

**GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5**  
**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES OF**  
**November 12, 2018**

The Board of Education of Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley Community Unit School District #5 met in regular session on Monday, November 12, 2018, at 6:15 p.m. in the GCMS Board Room located at 307 N Sangamon Avenue, Gibson City. The board was called to order by Board President Josh Johnson. Roll was called with board members Whitehouse, Elder, Young, Swearingen, 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: Board member Tucker-Davis

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

**Recognition of Visitors:**

None

A motion to **go into executive session** was made by board member Young and seconded by board member Whitehouse at 6:16 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 Swearingen and seconded by board member Elder at 6:28 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote, with all board members present voting yes.

**GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5**  
**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES OF**  
**November 12, 2018**

**Action Items to Consider From Executive Session**

**Accept Requests for:**

Motion to **hire Josie Tallent-Meyer** on step 3 of the paraprofessional scale starting on November 13, 2018. Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Swearingen. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **move Josh Carter to the High School Student Services Coordinator/Guidance position** for the 2019-2020 school year. Motion was made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Swearingen. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **approve the tuition reimbursement for Kyle Bielfeldt** per his contract for attaining the Superintendent's endorsement. Motion was made by board member Elder and seconded by board member Whitehouse. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **approve Julies Audo's retirement** at the end of the 2018-2019 school year with thanks for service, on behalf of the Ford County Special Education Cooperative. Motion was made by board member Swearingen and seconded by board member Leonard. Motion carried by voice vote with all members present voting yes.

**Additional Agenda Items:**

None

**Consent Agenda**

**GCMS Accounts Payable bills approved were \$1,095,452.77**

Education fund	\$422,717.87
Building fund	\$93,522.26
Debt Service fund	\$416,882.50
Transportation fund	\$71,707.52
IMRF/FICA fund	\$29,728.22
Capital Projects fund	\$0.00
W/C	\$0.00
TORT	\$23,394.40
F/HLS	\$37,500.00

**GCMS Payrolls approved were \$413,903.71**

Education fund	\$361,995.29
Building fund	\$18,708.13
Transportation fund	\$1,163.13
TORT	\$32,037.16

**GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5  
SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES OF  
November 12, 2018**

**FCSEC Accounts Payable bills approved were \$143,474.95**

Education fund	\$141,184.71
Building fund	\$131.65
IMRF/FICA Fund	\$2,158.59

**FCSEC Payrolls approved were \$37,577.69 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 April 2017.

**Approve Field Trips for:**

Chamber Choir	Community Caroling	December 12, 2018
Foods & Nutrition Class	County Market	December 17, 2018
Future Business Leaders	Heartland Community College	December 2, 2018
Chamber Choir	CI Living	November 26, 2018

**Approve the following donations:**

Amount	From	Designation
\$1,500	State Farm	GCMS High School

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

None		
------	--	--

Approve the minutes of the GCMS Regular and Executive Session Minutes of October 15, 2018 as presented.

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

**GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5**  
**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES OF**  
**November 12, 2018**

**Advisory Reports:**

**Policy:** Members - Adam Elder and Miranda Leonard  
No report.

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

No Report, Meeting in scheduled for December.

**Personnel and Finance:** Members - Josh Johnson and Phil Whitehouse  
No Report.

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

Board member Leonard left the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

**Building Administration Reports:**

**Principal's Reports:**

**High School Principal, Chris Garard**

**Enrollment - 303**

Freshman: 71

Sophomores: 77

Juniors: 77

Seniors: 78

New students: 3

Non-returning students: 1

**Student of the month is Senior, Tyler Ricks**

**Mental Health In-Service**

On October 30, students from eighteen school districts came together to discuss and share concerns regarding mental health issues in their schools. The days activities were student driven and student led. Sara Groom Boucek, GCMS alum and Lead Counsel for IASA was the keynote speaker.

**Variety Show**

Mr. Garard congratulated Miss Broaddus and all the students who performed at the annual Variety Show on November 2. The show was once again a huge success.

**GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5**  
**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES OF**  
**November 12, 2018**

**Illinois Principals Association Fall professional leaders conference**

Mr. Garard thanked Superintendent Darnell and the board members for the opportunity to once again participate in the annual IPA Fall Professional Leaders Conference.

**Curriculum Updates**

The CEO Program will officially begin next school year.

ECCA at Parkland will be expanding two new offerings next school year.

- Automotive Repair
- EMT/Tire Training

**HS Upcoming Events**

Date	Event	Location & Time
November 12-16	Girls Basketball Tournament	GCMS HS
November 19-24	Boys Basketball Tournament	GCMS HS
November 20	Wrestling - first home match	GCMS ES

**Middle School Principal, Kyle Bielfeldt**

Enrollment - 231

6th: 72

7th: 76

8th: 83

**Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Conferences were held on October 24-25. The middle school had 74% of students represented at conferences by parents and guardians. This is the exact same number as last year. The teachers did an excellent job of contacting parents and getting them into the building to discuss individual students' strengths as well as areas of concern. As always, the goal for next year will be to increase the percentage and get all parents in the building.

**Red Ribbon Week**

Red Ribbon Week was a huge success. Students and teachers both participated in the dress up days the door winners for this year were:

6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Mrs. Schwenk

7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Mrs. McClure

8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Mr. Dinkins

Overall Building Winner – Ms. Fairfield

**GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5**  
**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES OF**  
**November 12, 2018**

Check out the Middle School Instagram account to see photos of students and teachers during the week.

**Twin County Conference Tournament**

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls basketball team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the TCC Tournament hosted at GCMS Middle School. Regionals will begin on Saturday, November 17 at PBL.

**Athletics**

Boys basketball has started with the first two games on November 5 and November 6. There are eight 6<sup>th</sup> graders, seven 7<sup>th</sup> Graders, and fifteen 8<sup>th</sup> graders on the 7th and 8th grade teams. Volleyball begins on November 29 and Wrestling starts on November 26.

**Veteran's Day Assembly**

A huge thank you to all of the members of the Veteran's Day Assembly, Nick Meunier - the keynote speaker, Mr. Renchen and Miss Broaddus, Mrs. Keefe, Mr. Kean, Mr. Garard, and Mr. Willis. The assembly was a big hit once again.

**MS Upcoming Events**

Date	Event	Location & Time
November 9	Veteran's Day Assembly	HS
November 9	SIP Day	District Wide
November 16-18	School Board Convention	Chicago
November 21-23	Thanksgiving Break	District Wide
November 29	SIP Meeting	MS
November 30	Dance	MS

**Elementary Principal, Justin Kean**

Enrollment - 474

ECE: 18

Pre K: 40

K: 59

1st: 66

2nd: 81

3rd: 66

4th: 71

5th: 73

**GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5**  
**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES OF**  
**November 12, 2018**

**BUG Program**

The theme for the month of November is Citizenship which aligns with Veteran’s Day. The 5th grade BUG video theme was centered around voting and the students used a book titled, “Duck for President.” Mr. Willis shared that the author saw the video and loved it. Check out the video on the GCMS website.

**Reading Incentive Program**

The first reading incentive was October 17. A few things have changed this school year where grades K-2 will have their incentive party together and grades 3-5 will have their reading parties by grade.

**Red Ribbon Week**

The Elementary School hosted over 550 grandparents and other special visitors who had lunch, went to recess and spent time in the classroom with their special students. Shout out to Cathy Walker Steidinger for organizing this week at the Elementary School.

**School Bus Safety Week**

School bus safety week was held October 22-26. Students made cards for drivers and bus staff and in light of recent national events, the bus drivers and garage staff are very much appreciated.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Over 95% of students were represented by a parent or guardian at conferences held in October. There were 454 students presented out of 474 total students at the elementary school.

**ES Upcoming Events**

Date	Event	Location & Time
November 14	Yoga	3:45 p.m.
November 15	4th Grade Gym Night	Gym
November 26	MS Wrestling begins	Gym
December 3-4	Map Testing	ES
December 7	Santa Shop	Cafeteria
December 12	2nd qtr reading celebration	ES
December 14	Band Concert Preview	10:00 a.m.
December 18	Christmas Concert	K-2 6:00 p.m. 3-5 7:00 p.m.

**GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5**  
**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES OF**  
**November 12, 2018**

**Special Education Director, Jesse McFarling**

The Ford County Special Education Cooperative Executive Committee met on November 8 at the GCMS District Office. The annual financial review for FY18 was approved with no findings, updates were presented on DLM testing and student participation criteria and also on Indicator 6. The executive committee also approved the amended FY19 budget and accepted a letter of resignation from school psychologist, Julie Audo, who will retire at the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

A budget meeting is scheduled for the December 17 board meeting at 6:00 p.m. This will be to approve the amended budget which includes the salary for the hearing impaired teacher, Emily Chase.

October Fund balance: \$557,050.52

Start of the year Fund balance: \$378,046.59

**Curriculum Director, Erin Nuss**

Mrs. Nuss and Mr. Darnell reviewed highlights from the recently released Illinois School Report Card. The full report card is available at [www.illinoisreportcard.com](http://www.illinoisreportcard.com). Mrs. Nuss acclaimed the district's impressive proficiency rates in both ELA and Math on the PARCC and SAT assessments. Mr. Darnell stressed how impressive that academic performance is while the district's overall instructional and operational spending is significantly less than the state average.

**Superintendent's Report**

**New Tractor**

Superintendent Darnell reported to the board the need for a replacement tractor for snow removal and other district grounds maintenance. The current tractor from 1998 is 20 years old and is needing to be replaced. Two bids were submitted with Birkey's Farm Store submitting the lower bid and thus receiving the sale. **Motion to approve the purchase of Farmall 45C Tractor from Birkey's for a price of \$29,500.** Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Elder. Motion carried by roll call with all members voting yes.



**GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5**  
**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES OF**  
**November 12, 2018**

**Presentation of the FY19 Tax Levy**

Superintendent Darnell shared with the board information regarding the proposed 5.77% tax levy rate for 2018-2019. The rate is once again down from 5.89% last year. This is the third year in a row the school district has reduced the tax rate. A total of \$7,437,041 will be levied from taxpayers. Board members will vote on the final levy at the December 17 board meeting.

**Motion to approve the 2019 tentative Tax Levy as presented.** Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Young. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

**Presentation of the annual Board of Education Meeting Calendar for 2019**

*2019 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DATES*

Monday, January 28	Regular Session	6:15 P.M.
Monday, February 25	Regular Session	6:15 P.M.
Monday, March 18	Regular Session	6:15 P.M.
Monday, April 15	Regular Session	6:15 P.M.
Monday, May 20	Regular Session	6:15 P.M.
Monday, June 17	Regular Session	6:15 P.M.
Monday, July 22	Regular Session	6:15 P.M.
Monday, August 19	FCSEC Budget Hearing	6:00 P.M.
	Regular Session	6:15 P.M.
Monday, September 23	GCMS Budget Hearing	6:00 P.M.
	Regular Session	6:15 P.M.
Monday, October 21	Regular Session	6:15 P.M.
Monday, November 18	Regular Session	6:15 P.M.
Monday, December 16	Regular Session	6:15 P.M.

*Near the start of each meeting, there will be an executive session if needed. Unless otherwise noted or posted, all meetings will be held in the Boardroom at 307 N. Sangamon Street, Gibson City, Illinois 60936.*

**Motion to approve the 2019 GCMS Board of Education meeting dates as presented.**

Motion was made by board member Elder and seconded by board member Whitehouse. Motion carried by voice vote with all members present voting yes.

**2018 Resolution Committee**

The 2018 Delegate Assembly will be held at the School Board Convention in Chicago, November 17. A GCMS board member will be designated to be the district's standing delegate. A motion to **appoint Steve Swearingen as the GCMS voting delegate for the 2018-2019 Delegate Assembly on November 17 and cast votes as prescribed by the GCMS Board of Education.** Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Young. Motion carried by voice vote with all members present voting yes.

**GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5  
SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES OF  
November 12, 2018**

**Health Insurance Plans**

Superintendent Darnell reviewed the new district health insurance plan offerings with the board and shared information about the health committee that was implemented to represent each segment of the district's full time staff. The health committee approved the insurance plan design changes for the 2019 plan year. In order to keep premiums low for employees, the new plans include higher out of pocket maximums. As of January 1, 2019 the board will contribute \$665 monthly towards each employee's premium.

**One Earth Energy Resolution**

A final agreement with One Earth Energy/City of Gibson/GCMS/GC Fire Protection/Ford County Assessor/Ford County Board of Review was approved along with corresponding settlement payments. Superintendent Darnell offered remarks to the board about the open criticism from the community and local businesses over the years regarding how much the board spent on litigation. GCMS School District will retain \$2.7 million in escrow funds from the settlement which is substantially more than the \$1 million spent in legal fees. Darnell also commented that the final agreement is a true compromise for all parties involved.

**Motion to approve the joint agreement, and corresponding payments, between The City of Gibson, One Earth Energy LLC, GCMS, Gibson City Fire Protection District, Ford County Supervisor of Assessments, and the Ford County Board of Review pending all parties approval and signature.** Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Elder. Motion carried by roll call with members Elder, Whitehouse, Swearingen and Johnson voting yes, member Young abstained.

A motion to **adjourn the meeting** was made by board member Swearingen and seconded by board member Young at 7:07 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote, with all members present voting yes.

---

Board President Josh Johnson

---

Board Secretary Lori Kristensen