Tyler Young