

**GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5**  
**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES OF**  
**December 17, 2018**

The Board of Education of Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley Community Unit School District #5 met in regular session on Monday, December 17, 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, Swearingen, Tucker-Davis and Leonard in attendance. Also present were: Elementary School Principal Justin Kean, Middle School Principal Kyle Bielfeldt, 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 Young, High School Principal Chris Garard, and Curriculum Director Erin Nuss.

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

**Recognition of Visitors:**

Several varsity football players from the 2018 State Champion Class 2A team brought the championship trophy to the board meeting to share with the board of education. Those present were; Keegan Kutemeier, Daniel Jones, Jordan Lee, Payton Kean, Darren Brown, Marcus Baillie, Lance Livingston and Head Football Coach Mike Allen. The team thanked the school board for their continued support and encouragement. Board President, Josh Johnson commented on the positive impact this team has had on all GCMS students. He also commended the young men on how well the team represented GCMS during their entire season. Superintendent Darnell likewise congratulated the team on their second straight State Title and noticed what an impact this team has had on the younger kids in the community. Darnell also complimented the young men on their determination to work hard during the off season and stay focused during their march to the State game in Champaign.

**Secretary Pro-Tem**

A motion was made to nominate Emily Tucker-Davis as secretary pro-tem in Tyler Young's absence for this meeting. Motion made by board member Elder and seconded by board member Swearingen. Motion carried by roll call with all board members present voting yes.

A motion to **go into executive session** was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Swearingen at 6:21 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).

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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 Whitehouse at 6:27 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote, with all board members present voting yes.

**Action Items to Consider From Executive Session**

**Accept Requests for:**

Motion to **approve the following list of volunteers:**

- Wrestling: Jacob Franklin
- Volleyball: Morgan Kutemeier, Shelbie Kearfott
- Youth Basketball: Mark Ward, Marcus Watterson, Chris Stroh, Tim Leonard, Adam Elder, Matt Lindelof, Rick Kerchenfaut, Ryan Iverson, Brett Beyers, Jamie Sexton, Jeff Grider, Nick Elder, Ben Kaeding, Kaleb Kraft, Brandon Roderick
- Girls Track: Alison Sizemore, Angelica Osladil, Steven Osladil, Taylor Leake
- Boys Track: Chase McCall
- Softball: Greg Brucker, Tim Leonard
- Baseball: Pete Hornstein, Christian Rosenbeck, Patrick Bean, Bob Huppert

Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Leonard. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **approve tuition reimbursement for Catherine Peterson** for her masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Illinois per the negotiated agreement. Motion was made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Tucker-Davis. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **hire Danielle Jones as an elementary school teacher** for GCMS School District at Step 1 BA starting January 7, 2019 at a prorated contract per the negotiated agreement. Motion was made by board member Tucker-Davis and seconded by board member Leonard. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **hire Philip Schwing as an assistant wrestling coach** for GCMS/Fisher middle school wrestling for the 2018-2019 season. Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Tucker-Davis. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

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Motion to **approve an unpaid leave of absence for Lisa Lange** from December 17, 2018 through June 30, 2019. Motion was made by board member Swearingen and seconded by board member Leonard. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

**Additional Agenda Items:**

None

**Consent Agenda**

**GCMS Accounts Payable bills approved were \$766,856.00**

Education fund	\$433,176.33
Building fund	\$195,256.70
Debt Service fund	\$0.00
Transportation fund	\$78,273.32
IMRF/FICA fund	\$29,666.50
Capital Projects fund	\$0.00
W/C	\$0.00
TORT	\$30,483.15
F/HLS	\$0.00

**GCMS Payrolls approved were \$402,114.71**

Education fund	\$350,558.87
Building fund	\$18,129.25
Transportation fund	\$1,205.66
TORT	\$32,220.93

**FCSEC Accounts Payable bills approved were \$93,928.20**

Education fund	\$91,403.74
Building fund	\$132.46
IMRF/FICA Fund	\$2,392.00

**FCSEC Payrolls approved were \$39,628.69 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 June 2017.

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**Approve Field Trips for:**

2nd Grade	Children's Discovery Museum in Normal	May 10, 2019
FFA Leadership Retreat	Galena, IL	January 20-21, 2019

**Approve the following donations:**

Amount	From	Designation
\$200	Ford County Farm Bureau	FFA
\$8,700	GAH Touchdowns	Football Activity
\$935.45	GCMS Booster Club	Playoff Meal
\$1,773.50	GCMS Booster Club	Dance Team
\$997.60	GCMS Booster Club	Dance Team
\$250	Lee Farms Excavating	Football Activity
\$500	NAPA	Football Activity
\$2,500	Anonymous	High School Activity
\$765.33	Anonymous	Mental Health Day Meal
\$5,000	Anonymous	Football Travel

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

Youth basketball teams from Gibson City who are participating in the Paxton Park District Youth Basketball Program will be practicing in the elementary and middle school gyms, when available, December 15, 2018 - March 1, 2019

Approve the minutes of the GCMS Regular and Executive Session Minutes of November 12, 2018 as presented.

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

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**Advisory Reports:**

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

Meeting scheduled for January 10, 2019

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

Meeting scheduled for January 10, 2019

**Personnel and Finance:** Members - Josh Johnson and Phil Whitehouse

Meeting scheduled for January 10, 2019

**Strategy and Enrichment:** Members – Tyler Young and Josh Johnson

Meeting is scheduled for the end of January.

**Building Administration Reports:**

**Principal's Reports:**

**High School Principal, Chris Garard**

Enrollment - 302

Freshman: 72

Sophomores: 76

Juniors: 77

Seniors: 77

New students: 1

Non-returning students: 3

**Student of the month is Senior, Adam Conway**

**Credit Recovery Program**

There are nine students currently in the program. Two will graduate in December. One of the students is graduating a semester early and the other one is a 5th year student able to graduate due to this program.

**Distinguished Alumni Induction - Friday, February 1, 2019**

Conrad Longmire - Sibley High School Class of 1939

Mark Salyards - Gibson City High School Class of 1982

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**Student involved in winter activities**

Girls Basketball - 18

Boys Basketball - 32

Dance - 12

Wrestling - 20 (12 GCMS & 8 Fisher)

Cheerleading - 15, including Fergie

**IHSA Football Class 2A Back to Back State Champions**

State title game played at Memorial Stadium at the University of Illinois on Saturday, November 23, 2018 against Maroa-Forsythe. Falcons won 35-16.

**HS Upcoming Events**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location &amp; Time</b>
January 7, 2019	Staff in-service	High School gym 8:00 a.m.
January 8	Students return	
January 16	Voluntary SAT	

**Middle School Principal, Kyle Bielfeldt**

Enrollment - 232

6th: 73

7th: 76

8th: 83

**December Students of the Month**

6th Grade - Lily Harmet

7th Grade - Getty Greer

8th Grade - Keegen Frashier

**Twin County Conference Boys Basketball Tournament**

The 7th Grade Boys Basketball team finished in 4th place at the tournament this year hosted by Nash.

**Athletics**

Girls volleyball has started and rosters are filled. There are 3 - 6th grade students, 12 - 7th grade students, and 15 - 8th grade students on the rosters. The first volleyball match will be on January 7, 2019. Wrestling has also begun with 16 GCMS students on the roster. The wrestling team's first meet is December 18, 2018.

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**MAP Testing**

The second round of MAP testing is complete. Reports indicate the middle school students are showing growth. In Mr Dinkin’s class, there were a few students who showed as many as 20 points growth.

**MS Upcoming Events**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location &amp; Time</b>
December 16	Winter Band and Choral Concert	High School
December 18	Admin Academy	PBL
December 19	Staff Holiday Party	Railside
December 21	2:20 Dismissal for Christmas Break	All District buildings
December 22 - January 6	Winter Break	All District buildings
January 7	Teacher Institute	
January 8	Students Return	All District buildings
January 14	Student Advisory Meeting	MS
January 18	School Dance	MS Cafeteria
January 21	MLK Day	No School
January 25	Career Day	MS

**Elementary Principal, Justin Kean**

Enrollment - 471

ECE: 20

Pre K: 40

K: 58

1st: 64

2nd: 81

3rd: 65

4th: 70

5th: 73

**BUG Program**

The theme for the month of December is Caring. The student voted a name for the new ES Bug character. The winning name is Fergie Jr. This month’s 5th grade Bug video is based on the book, “I Walk with Vanessa.”

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**Staff**

Lots of social activities are going on for staff to promote unity. Yoga Wednesdays, Winter Blues party, Gordyville, pedal tour, movies and food days are just to name a few.

**Busy Building**

The ES building is busy with lots of activities. Middle school and high school wrestling practices and meets are in full swing, CAPS after school program has moved to the music and art rooms and youth wrestling, youth basketball, and the high school dance team are all using the gymnasium when it's available.

**Map Testing**

Map testing was completed in two days on December 4 and 5. There are still a few students who need to make up the testing. The ES is very grateful for to the board for their support in purchasing devices to aid with map testing.

**Reading Incentive Program**

159 kids earned the opportunity to attend the December reading incentive for grades K-2.

**Food Drive**

The Elementary School collected over 4100 items for the Legion food baskets. The GCMS wrestling team will assist with moving the food items to the Legion.

**Band Concert**

The high school band and the 5th grade band will provide a concert to the ES on December 14. The GCMS choral and band Christmas concert will be held on Sunday, December 16 at the high school for grades 6-12 (choral) and 5-12 (band).

**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
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.
December 18	Christmas Dress up Days	All ES Grades
December 19	GCMS All Staff Christmas Party	3:30
January 11	New BUG video on Caring	



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January 11	Report cards distributed	All students
January 14-18	Book Fair	Library

**Special Education Director, Jesse McFarling**

Director McFarling reported the FCSEC school psychologist position for GCMS has been posted on multiple online sites. McFarling plans to attend the Illinois School Psychologist Association annual conference job fair with Curriculum Director, Erin Nuss on February 1, 2019.

The FY18 fee calculations for staff have been updated in iTames for FCSEC and both GCMS and PBL School Districts.

McFarling also reported he and Cati Heap attended an early childhood training seminar in Peoria on December 10, 2018. The seminar is part of the district's efforts to complete the Indicator 6 improvement plan for ISBE.

The November Fund Balance is: \$491,269.22

The start of the year Fund Balance was: \$378,046.59

**Curriculum Director, Erin Nuss**

The Curriculum Office report included updates on assessments which have been completed including practice SAT tests at the high school and MAP testing in the other buildings. On overview of the upcoming, January 7, Teacher Institute Day was provided. The day will focus on the theme "In This Together" and will provide staff with a variety of opportunities to learn about Mental Health-related topics. Board President Johnson was thanked for speaking at December's GCMS University meeting. A brief overview of mid-year SIP meetings was provided.

**Superintendent's Report**

**Workers Compensation Renewal 2019**

The district's workers compensation insurance rates went down for the second year in row. This result is due to staff using best practices for safety in the workplace. **Motion to accept the workers compensation insurance renewal from the Illinois Public Risk Fund and Insurance Providers Group as presented.** Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Elder. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

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**FY2019 GCMS Tax Levy**

Superintendent Darnell shared with the board information regarding the proposed 5.77% tax levy rate for 2018-2019. The rate once again has a slight reduction 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. **Motion to approve the 2019 Tax Levy as presented.** Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Tucker-Davis. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

**One Earth Energy Settlement**

One Earth Energy litigation is closed and complete from a district perspective. **Motion to approve the Agreement dated December 17, 2018, providing for the settlement and disposition of the litigation over the assessed valuation of the One Earth Energy Ethanol Plant currently pending before the State of Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board for years 2009 through 2017 and providing for the assessment and taxation of the One Earth Energy Ethanol Plant for years 2018 through 2038, as well as Addendum A attached thereto, as presented .** Motion was made by board member Elder and seconded by board member Leonard. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

**Third Amendment to the TIF II Intergovernmental Agreement**

The board approved an amendment to the TIF II agreement with the City of Gibson that will provide the school district with some additional funds each year. **Motion that the GCMS Board of Education approve the Gibson City TIF District II Third Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the City of Gibson City, Illinois and Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley Community Unit School District #5, as presented.** Motion was made by board member Tucker-Davis and seconded by board member Whitehouse. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

**FCSEC revised FY19 budget approval.**

**Motion to approve the revised FY19 FCSEC Budget as presented in the special budget hearing.** Motion was made by board member Swearingen and seconded by board member Leonard. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

**Correspondence**

- The Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Membership certificate was received as well as the current Code of Conduct for IASB.
- Congressman Adam Kinzinger sent a congratulatory letter to the GCMS High School football team on their 2018 IHSA Class 2A Championship
- A letter was received from the National Board Resource Center at Illinois State University congratulating **Cathy Cope on her National Board Certification.** This certification is achieved through rigorous, performance-based assessment of a teacher's pedagogical skills and content knowledge and takes approximately 1-3 years to complete.

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- Superintendent Darnell received certificates from his completion of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) online training and the Open Meetings Act (OMA) online training.

A motion to **adjourn the meeting** was made by board member Swearingen and seconded by board member Whitehouse at 6:53 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 Lori Kristensen