

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

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

August 18, 2008 – 7:00 p.m. – High School

Next Regular Board Meeting: September 15, 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 25.

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

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

Jeff McCubbin
Michael Way

D. Agenda Approval. A motion was made by M. Way supported by C. Whitman to approve the agenda of the August 18, 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 July 21, 2008.

F. Accounts Payable Report. Recommend paying of the bills in the amount of \$29,591.83 for July 31, 2008; \$880,207.92 for 8/5/08; \$35,135.66 for August 7, 2008.

G. Treasurer's Report. July's will be presented next Board meeting.

H. Personnel. Recommend hiring Bob Verduzco as High School Math teacher; Molly Fisher as School Psychologist; Jeremy Mansfield as Middle School Assistant Principal; promoting Brent Cole to Assistant Principal of the High School; Todd Reynolds to assume 8th grade; Martha Hymer to assume 6 and 7; Chris Hurley to transfer to the Primary; and Rick Lewis to assume custodial and maintenance. Recommend contracting

to Southpoint Media Services (Pat Taylor) for Intermediate library clerk services for 2008-2009. Recommend approving the internal filling of the following teaching positions; Shanti Gallup to first grade; and John Korinek to second grade. Recommend replacing Eric Gardner with Mary Quearry as a paid football coach. Recommend Art Green as 8th grade volleyball coach and Linda Couch as 7th grade volleyball coach. Recommend accepting the resignation of Christine Solberg as Title 1 teacher and contracting to her as part-time Reading Consultant.

A motion was made by J. McCubbin, supported by Curt Case, to approve Agenda item E. through H.

Roll Call Vote:

Members:

Whitman	yes
Way	yes
Case	yes
Wilson	no
Kinas	yes
McCubbin	yes
VanderWeele	yes

Ayes 6. Nays 1. Motion carried.

II. REPORTS

A. Community Input – agenda items

Kathy Hamilton asked the board why there is going to be a change with the building administrators. Superintendent Newington stated that the change was initiated after the resignation of Steve Scoville at the Primary. Administrators and board members came up with a scenario that would best help the students of the district and reduce administrative costs. D. Newington explained that this plan would also benefit incoming 9th graders setting them up for success as freshman and add collaboration among all administrators which would be a benefit to students and staff. Terri Jordan asked what was meant by success. Superintendent Newington stated that success meant academic success. He stated that there is a concern about getting incoming freshmen better prepared for the transition from Middle School to High School. Shana Wiese stated her concerns about the change among administrators and asked why the Middle School staff wasn't asked for input on this change. Vicki Lewis asked the board if they have any benchmarks set for the change in administration. Amanda Headley, 5th grade teacher at the Intermediate shared her concern of possible large class sizes in the fifth grade. Eric Curtiss asked if administrators will receive additional compensation. D. Newington stated that there will be some additional compensation but has figured the change in administrators will save the district \$25,000.00. Leah Hammond stated that she received an e-mail about the change in administration before the board officially approved it. She stated that the board should be careful in regards to their communications to the community. Kathy Hamilton asked if there would be any benchmarks in place and if the community would be informed if they are met in regard to the realignment of administrators. Terri Jordan asked if the realignment of administrators was a precursor of closing the Intermediate School. Scott O'Day stated that the realignment of administrators is a bold and creative plan and is excited about going forward with this plan. Mr. O'Day also stated that he feels the board has heard the concerns of parents regarding the large class sizes at the Primary and thanked them for their efforts to relieve this situation by hiring additional staff.

III. BUSINESS ITEMS – DISCUSSION

A. High School Drainage Pond

Doug Newington stated that the perk test has been completed and that he is still waiting on the results.

IV. BUSINESS ITEMS – DECISION

A. MHSAA Resolution. A motion was made by C. Whitman supported by M. Way to approve the MHSAA membership for 2008-2009.

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. NIMS (National Incident Management System). A motion was made by B. Kinas supported by J. McCubbin to approve the NIMS policy.

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. Gas Tank Bid. A motion was made by B. Kinas and supported by C. Case accept the bid from United Petroleum Equipment to repair the gas tanks at the bus garage.

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

Karen Maher stated that she has not received her son's report card and 8th grade curriculum after several calls to the school. Superintendent Newington stated that he would speak to her

after the meeting. Vicki Lewis stated that she did not receive an answer to her email question. D. Newington stated that he would speak to her after the meeting. Sara Jonas asked the board how they were coming with teacher contracts. She also stated that she hopes it is a priority to the board. Eric Curtiss asked if the district had to purchase the new paper towel and toilet paper dispensers that were recently installed at the high school when the others were not in need of being replaced. D. Newington stated that the district did not pay for the dispensers and installation. Mr. Curtiss also asked how much bond money is left and what it is earmarked for.

B. Board Input
None

C. Superintendent's Input

Superintendent Newington stated that he recently attended a meeting at K/RESA regarding the new IRS changes with 403b's. He stated that G-A will be joining a consortium which will go with a third party administrator. This will give employees more options at no cost to the employees or the district. D. Newington informed the board that the energy audit has been completed by Mr. Carl Newton. Mr. Newton will be submitting his final report soon. D. Newington also informed the board that the premium for workman's compensation insurance has dramatically increased due to the large number of claims the district has submitted. He stated that he will try to drive the cost down by providing professional development for staff. Todd Reynolds informed the board at this time that the Athletic Hall of Fame Committee has chosen the individuals to be inducted into the Hall of Fame during the weekend of January 30, 2009.

VI. ADJOURNMENT A motion was made by M. Way supported by J. McCubbin to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:01 p.m. Ayes 7. Nays 0. Motion carried.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

A. Negotiations

VIII. ADJOURNMENT A motion was made by B. Kinas supported by C. Whitman to adjourn closed session at 8:38 p.m. Ayes 7. Nays 0. Motion carried.

School Board President

School Board Secretary

Recording Secretary