

BEARCAT BOARD STORY

Educating for Excellence....the Bearcat Way!



IT'S ALWAYS EXCITING TO BE A BEARCAT!

The Gasconade County R-I School Board met Thursday, April 9th in reorganization, regular and executive sessions. The meeting took place in the high school auditorium and through Zoom.

During the reorganization and regular sessions, the board recognized Craig Schannuth for his 12 years of service to the district. The board swore in and welcomed returning members Becky Whithaus and Jeff Englert, as well as, incoming member Mike Pratte to the board to fill the open positions. No election was needed as there were only three candidates that filed for the three positions available. Mark Brooks was elected to remain president, Dot Schoening vice president, and Jeff Englert secretary. Karen Morton was appointed recording secretary of the board and Sarah Hackmann treasurer of the board.

The Board accepted monthly reports from the teacher representative, administrators and departments. During these reports, the board was reminded that there would not be any state or local assessments this spring, therefore, the Annual Performance Report would not be completed next year.

In new business, the board approved UnitedHealthcare's renewal rates. These rates were the lowest rates the committee found when looking into a variety of options. Due to the impacts of COVID-19, the board recommended reallocating up to 1/2 of the 1% set aside for professional development for the 2019-2020 school year, if needed. This will not decrease the amount of professional development opportunities available to staff as it will only impact unused money due to the unexpected closure.

In an effort to provide support to families, the district applied for the Summer Food Service Program to provide breakfast and lunch to children 18 and under during these trying times. This program has been a huge success and has grown from 160 children on March 23rd to 309 children on April 8th. A combined total of 6,426 breakfast and lunch meals have already been served from March 23rd-April 8th. Meals have been suspended for spring break but will resume on Tuesday, April 14th. The district would like to thank OPAA! Food Management, Inc. employees and district volunteers for their hard work in making this program a success. The board extended the food contract to OPAA! Food Management, Inc. for the 2020-2021 school year.

This meeting came just after the Governor announced schools would be closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. We anticipate more guidance to be coming from DESE in the next few days. However, alternative graduation dates were set by the board, should we not be able to continue with graduation on May 14th as originally scheduled. The alternative dates for graduation will be June 14th or July 12th. Since prom has already been postponed, the district announced the alternative dates as May 9th, June 13th, or July 11th for prom. Dr. Smith updated the board on this recent development and confirmed that teachers would continue alternative methods of instruction for the remainder of the school year (May 14th).

In executive session, the board accepted the resignation of Mrs. Janette Eggen. Mrs. Eggen has served the district for the past 5 years, most recently at the middle school as a 6th grade teacher, as well as an 8th grade American History teacher.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is May 12th, at 6:00 pm in the Central Office and through Zoom.

Please join us for these upcoming events:

- ***Graduation - May 14th or June 14th or July 12th***

