

April 9, 2021

# BEARCAT BOARD STORY

Educating for Excellence....the Bearcat Way!



## IT'S ALWAYS EXCITING TO BE A BEARCAT!

The Gasconade County R-1 School Board met Thursday, April 8, 2021 for a regular meeting, a reorganization meeting and an executive session. The meeting took place in the Central Office.

The first order of business at the board meeting was the review of the department/building reports with no additional questions. The Board listened to the April 2021 MSBA update which included the American Rescue Plan, a federal law that provides money for COVID Relief funding to Missouri, of which 90% will be available to Missouri School Districts. There is a strong emphasis on addressing and expanding student learning and continued focus on accessibility to internet access for all students.

The facilities update included upcoming paving projects, bus maintenance and the confirmation that the secure entrances for each building will be scheduled for the summer of 2022.

Dr. Smith shared information regarding legislation currently in process that, if passed, would significantly reduce the property tax revenue available to public schools. Several current bills up for vote have a negative impact on public school funding and he encouraged all of us to continue to keep abreast of the legislative issues and contact our legislative representatives to share their concerns.

Dr. Smith updated the Board about the COVID vaccination clinics; our staff were offered the first vaccination on March 18<sup>th</sup> with the second vaccination scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, we are working with the Hermann Area District Hospital and supplying space for their community wide final COVID Vaccination Clinic on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Board approved the following policies: DJF, IHB, IKF, JECA, JG, JHCB, JCC, JFG, and JFGA which covered purchasing, class size, graduation requirements, and student services including enrollment, discipline, immunizations, transfers, searches and interviews. In addition, the Board approved the treasurer's report and Dr. Smith shared that we continue to track as projected with our budget and expenditures.

This is the time of year where we also have a reorganization board meeting. The reorganization meeting welcomes new school board members who were elected in the April 6, 2021 election as well as elects board officer positions. Our district didn't have any new school board members and the two current members, Mark Brooks and Kevin Stiers, that had term end dates of April 2021, ran for re-election; their board membership for this term will continue through April 2024. The reorganization meeting began with Jeff Englert, the current Board Secretary, administering the Oath of Office to Mark Brooks, current Board President. The meeting continued with election of officers. The elected officers are:

- Mark Brooks, President of the Board
- Dot Schoening, Vice-President of the Board
- Jeff Englert, Secretary of the Board
- Karen Morton, Recording Secretary of the Board
- Sarah Hackmann, Treasurer of the Board

Additional board member appointments included, Mike Pratte – MSBA Delegate, Jeff Englert – HRED Committee Delegate, Kevin Stiers – Alumni Committee Representative and Mike Pratte – Bearcat Memorial Liaison.

In New Business, the Board approved moving forward with United Healthcare, our current insurance provider, for our 2021-2022 staff benefits. The premium charge for the district had a minimal increase and the benefits committee was very pleased with the renewal rates. The Board also approved the renewal of the food service contract with OPAA! for the 2021-2022 school year and the continuation of our auditing services contract with KPM CPA's & Advisors for the FY'21-FY'23 audit years.

An update was given on the structural update to the high school and the need to complete the brick work on the columns. The board agreed the brick work was necessary and approved moving forward.

Dr. Smith shared it is time to recognize a staff member who has dedicated a significant amount of time, energy and resources to helping the district and the community with the Spirit of the Bearcat Award. Dr. Smith asked nominations to be sent directly to him.

The meeting ended with sharing that graduation will be held on Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at Bearcat Memorial Stadium, weather permitting.

In the executive session, the Board approved the resignation of Holly Marek, speech language pathologist, the retirement of Brenda Schneidegger, school nurse and the coach resignations of Jake Witthaus, assistant softball coach and Todd Rehmert, JV boys basketball coach. We thank them for their service to the district.

The Board approved the hiring of the following teachers/staff: Kathleen Jasper – special education teacher, Alexandra Newman – FACS teacher, Mallorie Levy – ELA teacher, Mary Beth Schwenck – Behavioral Interventionist, Alyssa Creech - Counselor and one new substitute teacher. We welcome our new hires to our district!

***The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is Thursday, May 13th at 6:00 p.m. in the Central Office.***

### **Upcoming events:**

- Spring sports are ongoing – more information on the athletics page
- Band Concert – April 9<sup>th</sup>
- Prom – April 10<sup>th</sup>
- Music Boosters Fundraiser at Stomp'n Grounds – April 11<sup>th</sup>
- Professional Development Day – no school for students – April 19<sup>th</sup>
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion – May 14<sup>th</sup>
- High School Graduation – May 21<sup>st</sup>

