

March 15, 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, March 11, 2021 for a regular meeting and an executive session. The meeting took place in the Central Office.

Before the board meeting, the Board was honored for the work they do by our food service, OPAA! with a delicious. In addition, the third grade class presented "Famous Missourians" through a wax museum demonstration; the board members were enlightened with the history and life stories of Samuel Clemens aka Mark Twain, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Helen Stephens, and Jane Froman.

The first order of business at the board meeting was the review of the department/building reports, with minimal questions. In addition to his report, the Transportation Director thanked our Director of Facilities for the hard work that went into ensuring we are ready for our upcoming bus inspections on March 17th. The middle school report highlighted the move to an 8 period schedule next year to allow for more electives and better alignment to the high school schedule which allows additional options.

The facilities update included the positive response we have had to the new turf at both Bearcat Memorial Stadium as well as the repurposed turf we used at the elementary school. In addition, it was shared that the columns at the high school are done, only leaving the brick installation for project completion.

Dr. Smith recognized Mr. Todd Anderson, Activities Director for his recent achievement of a National Certified Athletics Administrator. This achievement is a high honor and we appreciate the time and effort Mr. Anderson put in to obtain this level of credentials.

The Board heard from Bob Kirchofer and Tim Niebruegge, from the Messmer Eitmann Foundation regarding the opportunity to partner with them on a walking trail project. The project would allow Hermann citizens and our district students to use the 1.1 mile proposed trail for walking and athletic training. The Board approved the next steps which are further exploring the project to determine if it would be something of interest for the Board to consider in more detail.

The Board listened to the March MSBA Board Report which highlighted Missouri's new Office of Childhood that focuses on a "whole child" approach to the way children learn. They will focus on family needs and expanded availability to programs throughout our state.

Dr. Smith updated the Board on the legislative status with the HB349 which passed by one vote in the house. This bill will take away up to \$50 Million from the state budget to fund charter schools and tax voucher programs. The SB55 has not been brought back to the senate floor but its negative impact on public education, if passed, is very concerning. One of the ways, we as a district can show what we represent to legislators and the district patrons is through a resolution, which was approved by the board and will be sent to our representatives and senators.

In working with Hermann Area District Hospital and the Gasconade County Health Clinic, Dr. Smith shared that the district faculty and staff have been offered a COVID vaccination clinic on March 18th, which will take place on our campus.

The Board completed the second read and approval of the following policies: BBFA, DC, DFI, GBAD, GBCA, GBCBA, GCBA-R1, GCBA, GBEBB, and IC which focused on a variety of topics including staff disclosures, behaviors/expectations and compensation as well as tuition rates and the academic calendar.

The Bearcat Memorial Committee met to review four nominees for the prestigious Bearcat Memorial Award. This award is the highest honor that the Board bestows and honors a community member who has made a significant contribution to the Gasconade County R-1 School District and/or the community. The committee was pleased to recommend Dorothy Heying for the 2021 Bearcat Memorial Inductee. The Board approved Dorothy Heying as the 2021 Inductee; the ceremony will take place at the first fall football game.

Dr. Smith presented the recommendation that the contract with Wagner Portrait Studios be extended for 2021 -2022, which was approved by the Board.

In New Business, the Board approved the first read of 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, an update on the tutoring program was shared with the Board, highlighting the positive response and impact the program has had on our students to date and the hope to continue the program in the future.

The Board approved the treasurer's report and Dr. Smith shared that we continue to track as projected with our budget and expenditures. The annual budget planning workshop with the Board is scheduled for March 31, 2021.

In the executive session, the Board approved the resignation of Rhonda Uthlaut, dance coach. The Board approved the hiring of Dr. Leslie Lause as associate superintendent, Diane Shoemaker as secondary math teacher, three new substitutes, and approved the probationary and tenured teachers for 2021-2022. We welcome our new hires to our district!

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is Thursday, April 8th at 6:00 p.m. in the Central Office.

Upcoming events:

- Basketball, MS Volleyball, Track and Golf seasons are underway – check out the Athletics tab for details.
- The last PreK registration day is March 17th and Kindergarten registration is March 15th.
- The district is accepting RFPs for Auditing Services through April 1st; details on the front page of the website.
- Spring Break is April 1st – 6th.

