

Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools
1076 N. 37th Street, Galesburg, MI 49053 * 269-484-2000

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 15, 2010 – 7:00 p.m. – High School Media Center
Next Regular Board Meeting: April 19, 2010 – 7:00 p.m. – High School Media Center

MINUTES

Superintendent: Tim Vagts
Board Trustees: Curt Case, President; Bob Kinas, Vice-President;
Beth Wilson, Secretary; Lynne Wells, Treasurer;
Sandra Noteboom-Wood, Trustee; LaRae Richardson, Trustee;
Karen Rutherford, Trustee

Number of people in audience: 33.

I. ROUTINE BUSINESS ITEMS:

- A. Call Meeting to Order.** The meeting was called to order by President Case at 7:00 p.m.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance.**
- C. Roll Call.**

Members Present:
Curt Case
Bob Kinas
Beth Wilson
Lynne Wells
Sandra Noteboom-Wood
LaRae Richardson
Karen Rutherford

Administrators Present:
Tim Vagts, Superintendent
Greg Vlietstra, Business Manager
Chris Hurley, Primary School Principal
Martha Hymer, Intermediate School Principal
Jeremy Mansfield, Middle School Principal
Todd Reynolds, High School Principal

- D. Agenda Approval.** A motion was made by B. Wilson and supported by L. Richardson to approve the March 15, 2010 GACS Board of Education regular meeting agenda.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

- E. Secretary's Report.** Recommend approval of:
Minutes of the regular meeting of February 15, 2010.
- F. Accounts Payable Report.** Recommend approval of accounts payable in the amount of:
\$132,523.85 for February 23, 2010 and \$769,833.02 for February 26, 2010. **Grand Total:**
\$902,356.87.

- G. Treasurer’s Report.** Recommend approval of the Treasurer’s Report dated February 28, 2010, showing a balance of \$1,190,780.98.
- H. Personnel.** Recommend hiring Carrie Sutton as the High School girl’s tennis coach; Chris Hurley and Matthew Musialczyk as Middle School boy’s track co-coaches and Megan Januszka as Middle School girl’s track coach.

A motion was made by S. Noteboom-Wood and supported by B. Kinas to approve agenda items E through H. Roll Call Vote.

Members:

Richardson	yes
Noteboom-Wood	yes
Rutherford	yes
Wilson	yes
Wells	yes
Kinas	yes
Case	yes

AYES: 7 NAYS: 0 Motion Carried.

II. REPORTS

A. Community Input – Agenda Items Only

Sue Forrester, retired teacher, stated that she had a lot of input during the construction and renovation phase at the Primary School and would like to see programs stay the same. Jan Duggan asked if the Board has communicated with the Augusta Village Council on the possible closure of the Intermediate School. Council members have shared with her that they do not want to see the Intermediate School boarded up. She also stated that she is concerned about the impact that the closure of the Intermediate School will have on property values. Kris Wirgau shared her concern about the financial impact that the Intermediate closure would have on employees of the Intermediate School and asked the Board if they were taking this into consideration. Larry Robertson stated that he feels closing the Intermediate School would be a bad idea. Jeff Merasco feels that the “personal touch” that students now receive at the Intermediate will be lost if the building is closed. He stated that he sees such a tremendous growth in students that transition from third grade to fourth grade and would like the board to take this into consideration when they make their decision. Eric Curtiss stated that he hopes the plan the Board decides upon is a good plan so that parents and community members can support us. Mr. Curtiss also stated that financial numbers are important and wants the Board to make sure they are accurate. Mr. Curtiss stated that he is concerned that the custodial staff will spend most of the summer closing and packing up the Intermediate and not enough time in other buildings doing routine summer maintenance if the Intermediate is closed. He also stated that he feels the decision is being rushed. Amanda Headley stated that she feels the plan is being rushed and that there is only a limited amount of time to move Intermediate students. She asked if the district will continue to be marketable after the decision is made. Judy Scott stated that a bond issue would be out of the question at this time. Diane Doorlag

asked that the board take into consideration the ISS(In-school suspension) rooms. She feels that they are a necessity to keep students safe.

B. Intermediate School Report - Martha Hymer

Intermediate School Principal Martha Hymer gave a brief overview of the programs and activities happening at the Intermediate School. Donna Hood, K-5 Music teacher and Bob Brennan, K-5 Art teacher both shared many positive learning activities that are happening in their programs via power point presentations.

C. Elementary Physical Education Highlights - Jeff Merasco

Jeff Merasco, K-5 Physical Education teacher, highlighted the K-5 Physical Education program via a power point presentation. He stated that his program ties in health education along with physical education and offers a variety of activities for children to participate in.

III. BUSINESS ITEMS – DISCUSSION

A. Intermediate Building

The Board discussed the building options that were brought forth at the Community Forum II on March 10th. A final decision will be made at a Special Meeting of the Board of Education on Monday, March 22, 2010.

IV. BUSINESS ITEMS – DECISION

A. Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools Strategic Plan.

A motion was made by B. Kinas supported by B. Wilson to approve the Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools Strategic Plan. Roll Call Vote

Members:

Wells	yes
Wilson	yes
Richardson	yes
Kinas	yes
Rutherford	yes
Noteboom-Wood	yes
Case	yes

AYES: 7 NAYS: 0 Motion carried.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Public Participation

Connie Kuhn asked if the Board took into consideration the custodial bumping that could take place if the Intermediate is closed. Mrs. Kuhn also asked about the purchasing of computers on a cart and the number per cart that can be purchased without having excess. Shirley Kupiecki, Middle School teacher, stated that she has worked with computers on a cart and has had many challenges with them. She feels that the computer lab is a better solution for her students when they are working on class projects. Mrs. Kupiecki asked the Board to put a lot of thought into the options presented so

that overcrowding in the buildings does not become an issue. Andrea McCubbin asked for more clarification on the three options and asked if the fourth option is going to be considered. Steve Washburn, Intermediate School teacher, stated that he prefers the computer lab over computers on a cart. His students can accomplish more in a lab. Eric Curtiss stated that the district could not consider the four day school week because the State law requires that we cannot have less calendar days than we currently have. Mr. Curtiss asked if there would be a financial update on the mid-year cuts that were made showing the savings. Eric also asked if the Board has considered utilizing a Sinking Fund and if the district has looked into receiving tax collections during the summer. Ardis Cook stated that she does not envy the Board with the tough decisions that they will have to make. Mrs. Cook hopes that student achievement will not be impacted and asked the Board to take this into consideration. Theresa Mathers stated that the ISS (In-school Suspension) room needs to be maintained at the Middle School and also asked the Board to make sure there is enough room for Special Education children at the Middle School.

B. Board Comments

Curt Case thanked the individuals that gave presentations this evening. He also thanked the community for coming to the Community Forums, and encouraged people to continue to give their input through the decision making process. Mr. Case also stated that the Snow White play had a tremendous turn out and extended his thanks to Sarah Gillette and all of those who made the play a success. Sandy Noteboom-Wood stated that she welcomes all the calls and emails during this tough decision process. She stated that the Board has spent long hours on many issues facing the district and also noted that children do come first when the Board makes their decisions. Lynne Wells announced that the Galesburg-Augusta Symphonic Band will be performing at WMU on April 8, 2010. Karen Rutherford commended the public for their participation and communication with the decisions at hand. She stated that the Board is doing their best to continue to gather information. Bob Kinas stated that the Snow White play was wonderful. He also noted that the G-A Bowling team recently participated in Division IV Regionals and the entire boy's team qualified for State finals with individual team members qualifying from the boy's and girl's teams. Mr. Kinas also stated that the DECA club recently competed in a State DECA competition. He also commended the efforts of students and coaches during the winter sports season.

C. Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Vagts stated that he will be scheduling Bailey Excavating to come in during April or May to work on the high school drainage pond. Mr. Vagts also stated that he has not heard anything official on GSRP funding yet. Mr. Vagts also informed the Board that he has hired Meggin Verduzco as K-12 District Interventionist and Support Specialist and noted that she would be paid through AARA funds.

VI. Following the regular meeting the Board of Education will recess to closed session for the purpose of contract negotiations.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The March 15, 2010 regular meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Curt Case, Board President

Beth Wilson, Board Secretary

Brenda Sutherland, Recording Secretary