

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

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 16, 2009 – 7:00 p.m. – High School Media Center
Next Regular Board Meeting: April 20, 2009 – 7:00 p.m. – High School

MINUTES

Board Members: Curt Case, President; Chuck Whitman, Secretary;
Jeff McCubbin, Treasurer; Bob Kinas, Trustee;
Beth Wilson, Trustee and Michael Way, Trustee

Superintendent: Douglas P. Newington

Number of people present 25.

ROUTINE BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. Call Meeting to Order. The meeting was called to order by President Case at 7:08 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

C. Members Present:

Curt Case
Chuck Whitman
Jeff McCubbin
Bob Kinas
Beth Wilson
Michael Way

Administrators Present

Doug Newington, Superintendent
Todd Reynolds, 8-12 High School Principal
Martha Hymer, 4-7 Intermediate Principal
Chris Hurley, Primary School Principal
Jeremy Mansfield, Assistant MS Principal

D. Agenda Approval. A motion was made by C. Whitman and supported by M. Way to approve the March 16, 2009 regular meeting agenda.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

E. Secretary's Report. Recommend approval of:
Minutes of the regular meeting of February 16, 2009;
Minutes of the special meeting of February 26, 2009.

- F. Accounts Payable Report.** Recommend approval of Accounts Payable:
\$100,842.86 for February 23, 2009;
\$36,704.96 for February 24, 2009;
\$29,801.18 for February 27, 2009;
\$89,054.35 for March 13, 2009;
\$824,376.60 for March 16, 2009.
- G. Treasurer's Report.** Recommend approval of Treasurer's Report for February 27, 2009, showing a balance of \$605,482.44.
- H. Personnel.** Recommend approval to hire the following volunteer coaches:
- Baseball: Brian Patterson and Tony Smith
Softball: Shannon Hall, Scott Mueller, Scott Dawson, Garth Stoltz
Tennis: Scott VanderVeen

A motion was made by M. Way supported by B. Wilson to approve agenda items E. through H.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

BOARD MEMBERS

Appointment and Oath of Office for New Board Trustee

A motion was made by B. Kinas and supported by J. McCubbin to appoint, Lynne Wells, as a trustee on the G-ACS Board of Education. The appointment is through June 30, 2010.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Member appointed, Lynne Wells accepted and signed the Affidavit of Eligibility, Acceptance of Office and Swearing of Constitutional Oath of Office, as presented by Superintendent Newington.

Appointment of Board of Education Officer

A motion was made by J. McCubbin and supported by B. Kinas that trustee Michael Way be appointed as Vice-President of the G-ACS Board of Education for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year.

The motion passed on the following vote:

AYES: C. Whitman **ABSTENTION:** M. Way
B. Wilson
B. Kinas
J. McCubbin
L. Wells
C. Case

REPORTS

Community Input (Agenda Items) - None

Superintendent Search Update

President Case gave an update on the progress of the superintendent search for Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools. The District has contracted with the Michigan Leadership Institute (MLI) to conduct and facilitate the process. A superintendent search brochure and a timeline have been created using the results from the recent staff and community forums. The G-ACS superintendent search brochure and application can be found at <http://www.mileader.com>.

Mike Kupiecki – Science

High school science teacher, Mike Kupiecki presented an update on the science department via a PowerPoint presentation. Areas of science include physical education, physical, life and earth. Under the new graduation requirements, all students must take biology and either chemistry or physics. Mr. Kupiecki discussed science classes per grade level, the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center and the KRESA Vocational Consortium. In addition, Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) scores were reviewed for 5th and 8th grade science. Future science concerns include student enrollment in physics and staffing challenges.

Strategic Planning

A district-wide community research and strategic planning proposal was presented by Jeff Gartner, Gartner & Associates, LLC. There is a need for a comprehensive strategic planning process for issues that affect planned improvements to educational programs and district operations. It is essential to listen to the community and involve parents, residents, staff and students in any planning process.

The Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools has invited Gartner & Associates to prepare a proposal to facilitate its strategic planning, conduct related community marketing research, and improve its communications to parents, staff, and the community. The planning process will enable the District's leadership to examine its existing goals and plans, enhance them, and integrate them strategically to guide the District to strengthen its relationships with its various community members. The research will collect information from district residents, staff and students, and inform them about the issues facing Galesburg-Augusta and alternative solutions. Specific research goals include providing the district's leadership with better understanding and more insight into:

1. Perceptions from parents, residents, staff and students of Galesburg-Augusta's relevant education programs, services, issues, culture and performance.
2. The perceived urgency to upgrade and improve programs, services, technology, operations and facilities to enhance the district's capabilities to deliver today's 21st century education.
3. The levels of support and opposition to alternative solutions, upgrades and improvements.

4. The degree to which its communities trust the district's leadership to make the right decisions, develop good plans and be responsible stewards of taxpayers' money.

A three-year planning cycle has been strongly recommended for Galesburg-Augusta's comprehensive strategic plan. The three-year cycle allows for reasonable projections of expected changes, along with the capability to set reasonable and measurable goals that can be accomplished – some within one year, some within two years, and others within the three years.

COMMUNICATIONS

Public Participation

Gary Henson and Brenda Murray addressed the Board of Education concerning water in their home basements and the possible correlation with the District's retention pond. Mr. Henson asked for a third party to review and correct the water table problem.

Sandy Noteboom-Wood addressed the Board of Education with concerns on the *Orientation to Board of Education Meetings* brochure and welcomed the new Board of Education trustee. Mrs. Noteboom-Wood questioned the status of the District's audit and the cost of the proposed strategic plan.

Pam Adams addressed the Board of Education questioning the District's financial audit.

Terri Jordan addressed the Board of Education expressing concerns with the honors classes grading system. She questioned the superintendent search process and superintendent qualifications.

Karen Rutherford addressed the Board of Education questioning the superintendent search timeline.

Eric Curtiss addressed the Board of Education asking if the new superintendent's job profile includes the duties of the business manager and expressed concerns with the District's audit.

Ardis Cook addressed the Board of Education expressing her concerns with the timeliness of the superintendent search and the proposed strategic plan.

Mark Hammond addressed the Board of Education asking if the upcoming Board meetings for conducting the superintendent search will be held in open session and asked for a synopsis of the candidates.

Board Comments

Trustee Way commended the G-A High School Marching Band for their superior rating in the recent band festival.

Trustee Whitman praised the G-A Lady Rams Varsity Basketball Team for their excellent season.

Trustee Kinas extended his appreciation to District administrators, community businesses and residents for their compassionate response to the recent student tragedy, as over \$12,000 was raised for the family.

Trustee Case welcomed new Board of Education trustee Lynne Wells.

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Newington stated that the 2007-2008 G-A Financial Audit is complete and that no penalties were ever imposed on the District. Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools, like many school districts has had to streamline expenses. The District continues to collaborate with Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) to improve services and control costs. Areas of review include an Alert System, Records Management and an Online Application System.

The Board of Education recessed to closed session for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations at 9:14 pm.

There being no further business, the March regular meeting of the Board of Education was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Curt Case, President

Chuck Whitman, Secretary

Carolyn Meyers, Recording Secretary