

October 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, October 8, 2020 for a regular meeting and an executive session. The meeting took place in the Central Office.

The meeting started with recognizing four employees who retired from the district in 2020. The Board presented a plaque to each retiree and we celebrated with cake and congratulations. We thank our retirees, Judy Stock, Maggie Stiegman, Brenda Grotewiel and Tarey Vieth (not pictured) for their dedication to the district and wish them all the best in retirement.

The Department and Building Reports were reviewed with additional discussion on how parent teacher meetings would be handled. These meetings are an important part of our communications with parents but we also want to be mindful of how to conduct the meetings in the safest manner. The recommendation at this time is to have the Elementary School meetings in person with social distancing, the Middle School meetings via Zoom with the option of face-to-face if requested and the High School meetings conducted over the phone. All sessions would utilize a sign-up process and have designated times.

The FY20 budget update was shared, noting funds received to date as well as additional funds we are applying for, totaling \$334,378.37. We anticipate continued expenses related to COVID-19 and will apply for available reimbursements as expenses arise.

The District formed a facility committee which includes parents, teachers, administrators and board members to evaluate our facility needs across the district. The committee is touring each facility and giving input on what should be included on a five year plan. The committee has toured the Elementary School and will be touring the Middle School and High School in mid-October. A recommended plan should be ready to present to the Board at the November board meeting.

Dr. Smith shared with the Board that he will be hosting a Coffee & Conversations event on October 22<sup>nd</sup> to share information about the district with the community.

At the September board meeting, replacing the Bearcat Memorial Stadium turf this year was discussed. From that discussion, a committee, comprised of the Superintendent, two Board Members, the Athletic Director, and the Varsity Football Coach was formed to select a vendor. The committee recommended A.T.G. Ram Industries. The bid was approved by the Board in the amount of \$368,000. Other bids ranged from \$384,587 - \$525,499. This project will begin in November and is projected to be completed by the end of January.

The Board was presented with and approved an addendum to the Schwartz Bus Contract with regard to adding a couple of additional special needs routes to their existing routes.

Each year, the Hermann Area Youth Association uses our facilities for their youth basketball season. We enjoy the partnership with the community and it was agreed that the district would continue to allow the Hermann Area Youth Association to use our facilities this winter; the district will implement additional cleaning following each use.

Director Stiers shared that the Alumni Association is recruiting new members and the association has seen an increase in membership in the past quarter. They hope to increase membership even more this fiscal year.

In executive session, the Board approved the hire of Yona Leimkuehler as a Paraprofessional. The Board also approved the hire of three substitutes. We welcome all our new hires to the district!

***The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Central Office.***

#### Upcoming events:

- Early Release / Parent Teacher Conferences – October 29<sup>th</sup>
- Fall Break – no school on October 30<sup>th</sup>
- Professional Development Day – no school on November 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Check all our fall sporting events under Upcoming Events on our website
- Bearcat Fridays are every Friday - Please wear BLUE!

