

August 13 2020

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, August 13, 2020 for a regular meeting and an executive session. The meeting took place in the Central Office.

The meeting started with a Power Point presentation showcasing our new teachers where the Board learned more about their background, interests and educational focus as they begin their career with Hermann Schools. We are very excited to have them as part of our Bearcat team!

The Board was given an update on some of the facilities projects including the plans for new pier blocks and columns to adequately secure/repair a section of the high school building. The Board approved using the engineer drawings to fix the structure at Hermann High School. If there are any additional issues that arise, the Superintendent has the authority to make changes as needed.

Each year the district sets a date which the public can attend and make comments to the Board regarding the proposed tax rate. This year, it was recommended and approved by the Board that the meeting be held on Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Central Office.

Dr. Smith shared the benefit committee's recommendation for the benefits policy for professional and support staff to reflect the updates on paid time percentages should the district close for extended periods of time (ten or more consecutive days due to unforeseen circumstances other than weather). These updates were unanimously accepted by the Board.

Dr. Smith shared an update on the 2020 – 2021 Back to School Re-Entry Plan and that we continue to review our existing plan for changes and updates as needed, depending on what has changed in our environment. We highly recommend masks for staff and students, but at

this time, it is not mandatory. He also shared that as of August 7th, we had 40 students who elected to move to the virtual platform for the first semester. The last topic was on how we will be handling extra-curricular events and he noted that Four Rivers Conference Schools met to discuss strategy and there is a recommendation on using tickets to limit crowds at events. However, further discussions are scheduled with the Athletic Directors and that may result in additional details and/or changes.

In New Business, the Board heard a summary on Summer School which served an enrollment of 137 Kindergarten to 8th grade students. The session ran smoothly with an average attendance of 89.6% in K-3 and 86.2% in 4-8.

Staff leave time under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) allows up to 80 hours or two weeks paid sick time should staff become ill due to COVID-19 exposure. The Board heard and approved a recommendation to increase the leave time to a maximum of 120 hours or three weeks emergency leave if needed, which is above the legal requirement. Hours eligible are based on the average work hours an employee works (ex: 5 hours a day would be 25 hours a week and 8 hours a day would be 40 hours a week).

The Bearcat Memorial Ceremony details honoring Lloyd Stock were shared. He will be honored on September 4th at 5:30 p.m. at the Bearcat Memorial Stadium.

The Board approved several policies and plans including the MSBA's Resolution in Response to Health Emergency Policy which allows decisions to be made as it relates to COVID-19 when there isn't time for a formal board meeting, the Local Compliance Plan which outlines how we provide education to children with disabilities, the Policy requirements around Title IX and approving Ms. Dawn Grosse as our district's Compliance Officer.

The Board approved an additional bus route to allow for less students on the busses during the COVID-19 pandemic time.

In executive session, the Board accepted the resignation of Angela Elder, IT Assistant, effective September 4, 2020. We appreciate all Ms. Elder has done for the district during her tenure. In addition, the Board approved the hire of Jaclyn Engemann as a Lead Nurse. Ms. Engemann has worked with our district athletics program and we are excited to welcome her to our district as a full time employee.

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is Thursday, September 10, 2020 in the Central Office.

Upcoming events:

- First Day of School – August 24th
- Bearcat Memorial Dedication – September 4th
- First home football game – September 4th

