

December 14, 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, December 10, 2020 for a regular meeting and an executive session. The meeting took place in the Central Office Board Room.

The meeting began with positive feedback from several board members who attended the Governmental Relations Day the morning of December 10th. They praised the student presentations as well as the overall discussion and information shared.

The Department and Building Reports were submitted with a special notation about Blaine Klott, the new Student Advisor for 2021. Our current advisor, Allyson Hollrah, will officially transition the role to Blaine at the January 2021 board meeting.

Dr. Smith updated the Board on the district's FY21 Budget, which was approved.

Dr. Smith reminded the Board of the upcoming Board of Director Filing Elections which will begin at 8:00 a.m. on December 15, 2020 and run through January 19, 2021. Candidates can file with Karen Morton in the Central Office Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. except on days closed for holidays, inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances. If you are interested in submitting your candidacy, you must file between the dates noted above and be a U.S. Citizen, resident taxpayer of Gasconade County, have resided in Missouri for a minimum of one year, be at least 24 years of age and meet legal and tax requirements.

The Board reviewed the Middle School Roof project bids and approved the recommended bid. The updates will begin this spring and include the gym roof, library, and 4th and 5th grade classroom areas. In addition, the Board reviewed the facility committee's five-year plan with project prioritized by year; the plan was approved as presented. As individual projects move forward, the Board will be presented with project details and updates. Information was shared

on the turf replacement project, noting a newly identified expense which will increase the overall cost by \$149,000. The Board approved the budget increase for the turf project.

A final read of four board policies were approved: Resignation of Support Staff Members, School Volunteers, Sexual Health Instruction and School Admissions.

Dr. Smith shared an update on COVID-19 quarantine dates that was recommended by the CDC and approved by Gasconade County's Health Department. If a student is quarantined due to an exposure, the original date of 14 days will be 10 days, as long as the student is not symptomatic during that time. However, it is critical that upon return, the student must wear a mask around others until day 14 of the original quarantine period. The mask requirement for days 10 to 14 includes all grades, not just 7th through 12th. We are also exploring the opportunity to use a negative COVID test for early return to school and as we receive additional guidance and/or approval from health officials, we will share those updates.

The Board reviewed the 2020 Audit Report, which showed the district in compliance and an overall positive report. Due to the CARES ACT funding we received, the district will be required to undergo a federal audit this year.

The district has several pieces of surplus property which the Board approved to move forward with posting for sale. The last item of business was the approval to submit a student essay to John T. Belcher Scholarship committee about how students learned from the remote instruction provided during the pandemic.

In Executive Session, the Board accepted the resignation of Gigi Mueller effective December 31, 2020 and the retirement of Maribeth Dann, effective June 30, 2021. We appreciate all Ms. Mueller and Ms. Dann have done for the district. In addition, the Board approved the hiring of one new substitute teacher and four full-time paraprofessionals. The paraprofessionals are Beth Engemann, Jamie Mires, Shanay Winkelmann and Katherine Engemann. We welcome all new hires to the district!

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is Thursday, January 14th at 6:00 p.m. in the Central Office.

Upcoming events:

- Third Grade Christmas Concert (Invitation only) – December 15th
- December Basketball Games – see upcoming events on our website
- Band Concert, December 16th
- Choir Concert, December 17th
- Last day of classes – December 22nd
- Winter Break – December 23rd through January 4th

Live Streaming is available for games and concerts - details can be found at www.hermann.k12.mo.us

