

November 12, 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, November 12, 2020 for a regular meeting and an executive session. The meeting took place at the High School Auditorium.

The meeting began with the recognition of three groups, Varsity Volleyball, Cross Country and Marching Band. Volleyball took 3<sup>rd</sup> place at State and Cross Country Girls finished 9<sup>th</sup> and Cross Country Boys finished 8<sup>th</sup> at their State meets. The Marching Band had a tremendous season, finishing 1<sup>st</sup> in seven events (including virtual events).

The Department and Building Reports were submitted with no additional questions. Dr. Smith updated the board on the FY21 budget and financial data associated with COVID.

Gasconade County R-1 Schools have two Board of Director positions expiring in April 2021. The Board of Director Filing Elections 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 or inclement weather. If you are interested in submitting your candidacy, you must file between the dates noted and be 24 years of age, a U.S. citizen, and a Missouri resident registered to vote.

The district is excited to host our annual Governmental Relations Day on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. We will be inviting local, state and national elected officials to visit with some of our students and showcase our civic programs.

The Board scheduled a board work session the evening of Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. The session will cover MSBA training, budget review, the high school schedule proposal, and upcoming facilities plans.

Dr. Smith gave a COVID-19 update which included the addition of a COVID-19 dashboard that is located on the front page of our website ([www.hermann.k12.mo.us](http://www.hermann.k12.mo.us)) and updated weekly. Additionally, he shared that Governor Parson announced a change to how contact tracing can be completed in schools. The new rules are if a K-12 district has a mask mandate and **masks are worn appropriately** when a positive case is identified, those in close contact do not have to quarantine. This new guideline is in effect immediately and close contact and quarantine restrictions for each case will continue to be determined by the health department.

The district's final FY20 budget was approved. The Facility Committee, which included community members, teachers, administrators, and board members completed their review and a survey with the strongest needs was shared with the Board. We are gathering pricing for the recommended projects before finalizing the request to the Board, which we anticipate to be at the December meeting.

The Board approved a first read four policies: Resignation of Support Staff Members, School Volunteers, Sexual Health Instruction and School Admissions.

The Student Advisor position to the Board brings a unique perspective by sharing student's thoughts on issues that the Board should be aware of. This position is a one-year term and held by a sophomore or junior. Mr. Stutzman has received three letters of interest; the high school student body will vote for their representative. The Board will be presented with the student at the December board meeting. The new Student Advisor will attend the January board meeting for transition and begin in the role at the February board meeting.

The district has had challenges with finding last minute nurse substitutes, causing the review of what employees would be considered essential during a quarantine and how that may change their quarantine requirements. Nurses have extensive experience in how to properly use PPE to reduce the spread of diseases and if they are not positive themselves or have any symptoms, the Board approved that nurses would be considered essential and continue to work.

The Board approved a proposal to update the district calendar to extend fall break. The change would allow students to be out of session from Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. This break would allow a 9-day break (counting weekend) which will hopefully slow the spread of COVID-19. Students and families diligence during this time with social distancing, mask wearing and hand-washing is highly recommended.

In Executive Session, the board accepted the resignation of Jo Everts-Lundberg, effective November 24, 2020. We appreciate all Ms. Lundberg has done for the district. In addition, the Board approved the hiring of six substitutes. We welcome all new hires to the district!

*The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Central Office.*

Upcoming events:

- Thanksgiving Break – no school November 23 – 27<sup>th</sup>
- End of second quarter – December 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Check all our events under Upcoming Events on our website
- Bearcat Fridays are every Friday - Please wear BLUE!

