

**Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools**  
1076 N. 37<sup>th</sup> Street \* Galesburg, MI 49053 \* 269-484-2000

**REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

October 20, 2008 – 7:00 p.m. – High School

Next Regular Board Meeting: November 17, 2008 – 7:00 p.m. – High School

**Minutes**

Superintendent: Douglas P. Newington  
Board Members: Jerry VanderWeele, President; Curt Case, Vice-President; Chuck Whitman, Secretary; Jeff McCubbin, Treasurer; Bob Kinas, Trustee; Beth Wilson, Trustee; Michael Way, Trustee

Number of people present 32.

**I. ROUTINE BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**A. Call Meeting to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Board President VanderWeele at 7:00 p.m.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance.** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board President VanderWeele.

**C. Roll Call.**

**Members Present:**

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

**Administrators Present**

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

**D. Agenda Approval.** A motion was made by B. Kinas supported by J. McCubbin to approve the agenda of the October 20, 2008 regular meeting of the G-A Board of Education.

Ayes 7. Nays 0. Motion carried.

**E. Secretary's Report.** Recommend approval of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting September 15, 2008.

**F. Accounts Payable Report.** Recommend paying of the bills in the amount of \$225,382.64 for 9/16/08, \$717,492.12 for 9/26/08, \$142,352.76 for 9/29/08 and \$103,427.56 for 10/15/08.

**G. Treasurer's Report.** Recommend approval of the Treasurer's Report for September 30, 2008, showing a balance of \$1,472,737.23.

**H. Personnel.** Recommend hiring of Brenda Carter as building aide/health aide at the Primary School, Meggin Verduzco as 4<sup>th</sup> grade Reading/Title I Teacher, Paul Luther as Social Studies department head, Brenda Robbins, Bobbie Payne, and Jessica Smith as food service employees at the Primary School.

A motion was made by C. Whitman, supported by M. Way, to approve Agenda item E. through H.

Roll Call Vote:

**Members:**

Whitman	yes
Way	yes
Case	yes
Wilson	yes
Kinas	yes
McCubbin	yes
VanderWeele	yes

Ayes 7. Nays 0. Motion carried.

**II. REPORTS**

A. Community Input – agenda items only

**III. BUSINESS ITEMS – DISCUSSION**

**A. High School Drainage Pond**

Doug Newington informed the board that the district is still moving ahead with the plans for the primary and retention ponds at the high school and getting them to drain properly. He also reported that the insurance company has investigators looking into the flooding issues from homes near the high school to see if the drainage pond is the cause after an unusual heavy rain last month.

**B. CTE Credits Report**

Todd Reynolds reported to the board on a new program started this year through Education for Employment which will allow districts to award academic credit for CTE(Career and Tech. Ed.) programs.

**C. Facility Report**

Doug Newington gave a brief summary of the Facility Committee final report which will be available for individuals to view on the district website along with all of the supporting documents.

**D. Update on previous budget cuts.**

Doug Newington presented a budget comparison over a two year span and where the district is at now with an increase in enrollment. He explained that a lot of the positions previously reduced or cut have already been added back with the anticipation of increased enrollment and the increase in the foundation allowance. He stated that possibly more of the previous budget cuts could be restored at the new semester.

**E. Underground gas tanks.**

Doug Newington reported that the underground gas tanks now have new monitoring systems installed and that the gas tanks are in great shape.

**F. Superintendent Search**

Doug Newington stated that the board will begin the superintendent search process in November.

**IV. BUSINESS ITEMS – DECISION**

A.

**V. COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Community Input**

Lawrence Robertson shared his concern that staff members on the facility committee, who do not live in the community, were allowed to vote on the committee recommendations. Karen Bowers and Tim Bowers, both facility committee members, stated that they were on vacation and unable to attend the meeting in June when the committee had their official vote. They felt they should have had a chance to vote on the final decision. Terri Jordan asked for clarification on instructional expenditures and supporting services on the budget presentation. Leah Hammond asked what positions were added back. She stated that there should be more detail on what the district is doing that is best for kids and recommended that there be more clarification on class size and the teacher/student ratio. She also stated that she hopes settling the teachers' contract is top priority. Connie Kuhn stated that one playground supervisor for 90 or so children is not enough and feels that it is not safe for students and unfair to the supervisor. She also stated that the facility committee report does not reflect all of the committee members' recommendations. Diane Doorlag (a facility committee member) stated that the facility committee looked at every aspect to come up with their recommendations. Scott O'Day stated that he likes the facility committee recommendation. Sarah Barnett asked what the core educational priorities are for the district. She also asked for details on the superintendent search. Terri Jordan asked if there was a plan B if the next bond doesn't pass. Dr. Mike Liepman, who is running for Kalamazoo County Commissioner, spoke about the number of young lives lost recently in Kalamazoo County due to drug overdoses and how communities need to come up with a solution to reduce the amount of drugs in schools.

**B. Board Input**

Michael Way stated that the next Community Relations Committee meeting will be held on October 29, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School. Chuck Whitman stated the Facility Committee report process was a very detailed process with methods and logic used to determine what option was best for students' long term.

**C. Superintendent's Input**

Doug Newington stated that the Facility Committee Report will be available on the web site soon as well as the new addition of the Ram Announcer. D. Newington also stated that the board has made it their top priority to get the best possible offer out to the teachers. He also stated that he is scheduled to meet with all staff groups soon. Superintendent Newington shared a letter from Jeff Heppler, Augusta Village Chief of Police, commending the school and Denise Armstrong for their efforts in helping to secure the Safe Routes to School Grant.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT** A motion was made by M. Way supported by C. Whitman to adjourn the regular meeting at 8: 43 p.m. Ayes 7. Nays 0. Motion carried.

**VII. CLOSED SESSION**

**A. Negotiations**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT** A motion was made by J. McCubbin supported by C. Case to adjourn closed session at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. Ayes 7. Nays 0. Motion carried.

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School Board President

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School Board Secretary

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Recording Secretary