

GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #5
SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES OF
August 19, 2019

The Board of Education of Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley Community Unit School District #5 met in regular session on Monday, August 19, 2019, 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, Friday, Tucker-Davis and Leonard in attendance. Also present were: High School Principal Chris Garard, Middle School Principal Kyle Bielfeldt, Elementary School Principal Justin Kean, 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: None

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present at the beginning of the FCSEC final budget hearing held at 6:00 p.m.

Recognition of Visitors:

A motion to **go into executive session** was made by board member Young and seconded by board member Whitehouse at 6:16 p.m. Motion carried by roll call with all board members present voting yes 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 Whitehouse and seconded by board member Elder at 6:24 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 Abby McGuire** as a paraprofessional for GCMS School District for the 2019-2020 school year at a rate of \$12.00 per hour. Motion was made by board member Whitehouse seconded by board member Leonard. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **hire Allison Able** as a paraprofessional for GCMS School District for the 2019-2020 school year at a rate of \$12.00 per hour. Motion was made by board member Friday seconded by board member Whitehouse. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **hire Cindy Farris-Morano** as a paraprofessional for GCMS School District for the 2019-2020 school year at a rate of \$12.50 per hour. Motion was made by board member Tucker-Davis seconded by board member Leonard. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **hire Jon Donovan as PE teacher for GCMS School District at Step 12 Masters on the Negotiated Agreement.** Motion was made by board member Leonard and seconded by board member Elder. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **hire Amy Veatch** as a paraprofessional for GCMS School District for the 2019-2020 school year at a rate of \$12.00 per hour. Motion was made by board member Young seconded by board member Whitehouse. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **approve Jennifer Jamison as the newspaper club sponsor for GCMS Middle School** for the 2019-2020 school year. Motion was made by board member Tucker-Davis seconded by board member Friday. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **approve Jori Maynard as GCMS Middle School Volleyball coach** for the 2019-2020 school year. Motion was made by board member Tucker-Davis seconded by board member Leonard. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **accept the resignation of Brian Hambleton as a teacher and sponsor for the GCMS School District** effective immediately with thanks for service. Motion was made by board member Whitehouse seconded by board member Young. Motion carried by voice vote with all members present voting yes.

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Motion to **approve the retirement incentrive for Gaye King per the GCMSEA Negotiated Agreement including 6% increases** for the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022 school years with an irrevocable letter of retirement. Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Young. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **hire Karissa Leonard on behalf of FCSEC as records custodian for the 2019-2020 school year.** Motion was made by board member Tucker-Davis seconded by board member Friday. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **waive the tuition cost for employee Maria Rodriguez's child to attend GCMS School District while she transitions housing through January 1, 2020.** Motion was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Young. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Motion to **approve Andria Dribble as volunteer cheer coach** for the 2019-2020 school year. Motion was made by board member Leonard seconded by board member Whitehouse. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Additional Agenda Items:

None

Consent Agenda

GCMS Accounts Payable bills approved were \$702,913.73

Education fund	\$539,123.32
Building fund	\$83,357.97
Debt Service fund	\$0.00
Transportation fund	\$24,269.55
IMRF/FICA fund	\$33,459.67
Capital Projects fund	\$0.00
W/C	\$0.00
TORT	\$22,703.22
F/HLS	\$0.00

GCMS Payrolls approved were \$438,116.50

Education fund	\$380,845.36
Building fund	\$18,394.93
Transportation fund	\$1,085.26
TORT	\$37,790.95

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FCSEC Accounts Payable bills approved were \$278,743.94

Education fund	\$276,792.86
Building fund	\$136.49
IMRF/FICA Fund	\$1,814.59

FCSEC Payrolls approved were \$40,625.41 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 March 2018.

Approve Field Trips for:

5th Grade	Lafayette, Indiana	October 4, 2019
Ag/FFA	Decatur, Illinois	August 28, 2019

Approve the following donations:

Amount	From	Designation
\$500.00	Siemens Property Management	GCMS Football
\$4,000	Anonymous	GCMS Athletics

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

- Girls on the Run, use of the Track from September through November 2019
- Youth Basketball, use of gymnasiums from August through October, 2019

Approve the minutes of the GCMS Regular and Executive Session Minutes of July 22, 2019 meeting as presented.

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

Advisory Reports:

Policy: Members - Janna Friday and Miranda Leonard
Meeting scheduled for September 4, 2019

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Building, Grounds, and Transportation: Members - Adam Elder & Tyler Young
Meeting held July 23, 2019 to discuss hiring BLDD Architects at an expense of \$20,000.

Personnel and Finance: Members - Josh Johnson and Phil Whitehouse
Meeting held on August 16, 2019 and discussed the tentative GCMS FY20 budget.

Strategy and Enrichment: Members – Josh Johnson & Emily Tucker-Davis
The Strategy and Enrichment advisory will be meeting in the near future to discuss investment options future resources.

Building Administration Reports:

Principal's Reports:

High School Principal, Chris Garard

Enrollment - 300

New Student registrations: 10

Non-returning students: 10

Interact Blood Drive

Student, Hannah Cliff organized the Interact Blood Drive with 29 units being collected.

Freshman First Day

Special thanks to Mrs. Deschepper for organizing this annual event and the high school staff for attending. The day was a huge success.

A special thank you goes out to the custodial and maintenance staff for their hard work during the summer months to make the building look fantastic for the new school year.

The Red Army spruced up the first floor restrooms with new paint and inspirational decals to welcome students back for the new school year.

Student activities are in full swing. Marching band, dance, flags, football, golf, tennis, soccer and FFA activities.

Upcoming activities

Homecoming week: September 23-28

Homecoming game: September 27, 7:00 game vs Fisher (Hall of Fame induction at halftime)

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Middle School Principal, Kyle Bielfeldt

Enrollment: 223

New student registrations: 7

Non-returning students: 7

Registration

Thank you to all of the staff members that helped out during registration and the PTA members that brought food and drinks for all of the workers. It made registration day go smoothly! The staff that assisted with registration were: Jessie Lee, Jill Doran, Jenny Jamison, Dale Hoogstraat, Lisa Thames, Jill Gibson, Julie Saunders, Amy Doman, Jenny McClure, Mary Fairfield, Deanna Freehill, April Warren.

New Hires

We would like to welcome all of our new hires at the middle school. We are excited to gain their experiences and expertise.

Jon Donovan – PE

Josh Hinkley – Special Education/Life Skills

Brittany Shreffler – ELA/Literacy

6th Grade Transition Night

Thank you to the 6th grade staff for hosting the annual 6th grade transition night for incoming sixth grade students. 98% of the sixth grade students attended. Also a big thank you to other middle school staff for coming and helping with this informative night.

Athletics

Middle School softball started on July 29 and Middle School baseball started on August 5. Both teams had to make cuts to finalize their 18 person roster. Softball's first games were a double header against Fisher and they won both. Baseball's first game is Saturday, August 17 with a double header against Iroquois West.

Upcoming Events

Aug. 14 – 6th Grade Transition Night

Aug. 19 – Staff In-service

Aug. 19 – Board of Education Meeting

Aug. 20 – First Day of Student Attendance

Aug. 27 – School Pictures

Aug. 28 – Fire Drill

Aug. 30 – Take Cover Drill

Sept. 2 – No School – Labor Day

Sept. 3 – First Students Pulled for Rtl

Sept. 4 – Elementary School Evacuation Drill

Sept. 10 – Active Intruder Drill

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Sept. 13 – Bus Evacuation Drill
Sept. 20 – School Improvement Day
Sept. 20 – First School Assembly

Elementary Principal, Justin Kean

Enrollment: 476

BUG Program

This year's Bug Program will start with showing a video in the classroom. Each classroom will award one per week. Tokens can be awarded by all and more than one per week.

Elementary School Building

The building looks great thanks to the custodial staff for getting things ready. Teachers have been in their classrooms for quite some time working in their classrooms to have things ready before the first day of school on August 20.

Registration

Registration went well with thanks to staff and PTA helpers. All but 35 kids were represented at registration (many contacted the ES office ahead of time). The ES gained 7 students that we were unaware of before registration. 9 students did not return that we were unaware of before registration. We had 9 new kindergarten students who did not preregister in the Spring.

Kindergarten Zoo Night

We currently have 83 registered for Kindergarten and our Zoo Night was attended by 76 families. The Zoo Night was held on Thursday, August 15th from 4:45 to 7:00 p.m. While the students and families were here they dropped off their supplies and had a directed tour of the building by their classroom's schedule. To conclude the evening Kindergarten teachers held their parent night while their new students enjoyed snack and a zoo presentation in the cafeteria. The Kindergarten staff likes to hold parent night before school begins to alleviate the stress of the first day of school (for both parents, students and teachers).

Upcoming activities

Aug. 19 - School supply drop off
Aug. 21 - Assembly at 9:00 a.m.
Aug. 28 - Parent orientation

- 1st-3rd grades are from 5:15-6:00 p.m. and 4th-5th grades are from 6:05-6:50 p.m.

Sept. 4 - ALICE drill
Sept. 6 - Preschool screening

- There are 12 openings: 7 in ECE and 5 in PreK

Sept. 10 & 11 - MAP testing
Sept. 18 - Fall pictures

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Special Education Director, Jesse McFarling

The Ford County Special Education Cooperative Executive Council met August 8, 2019 at the Paxton Buckley Loda School District Office. Action items from the meeting were as follows:

- Approved the resignation of Maria Rodriguez as FCSEC Records Custodian
- Approved the hiring of Karissa Leonard as FCSEC Records Custodian
- Approved the hiring of Maria Rodriguez as Records Consultant for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Approved the 2018-2019 final costs and refunds for PBL and GCMS School Districts
- Update on the IDEA and Preschool grant approval from the Illinois State Board of Education.
- Update on completed CPI trainings for both PBL and GCMS employees.

August Fund Balance: \$592,315

Start of the year Fund Balance: \$650,552

Curriculum Director, Erin Nuss

Mrs. Nuss reported on the success of this year's GCMS University New Teacher Induction and Mentoring Program. Both Mrs. Lindelof and Mrs. Nuss were thrilled by the engagement and positivity of the new hires. We are lucky to have so many staff members who are willing to play a role in the two-day GCMS U workshops. Mrs. Nuss specifically thanked Susan Riley, Deanna Leitz, Don Worthington, Justin Kean, Chris Garard, Kyle Bielfeldt, and Walker Willis for their presentations. A brief overview of the positive outcomes from 2019 Assessments was provided. Individual student scores for both IAR and SAT will be sent home in early September. Mrs. Nuss reported on the success of the GCMS Substitute Workshop. 25 people participated this year and we are hopeful that many will begin subbing for us regularly.

Superintendent's Report

Presentation of the Tentative FY20 Budget

Superintendent Darnell presented the tentative GCMS FY20 budget to the board. Last year it was projected that \$250,000-\$300,000 would be a deficit, but the budget ended up with a \$300,000 surplus. Darnell reported there would always be a conservative nature on the total revenue projected for the school district. Approximately \$440,000 is projected to be the deficit for FY20, but most likely the budget will come in balanced. There is always going to be a margin for error built in to the budget.

Despite some funds being projected with deficits, all funds are expected to finish the fiscal year with positive healthy balances. Two of the nine funds are projected with surpluses. The Working Cash Fund at \$63,300 and Fund 90 (Fire Prevention & Safety) with \$35,000.

GCMS applied for the PreK grant a couple years ago but was not awarded the funds. The grant was applied for again this year and GCMS qualified with the numbers supplied to the State.

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The school district was notified of the qualification of the grant, but again will not be awarded the funds due to the State has no money to give for this grant at this point.

The GCMS FY20 Budget will be on public display and a hearing is set for September 23, 2019.

FCSEC FY20 Budget Approval

Motion to approve the FY20 budget as presented on behalf of the FCSEC. Motion was made by board member Whitehouse seconded by board member Tucker-Davis. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Officials Pay

Superintendent Darnell reported to the board that both HS and MS Athletic Directors researched area schools to find out what athletic officials are being paid. From this research, it was discovered that GCMS is paying the same or below what other area schools are paying officials.

Motion to approve the recommended increases in pay for athletic officials. Motion was made by board member Leonard seconded by board member Whitehouse. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

Contracted services for East Central Illinois Community Action Agency

Darnell presented to the board a letter from East Central Illinois Community Action Agency requesting a continued partnership with GCMS to prepare meals for Gibson City's Head Start program for the 2019-2020 school year at a rate of \$3.25 per lunch meal.

Motion to provide meal service to the Gibson City Head Start program for the 2019-2020 school year as presented. Motion was made by board member Tucker-Davis seconded by board member Young. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

BLDD Architects

Darnell presented to the board information about an agreement with BLDD Architects for Health and Life Safety and planning services for the Middle School to meet regulatory requirements established by the Illinois State Board of Education and long term planning services for the GCMS School District facilities.

Motion to approve the Health Life Safety and facilities planning work contract to BLDD Architects as presented. Motion was made by board member Young seconded by board member Friday. Motion carried by roll call with all members present voting yes.

A motion to **adjourn the meeting** was made by board member Whitehouse and seconded by board member Young at 6:55 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote, with all members present voting yes.

Board President Josh Johnson

Board Secretary Lori H. Kristensen