

**GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5**  
**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**July 17, 2017**

The Board of Education of Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley Community Unit School District #5 met in regular session on Monday, July 17, 2017, 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, Swearingen, Leonard, Tucker-Davis and Young in attendance. Also present were: FCSEC Director Jesse McFarling, Curriculum Director Erin Nuss, 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 Elder

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 Whitehouse and seconded by board member Young at 6:17 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 Leonard and seconded by board member Swearingen at 6:33 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 **hire Tammy Zehr as the Elementary School Office Assistant for the 2017-2018 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 **hire Eva Hood as a paraprofessional for the GCMS School District for the 2017-2018 school year**. Motion was made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Young. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **hire Natosha Wooton as a paraprofessional for the GCMS School District for the 2017-2018 school year**. Motion was made by board member Young and seconded by board member Whitehouse. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **accept the resignation of Shawna Pondel as 6th grade science teacher effective immediately with thanks for her service**. Motion was made by board member Tucker-Davis and seconded by board member Young. Motion carried by voice vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **accept the resignation of Patti Welander as the High School library clerk effective July 1, 2017 with thanks for her service**. Motion was made by board member Young and seconded by board member Whitehouse. Motion carried by voice vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **hire Garrett Rigsby as a paraprofessional for GCMS School District for the 2017-2018 school year**. Motion was made by board member Young and seconded by board member Whitehouse. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **approve Kristen Massey as library clerk at GCMS High School for the 2017-2018 school year**. 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.

**Additional Agenda Items:**

None

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**Consent Agenda**

Approve the minutes of the GCMS Regular and Executive Session Minutes of June 19, 2017.

**GCMS Accounts Payable bills approved were \$854,266.28**

Education fund	\$270,977.42
Building fund	\$129,142.86
Debt Service fund	\$0.00
Transportation fund	\$70,113.24
IMRF/FICA fund	\$32,992.74
Capital Projects fund	\$0.00
W/C	\$0.00
TORT	\$351,040.02
F/HLS	\$0.00

**GCMS Payrolls approved were \$436,964.61**

Education fund	\$393,357.73
Building fund	\$17,907.59
Transportation fund	\$2,299.56
TORT	\$23,399.73

**FCSEC Accounts Payable bills approved were \$116,269.71**

Education fund	\$112,476.03
Building fund	\$1,877.54
IMRF/FICA Fund	\$1,916.14

**FCSEC Payrolls approved were \$36,570.34 all in the Education fund**

Financial/treasurers 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 January 2016.

**Approve Field Trips for:**

None

**Approve the following donations:**

Amount	From	Designation
None		

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

- None

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

**Advisory Reports:**

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

**Building, Grounds, and Transportation:** Members -Steve Swearingen and Emily Tucker-Davis  
No report.

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

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

**Building Administration Reports:**

**Principal's Reports:**

High School Principal, Chris Garard  
No Principal report for July..

Middle School Principal, Kyle Bielfeldt  
No Principal report for July.

Elementary Principal, Justin Kean  
No Principal report for July.

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Special Education, Jesse McFarling

Director McFarling reported the FCSEC end of year expenditure report was submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education and was accepted. NCI training is scheduled for the second week in August with 31 GCMS and PBL staff members participating.

Curriculum Director, Erin Nuss

Each building in the GCMS District created a School-wide Plan and submitted it to the Board of Education for approval. These School-Wide plans are in compliance with the new ESSA law. The plans outline how each building will use Title funding to meet the needs of all learners within the building. The Title I District Plan was also reviewed and approved by the Board of Education. The district plan specifically outlines school improvement plans and district goals for improving student achievement and well-being.

Motion to approve the 2017-2018 ESSA plans as presented for GCMS School District. Motion was made by board member Young seconded by board member Leonard. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

**Superintendent's Report**

**Financial Review**

Superintendent Darnell reported to the board that because of the state's delays, a review of the 2017-2018 budget will take place in August with a special hearing to approve these numbers on September 25. Darnell also informed the board of the district's current balance sheet which has a surplus across all funds of approximately \$842,000 and is expected to decrease significantly. \$300,000 from a working cash bond and approximately \$600,000 from contested money from One Earth Energy's property tax appeal. Darnell also shared with the board the district has received a small amount of mandated categorical payments from the state which was unexpected and early tax payments from McLean and Livingston counties which helped boost the end of year revenue.

Superintendent Darnell discussed briefly the current appeal case with One Earth Energy. He shared that a judge is currently considering the case and will issue a ruling in the future. As for when the judge will render an opinion, the district's attorneys have said the opinion will come in the form of a 2,400 - 2,800 page document, which could take up to two years for this to happen.

Auditor Russ Leigh will conduct a yearly audit of the district's finances beginning in August. Final numbers will be shared with the board sometime in October at the earliest.

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**Boys and Girls Golf Team Contribution to Railside Golf Course**

Superintendent Darnell proposed to the board a \$3,000 one-time contribution fee for the use of Railside Golf Course by the GCMS girls and boys golf teams. Both teams practice and play matches at Railside during the fall season. This one-time facility contribution would be for the course's upkeep and maintenance so that the GCMS golf athletes have a quality facility to practice and play on.

Motion to contribute \$3,000 to Railside Golf Course for the course improvements on behalf of the GCMS boys and girls golf teams. Motion was made by board member Tucker-Davis seconded by board member Whitehouse. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

**Review of Summer Maintenance**

The summer maintenance projects are ahead of schedule with completion. The majority of vendors assisting with these projects were in early this summer to assure work would be completed before the start of school. The student summer workers hired for June and July have been a great asset for our custodial staff and have aided in the summer projects being completed early. Darnell reported that final costs of the summer projects is coming in significantly under budget than what was originally estimated. Darnell also shared with the board the date for the custodial appreciation lunch which will be on August 11 at the Middle School cafeteria.

**Elementary School Handbook Review**

Superintendent Darnell shared with the board the Elementary School handbook for the 2017-2018 school year. It is currently in a traditional format, but Mr. Kean will be working towards moving this to a model format for next school year.

Motion to approve the GCMS Elementary School handbook as presented. Motion was made by board member Leonard seconded by board member Young. Motion carried by voice vote with all members present voting yes.

**Additional Comments**

None

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A motion to **adjourn the regular session** was made by board member Swearingen and seconded by board member Young at: 6:55 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