

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, March 5th in both regular and executive sessions.

During the regular session, the board accepted monthly reports from the student advisor, teacher representative, administrators and departments. Dr. Smith presented the board with an update on the district's financial status and facilities. During the facilities update, the board was made aware of the disinfecting practices taking place across the district to help minimize the spread of illnesses. It is a top priority of staff to keep students as safe and healthy as possible.

During old business, the board discussed at length action steps needed in response to the request for mental health support for students, staff and the community. Mrs. Ash informed the board that the district received the ROHI grant in the amount of \$10,000 to put towards meeting mental health needs. The district appreciates the support of the community with this grant.

The district will continue to focus on addressing mental health needs. Some of the topics discussed and agreed upon are continuing to provide professional development, seek additional funding, expand external counseling services and evaluate staffing needs. At this time, the addition of a special education teacher or behavior intervention specialist is being considered. These steps will provide additional support to both students and staff in an effort to meet the ever-increasing mental health needs and provide emotional support to all students. Staff is dedicated to learning as much as possible in regards to ways to help students overcome mental health issues.

In new business, the board conducted a first read of several policy updates as recommended by MSBA. The board also approved the purchasing card users list in accordance with policy DJF.

In executive session, the board approved to hire Lana Koelling as a certified teacher for the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Koelling will join the Bearcat team as the Family and Consumer Science teacher at the high school. Ms. Koelling is currently teaching FACS in the Maries County R-2 School District. The board also accepted the resignation of Josh Vinyard as head boys basketball coach. The board wishes to extend their appreciation for Coach Vinyard's dedication to the boys' basketball program the past 5 years. The board renewed the contracts for all probationary and tenured teachers.

There was an accidental omission from the Board Story last month. In executive session, the board approved substitute teachers Kristy Goss and Lexi Issak. The board also approved Karen Morton as the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. The district staff is pleased to welcome these new team members. The board also renewed administrator contracts.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is April 9th, at 6:00 pm at the Central Office.

Please join us for these upcoming events:

- *March 12 - Choir Concert*
- *March 27-28 - Spring Play*
- *April 1 - Band Concert*

