

MINUTES OF THE **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION; **FEBRUARY 23, 2021**



JAMES J. GREENWALD ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ♦ 3200 MARYVILLE ROAD ♦ GRANITE CITY, ILLINOIS 62040

MEMBERS PRESENT: TANJA COOK SEDABRES, TALLIN CURRAN, MATT JONES, LINDA KNOGL, BILL MCMASTERS, ZACK NUNN, AND DENNIS WILMSMEYER.

EMPLOYEES PRESENT: STEPHANIE CANN, ED.S., BRAD ERVAY, CORY ERVAY, DAVID MCCAUSLAND, CHRIS MITCHELL, JIM PARKER, TOM SCHOOLEY, BRAD SMITH, AND ZACK SUHRE.

OTHERS PRESENT: KAYLEE MCKINZIE, PASTOR STACEY WILSON.

This was a virtual meeting that took place using the Zoom application. There were a total of seven (7) Employees, six (6) Board Members that were physically present and practicing social distancing; Superintendent of Schools Stephanie Cann, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent Cory Ervay, GCHS Art Teacher David McCausland, Manager of District Communications Chris Mitchell, Executive Director of Human Resources and Recruitment Jim Parker, District Attorney Tom Schooley, Director of Technology Brad Smith, Chief School Business Official Zack Suhre, and Student Board Member Advisor Kaylee McKinzie.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION;

1. **ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM; ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM;**
The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Board President, Matt Jones via Zoom. Roll was called. All members were present and a quorum was declared. President Jones asked those present to stand for the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation. He stated that citizens or parents with children in attendance, who did not wish to participate in the Invocation, could wait outside the Board Conference Room until after the Board moved to Item IV, Public Comment. Pastor Stacey Wilson with GCFirst Assembly of God, Offered the Invocation.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT;**

In lieu of having members of the public present at the meeting and putting additional risk to public safety, please send any public comment requests/statements to any of the following individuals by 4PM on Monday, 22 February 2021:

Ms. Stephanie Cann, Superintendent of Schools, stephanie.cann@gcsd9.net

Ms. Cory Ervay, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent, cory.ervay@gcsd9.net

Mr. Matt Jones, Board of Education President, matt.jones@gcsd9.net

Public comment made via this method will be read aloud as though it was being read by members of the public.

3. **MINUTES;** Motion by Member Wilmsmeyer, seconded by Member Curran, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on February 9, 2021, as presented on 188 & a-g.

Members voting - Cook Sedabres, "aye", Knogl, "aye", Curran, "aye", Nunn, "aye", McMasters, "aye", Wilmsmeyer, "aye", and Jones, "aye"; motion carried.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA;** Motion by Member Nunn, seconded by Member Wilmsmeyer, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda as follows:

A. **Bill List;**

1. Bill List from February 5, 2021 - February 18, 2021; (129 & B1-B25)

B. **Requests from Various Organizations;** (130)

1. **Blue Devils Basketball;** Coach Ed Glass is requesting that we send the Blue Devils Basketball Team tryouts flyer to students and staff district wide. Their tryouts for Spring and Summer will be held at Eden Church on Sunday, March 28, 2021 from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm for 2nd grade boys (8U).

C. **Gifts;** (130)

The Board accepted the following gifts with thanks and appreciation:

1. **Terry Biggs;** Granite City High School received a monetary donation of \$50.00 from Mr. Biggs for the Military Museum.
2. **Betty Meszaros;** Granite City High School received a monetary donation of \$100.00 from Ms. Meszaros for the Military Museum.
3. **Garnet Moran;** Granite City High School received a monetary donation of \$50.00 from Mr. Moran for the Military Museum.
4. **Anonymous;** Maryville Attendance Center received 20 children's coats, hats and gloves from an anonymous donor.

Members voting - Knogl, "aye", Curran, "aye", Nunn, "aye", McMasters, "aye", Wilmsmeyer, "aye", Cook Sedabres, "aye", and Jones, "aye"; motion carried.

5. **LEAVES OF ABSENCE** (131); Motion by Member McMasters, seconded by Member Curran, upon the recommendation of administration, to accept the following Retirements and Resignations:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Emily Perkins	Occupational Therapy Assistant	Medical	04/09/2021-07/02/2021

Members voting - Curran, "aye", Nunn, "aye", McMasters, "aye", Wilmsmeyer, "aye", Cook Sedabres, "aye", Knogl, "aye", and Jones, "aye"; motion carried.

6. **EXTRACURRICULAR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GRANITE CITY HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR** (131a); Motion by Member McMasters, seconded by Member Knogl, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the following Extracurricular Recommendations for the 2020-2021 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Juannell Goodwin	Assistant Football Coach
Jeff Hayes	Guidance Department Head
Melissa Kimble	Play 3 Director

Members voting - Nunn, "aye", McMasters, "aye", Wilmsmeyer, "aye", Cook Sedabres, "aye", Knogl, "aye", Curran, "aye", and Jones, "aye"; motion carried.

7. **EXTRACURRICULAR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COOLIDGE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR** (131a); Motion by Member Cook Sedabres, seconded by Member Curran, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the following Extracurricular Recommendations for the 2020-2021 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Justin Warren	Assistant Girls Volleyball Coach

Members voting - McMasters, "aye", Wilmsmeyer, "aye", Cook Sedabres, "aye", Knogl, "aye", Curran, "aye", Nunn, "aye", and Jones, "aye"; motion carried.

8. **EMPLOYMENT OF ONE (1) 5TH GRADE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT GRIGSBY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR;** (131b-c); Motion by Member Nunn, seconded by Member Wilmsmeyer, upon the recommendation of the administration, to employ **Jessica Coats** as a 5th Special Education Teacher for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Members voting - Wilmsmeyer, "aye", Cook Sedabres, "aye", Knogl, "aye", Curran, "aye", Nunn, "aye", McMasters, "aye", and Jones, "aye"; motion carried.

9. **EMPLOYMENT OF ONE (1) PARAPROFESSIONAL FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR;** (131d-e); This item was held for Executive Session pursuant to sections 2(c)(1).
10. **REQUEST FOR AN ADDITIONAL PAYROLL SPECIALIST FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR;** (131f-i); Motion by Member McMasters, seconded by Member Cook Sedabres, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve an additional Payroll Specialist for the 2020-2021 school year.

Members voting - Cook Sedabres, "aye", Knogl, "aye", Curran, "aye", Nunn, "aye", McMasters, "aye", Wilmsmeyer, "aye", and Jones, "aye"; motion carried.

11. **DISMISSAL OF FIRST-YEAR PROBATIONARY TEACHER;** (131j-l) This item was held for Executive Session pursuant to sections 2(c)(1).
12. **DISMISSAL OF SECOND-YEAR PROBATIONARY TEACHER;** (131m-o) This item was held for Executive Session pursuant to sections 2(c)(1).
13. **ADMINISTRATIVE SALARY SCHEDULE REVISION;** (131p-s) This item was held for Executive Session pursuant to sections 2(c)(1).
14. **CERTIFIED AND CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTES** (131t); Motion by Member Cook Sedabres, seconded by Member Curran, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the following Certified and Classified Substitutes for the 2020-2021 School Year:

Certified:

Angel Coonce Tyler Owens Michael Robinson

Members voting - Knogl, "aye", Curran, "aye", Nunn, "aye", McMasters, "aye", Wilmsmeyer, "aye", Cook Sedabres, "aye", and Jones, "aye"; motion carried.

15. **POLICIES** (131u); Motion by Member Wilmsmeyer, seconded by Member McMasters, upon the recommendation of the administration, to review the following policies and recommends the following amended policies:

◆ 4 170 AP4 Inclement Weather/Remote Instructional Day

Members voting - Curran, "aye", Nunn, "aye", McMasters, "aye", Wilmsmeyer, "aye", Cook Sedabres, "aye", Knogl, "aye", and Jones, "aye"; motion carried.

16. **CHROMEBOOK PURCHASE WITH CARES ACT (DIGITAL RELIEF) GRANT FUNDING** (132); Motion by Member Cook Sedabres, seconded by Member Nunn, upon the recommendation of the administration, to purchase 540 Chromebooks with CARES Act (Digital Relief) grant funds. **CDWG** won the bid with a cost of \$308.50 per Chromebook. This price includes device/chrome license/4-year accidental damage warranty.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Quoted Price</u>	
Trafera	\$ 336.00	
CDWG	\$ 308.50	Total Cost (\$308.50 x 540) = \$166,590
SHI	\$ 355.34	
Utilitra	no quote	

Members voting - Nunn, "aye", McMasters, "aye", Wilmsmeyer, "aye", Cook Sedabres, "aye", Knogl, "aye", Curran, "aye", and Jones, "aye"; motion carried.

17. **COOLIDGE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ROOF BID #07-21** (133); Motion by Member Cook Sedabres, seconded by Member McMasters, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the following tabulation of bids for the roof at Coolidge Junior High School. We recommend Bade Roofing to complete this project with RMT, Inc. as project manager.

<u>Glandt Roofing</u>	<u>Bade Roofing</u>	<u>Kehrer Brothers</u>
\$728,005.00	\$840,686.00	\$956,450.00

Members voting - McMasters, "aye", Wilmsmeyer, "aye", Cook Sedabres, "aye", Knogl, "aye", Curran, "aye", Nunn, "aye", and Jones, "aye"; motion carried.

18. **CONTRACTUAL AUDIOLOGICAL SERVICES** (134); Motion by Member Wilmsmeyer, seconded by Member Curran, upon the recommendation of the administration, to authorize the Special Education Department to enter into a contract with Region III Special Education Cooperative to provide audiological services, which will be charged to the IDEA Part B Grant.

Members voting - Wilmsmeyer, "aye", Cook Sedabres, "aye", Knogl, "aye", Curran, "aye", Nunn, "aye", McMasters, "aye", and Jones, "aye"; motion carried.

19. **PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF GRANITE CITY HIGH SCHOOL E-SPORTS CLUB** (135); Motion by Member Cook Sedabres, seconded by Member Nunn, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the creation of an E-Sports Club within GCSD #9. A presentation was given by GCHS Art Teacher David McCausland and Director of Information Systems Brad Ervay as to the benefits of E-Sports as a vehicle to improve STEM skills, forming communities, helping students invest in their own education, and learning valuable communication skills.

Current E-Sports Outlook

IHSEA (St. Louis Area)

Roxana, Plainfield, Springfield, Glenwood

MHSEA (St. Louis Area)

Afton, Riverview Gardens, Maplewood, Mehlville, Hancock, CBC, Francis Howell, Notre Dame, Vianney, Francis Howell Central, Chaminade

Universities / Colleges with Scholarship Opportunities (St. Louis Area)

There are several college E-Sports leagues. 175 colleges and universities are members of the National Association of Collegiate E-Sports (**NACE**) and offer officially recognized varsity E-Sports programs. These schools have coaches and offer partial or full-ride athletic scholarships..

(SLU) Saint Louis University

<https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/esports/index.php>

Maryville University

<https://www.maryville.edu/studentlife/esports-clubs/>

Columbia College

<https://columbiacougars.com/sports/esports>

Fontbonne University

<https://www.fontbonnegriffins.com/sports/esports/index>

Illinois College

<https://illinoiscollegeathletics.com/sports/esports>

Illinois Wesleyan

<https://www.iwu.edu/esports/>

Missouri Baptist

<https://mbuspartans.com/sports/esports>

Principia College

<https://principiaathletics.com/sports/esports>

Illinois College of Pharmacy

<http://www.eutecticsports.com/sport/0/16>

University of Missouri

<https://esports.missouri.edu/>

Members voting - Cook Sedabres, "aye", Knogl, "aye", Curran, "aye", Nunn, "aye", McMasters, "aye", Wilmsmeyer, "aye", and Jones, "aye"; motion carried.

20. **REPORTS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS;** Reviewed the following Reports and Presentations:

- ✓ **Student Board Member Advisor Report;** (136 & a-b) Ms. Kaylee McKinzie, GCSD #9 Student Board Member Advisor, gave the following report on how high school students have adjusted from Remote Learning, to now having Hybrid/In-Person Learning:

For those on Facebook Live, my name is Kaylee McKinzie, senior at Granite City High School, and I'm our School Board's Student Advisor. My position is representative of the student perspectives within GCHS, and I'm dedicating this report to full transparency. As for the Board, please feel free to interrupt and ask a question or make a comment while I'm showcasing this report.

Over the past couple weeks, I've surveyed students with 9 questions related to the current school year. This survey was taken place on Google Forms - and students' responses remained anonymous unless otherwise indicated within their responses. Principal of GCHS, Mr. Depew, issued a school-wide email with the included survey on Thursday, February 18th, which resulted in a magnitude of responses - 8 times as many responses as I previously had. Due to this, I would like to give a secondary report within the next two months to highlight other student responses, as well as give an additional round of questions that both the Board and myself would be interested in for the student response. Before we ascertain that idea, let's look at the results from the first Student-led survey.

Without the surveys for student incompleteness, we had 169 student responses! We had nearly 45 other responses that were incomplete for mandatory questions, so I'll take a separate look at those results if we were to have another Student Report. The data collected in this survey is represented by the 169 complete forms.

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** Many responses are ideas we can't introduce due to COVID and state guidelines, and some things are just out of the Board's hands. Yet, these ideas may help us to contribute other ideas that follow COVID restrictions and implement the guidelines given to us by the state. The Board may want to acknowledge this throughout some of the responses presented by students in the survey.

The first question was "What class/grade are you in for the 2020-2021 school year" and it resulted in a pretty even split. 27.8% of responses were from Seniors, 21.3% were from Juniors, 24.3% were from Sophomores, and 26.6% were from Freshmen. Way to go Freshmen for beating out both the Junior and Sophomore numbers!

The second question was open-ended, and allowed students to type their thoughts. The question was "Thoughts on this semester's Hybrid/Remote schedule". Although many students understand that the bus situation is impossible, hybrid situation allows for certain lengths taken on the schedule, and other factors play into the decision to make school days 7:20-11:20 am, there are still concerns from students. Overwhelmingly, students thought the schedule was okay/better than last semester's/overall better for them than traditional years - 132 out of 169 students. I also subjugated the responses into two other categories - those that said the only problem was that "it's too early" or "they don't like it because..." (Read off slides of responses.)

The third question evaluated, on a scale of 1 to 10, how stressed students were with their course load, their schedule, and their extracurricular activities. It seems to be pretty even across the board for course load, most seem to be less stressed with their schedule (which follows up with our second question), and the majority of people weren't stressed with their activities (likely due to the majority of students not participating in activities).

The fourth question asked students whether or not they planned on being remote or hybrid for Quarter 4. 92 students said they were currently Hybrid, and planned to continue hybrid learning into Quarter 4. 53 students are currently remote learners, and plan on continuing remote learning. 9 students are remote, but want to come back as a Hybrid learner. 8 students are currently hybrid, but plan on being remote the rest of the semester. 7 other people said other - pertaining to them being early grads, moving soon, how COVID numbers are looking, or other extenuating circumstances.

The fifth question is "Will you be participating in Homecoming activities (i.e. dress-up days) during the month of March?" This question was open-ended, but was categorized into three different answers - Yes, Maybe, and No. Overwhelmingly, 129 students said "yes!" 22 students said "maybe?" And 18 students said "no." But note, many of them are explaining why - and many of the reasons were "I'm an early grad, so no. I'm virtually learning, so it's not really applicable to me. I'm not sure what the activities really are. I'd like the school to give more information about these activities to me." Early grads and virtual learners - you are MORE than welcome to participate in activities. You are just as much of a student as anyone else in our high school. You should participate! In regards to those that asked for more information, I think we should send out more information discussing these potential activities ASAP.

The sixth question asked "If we were to conduct High School Events during the summer (i.e. Prom, Activity Banquets, Awards Ceremonies) would you be interested in attending and participating?" This question was asked to see if students would be interested in POTENTIAL events held later in the year, if there were less COVID cases, and if we had good social distancing ideas. Overwhelmingly, 145 students said "yes!" 13 students said "maybe?" 11 students said "no." Every category discussed they would only attend certain events if there were COVID precautions, and if cases were down in the region. As many as 20 people said they would prefer if we could have student events in April/May.

The seventh question asked "SENIORS ONLY (Class of 2021): Please give us potential ideas for the GC Board to discuss in regards to additional events to commemorate your senior year. (Or any additional advice.)" Seniors had a lot to say about this one. Many of us are concerned with the safety of others, and understand the precautions taken this year, but seniors are reporting they have no motivation. Many are assuming there is nothing to look forward to for senior events, and many claim to already have senioritis. Many elaborated to say that teachers excessively claim it's too early for the seniors to have senioritis and the kids need to get back on track. Here are some of the comments that students had to say: [read off slides]

The eighth question asked "HYBRID LEARNERS: On a scale of 1-10, how SAFE do you feel in the high school? This is related to COVID-19, as well as other security protocols. (10 being the MOST SAFE.)" The trends are clear - the majority of hybrid learners within the walls of GCHS feel safe in and out of the building. The trend for the hallways is more sporadic, and we can see some elevation between 1-5. This correlates with our second question about how students feel with the schedule - some saying the hallways was their main concern. For the most part, we can see that safety regulations were productive and effective.

The ninth question, and the final question, asked students to "List below any other concerns, questions, comments that you would like the Granite City School District Board to discuss" Students had a lot to say about this one as well. Many of the comments are reinforcing answers from other questions, but they are main concerns for the students. [Read them off]

In conclusion, students understand that the health and safety of our students and staff come first, but they would like to see more done related to potential events and individual needs met. Many have documented their mental health decline, motivation significantly decreased with no optimistic outlook for the future, and they would like more answers. Even if it's an answer of "We are still waiting for state guidelines, and COVID to regulate." it's communication. Many students don't currently know we hold these general meetings on Facebook Live - and we need to make that more apparent. In fact, I think it would be a great idea if we could arrange an address or document sent out district-wide to answer a lot of the key ideas and questions generated from this survey and report - because students will be expecting their results to be heard, and they all won't be watching this livestream.

And as for a secondary GCSD9 High School Student Report, I would love to engage with students and do this again. If the board would like to provide feedback, and also ask some questions that I could direct into another survey, that would be great. I could make another report in 2 to 3 meetings.

Thank you to the Board for this opportunity, and everyone listening!

✓ **Freedom of Information Act Requests {FOIA}; (137)**

✓ We received two requests under the Freedom of Information Act during the period of February 3, 2021 through February 15, 2021:

1. The first request was received on February 3, 2021 from Nathan Mihelich at Illinois Retired Teachers Association. He requested the following information:
 - Name and email address of any certified staff (teachers, administrators, nurses, counselors, etc.) who are retiring this year.
2. The second request was received on February 15, 2021 from the Product Analyst Team at Public Contractors.com. They requested the following information:
 - Employee/staff contact information for all GCSD9 Employees (First Name, Last Name, Position Title, Department, Direct Phone Number, Business Cell Phone, Email Address, Office Address.

This request was handled by Administration.

21. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - Motion by Member Wilmsmeyer, seconded by Member Knogl, to go into executive session for the exceptions noted under 5 ILCS 120/2 Open Meetings:

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; 2(c)(1)
- Student disciplinary matters; 2(c)(9)
- The purchase or lease of real property for use by the public body; or setting a price thereof; 2(c)(5)(6)
- Collective bargaining matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives; 2(c)(2)
- Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed...is probable or imminent. 2(c)(11)
- To discuss school building safety and security and security procedures. 2(c)(8); and
- Student Safety 2(c)(8)

Members voting - Knogl, "aye", Curran, "aye", Nunn, "aye", McMasters, "aye", Wilmsmeyer, "aye", Cook Sedabres, "aye", and Jones, "aye"; motion carried.

The Board was called into executive session at 6:27 pm.

Motion by Member McMasters, seconded by Member Knogl, to exit Executive Session and resume the meeting at 8:06 pm.

Members voting - all aye; voice vote; motion carried.

22. **EMPLOYMENT OF ONE (1) PARAPROFESSIONAL FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR;** (131d-e); Motion by Member Wilmsmeyer, seconded by Member McMasters, upon the recommendation of the administration, to employ **Teri Carretta** as a Paraprofessional for the 2020-2021 School Year.

Members voting - Curran, "aye", Nunn, "aye", McMasters, "aye", Wilmsmeyer, "aye", Cook Sedabres, "aye", Knogl, "aye", and Jones, "aye"; motion carried.

23. **DISMISSAL OF FIRST-YEAR PROBATIONARY TEACHER;** (131j-l) Motion by Member Nunn, seconded by Member McMasters, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the Resolution for the Dismissal of a First-Year Probationary Teacher for reasons other than Reduction-In-Force. Serena Mouyaga will not be re-employed for the 2021-2022 school year.

Members voting - Nunn, "aye", McMasters, "aye", Wilmsmeyer, "aye", Cook Sedabres, "aye", Knogl, "aye", Curran, "aye", and Jones, "aye"; motion carried.

24. **DISMISSAL OF SECOND-YEAR PROBATIONARY TEACHER;** (131m-o) Motion by Member Cook Sedabres, seconded by Member Wilmsmeyer, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the Resolution for the Dismissal of a Second-Year Probationary Teacher for reasons other than Reduction-In-Force. Jamie Miller will not be re-employed for the 2021-2022 school year.

Members voting - McMasters, "aye", Wilmsmeyer, "aye", Cook Sedabres, "aye", Knogl, "aye", Curran, "aye", Nunn, "aye", and Jones, "aye"; motion carried.

25. **ADMINISTRATIVE SALARY SCHEDULE REVISION;** (131p-s) Motion by Member McMasters, seconded by Member Cook Sedabres, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the Administrative Salary Schedule Revision for the 2021-2022 school year.

Members voting - Wilmsmeyer, "aye", Cook Sedabres, "aye", Knogl, "aye", Curran, "aye", Nunn, "aye", McMasters, "aye", and Jones, "aye"; motion carried.

26. **EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES** (138); Motion by Member Knogl, seconded by Member McMasters, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on February 9, 2021, as presented under separate cover.

Members voting - Cook Sedabres, "aye", Knogl, "aye", Curran, "aye", Nunn, "aye", McMasters, "aye", Wilmsmeyer, "aye", and Jones, "aye"; motion carried.

27. **SETTING OF THE AGENDA;** Tuesday, March 9, 2021, Board of Education Meeting.

28. **ADJOURNMENT** - Motion by Member Cook Sedabres, seconded by Member Curran, to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 pm. Members voting - all aye; voice vote; motion carried.

Matt Jones, President
Board of Education
Community Unit School District #9

Tanja Cook Sedabres, Secretary
Board of Education
Community Unit School District #9