

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

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

September 15, 2008 – 7:00 p.m. – High School

Next Regular Board Meeting: October 20, 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 35.

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
Chris Hurley, Primary School Principal
Martha Hymer, 4-7 Intermediate Principal

D. Agenda Approval. A motion was made by C. Whitman supported by J. McCubbin to approve the agenda of the September 15, 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 August 18, 2008.

F. Accounts Payable Report. Recommend paying of the bills in the amount of \$2,073,971.27 for 9/10/08.

G. Treasurer's Report. Recommend approval of the Treasurer's Report for July 31, 2008 showing a balance of \$3,377,789.86 and for August 31, 2008 showing a balance of \$2,644,705.12.

H. Personnel. Recommend hiring of Molly Fisher as Special Education Coordinator, Kim Mannel as part-time middle school Social Studies/Science teacher, Shannon Hall as part-time high school health teacher, Jill Haycock as special-education paraprofessional at the Primary, Breanna Behrens as Kindergarten teacher, Jennifer Hinkle as daycare aide in the

G-A Learning Center, Heidi Henson as lead preschool teacher, and Kristi Olson as lead teacher in the G-A Learning Center after school program.

A motion was made by J. McCubbin supported by B. Kinas, 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

III. BUSINESS ITEMS – DISCUSSION

A. High School Drainage Pond

Doug Newington stated that the results of the perk test were received and reviewed. A discussion took place regarding the results of the perk test and moving forward with a solution to fix the drainage issue.

B. Target Distribution Tax Appeal

Doug Newington informed the board that the district will not participate in the appraisal request with Charleston Township in the 2008 Target property tax appeal.

C. 403(b) Plan

Doug Newington explained new IRS changes regarding 403(b)'s. He stated that he recommended that G-A be part of the K/RESA consortium who joined the Kent ISD consortium for administering 403(b)'s. D. Newington also recommended that G-A adopt a 403(b) plan which will go into effect January 1, 2009.

IV. BUSINESS ITEMS – DECISION

A. School Bond Loan Fund Resolution. A motion was made by M. Way supported by C. Case to approve the School Bond Loan Fund Resolution.

Roll Call Vote:

Members:

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

Ayes 7. Nays 0. Motion carried

B. Resolution for 403(b) Participation Agreement. A motion was made by B. Kinas supported by C. Case to approve the 403(b) Participation Agreement.

Roll Call Vote:

Members:

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

Ayes 7. Nays 0. Motion carried

C. Resolution for G-A's 403(b) plan. A motion was made by B. Kinas supported by C. Whitman to approve the resolution for G-A's 403(b) plan.

Roll Call Vote

Members

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

Ayes 7. Nays 0. Motion carried.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Community Input

Amy Vincent, mother of William Vincent, first grade student with spina bifida, stated her concerns about lack of materials or guidelines available for parents of students like her son with special needs and also students without special needs to ensure they get the extra help both physically and academically to be successful in school. Eric Curtiss, GAEA President, read an e-mail from a former student to Mrs. Cook, high school English teacher. In it he thanked Mrs. Cook for all the things that were covered in her English class that have helped him in his college class thus far. Mr. Curtiss stated that the 403(b) participation agreement is a negotiable item and that he would like further discuss it with board members and administration. Mr. Curtiss also spoke about the district needing a policy in place for administering medication to students. He feels that a licensed health professional should be hired for this. Theresa Mathers shared concerns about students walking to the Middle School from the Intermediate School after school is dismissed. She stated that students are crossing the road when there is a lot of after school traffic.

B. Board Input

Chuck Whitman shared his concerns about the number of students walking to and from the high school and crossing M-96. Bob Kinas announced that Ben Wells will be writing for the young editorial staff of the Kalamazoo Gazette this school year. Jeff McCubbin commented on how quickly the athletic and sport booster funds are depleting. Michael Way stated that the first Community Relations Committee meeting for the 2008-09 school year will be held Wednesday, September 17 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

D. Superintendent's Input

Superintendent Newington stated that the civil rights audit and inspection will be conducted, Tuesday, September 16. D. Newington also updated the board on AYP. He stated that he has e-mailed MDE about the disagreement with one and possibly two subgroups and has not received a response.

VI. ADJOURNMENT A motion was made by J. McCubbin supported by B. Wilson to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:56 p.m. Ayes 7. Nays 0. Motion carried.

VII. CLOSED SESSION
A. Negotiations

VIII. ADJOURNMENT A motion was made by M. Way supported by C. Case to adjourn closed session at 8:40 p.m. Ayes 7. Nays 0. Motion carried.

School Board President

School Board Secretary

Recording Secretary