

**Meeting of the Gentry Board of Education
District #19
Minutes of the Board of Education**

Meeting	Type	Location	Time	Date
No. 17	Regular	PAC	6:30 pm	April 10, 2023

Present:

David Williamson–President
Jim Barnes –Vice President
Melissa Holland– Secretary
Gary Dunlap–Member
Becky Burkhalter – Member
Stacey Nations–Member
Chad Amos–Member

Absent:

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by David Williamson with seven members present. Mr. Randy Moll was present to represent the press. School administrators were present and visitors included but not limited to the following: Scott McCollum, Andrea Folger, Toby Tevebaugh, Crystal King, Don King, April Gaches, Michelle Jech.

2. Moment of Silence

Observed

Roll Call- All present

3. Welcome and celebrations

[3a Gentry Lady Pioneer Basketball.pdf](#)

Coach Tevebaugh was present and gave a report on the accomplishments of the Sr. High girls basketball team. So many of the girls are active in other sports and could not attend. Brynn Corderio put together a powerpoint presentation with the highlights of the season. Congratulations to Coach Tevebaugh on being named 4A Coach of the year.

[3a_Pioneer Story 2022-23.pdf](#)

Middle school (Mrs. Freeman) reported on Students of the month and other activities happening at the middle school.

High School (Mr. Blanchard) reported that the eSports team went to Little Rock and visited the Capitol and Ms. Haak, State Representative.

eSports gives these students a chance to excel. Tyson, HS student, has been offered a \$20,000 scholarship to John Brown University for eSports.

A group of 80 HS students attended NWA Build my Future where they met with NWA construction companies and learned of career opportunities. Four students were offered jobs.

HS CTE teachers held the Stakeholders meeting. This is a partnership between local businesses and HS Career and Technical teachers.

HS Career and Academic Plan (CAP) meetings were held. HS had an 85% attendance rate for these conferences and that is a great number for HS.

4. Consideration of Board minutes

[4a Regular Board Meeting March 13, 2023 Minutes.pdf](#)

Melissa Holland made a motion to accept the board minutes as presented and Becky Burkhalter seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

5. Consideration of Financial Reports

[5a_Period 9 FY 23 Arvest Bank Reconciliation.pdf](#)

[5a_Period 9 FY 23 Grand Savings Bank Reconciliation.pdf](#)

[5b_Period 9 FY 23 Board Report.pdf](#)

[5c_Period 9 FY 23 Check Register.pdf](#)

[5d_Period 9 FY 23 Fund 2000 Expenditure Summary.pdf](#)

[5e_Period 9 FY 23 Fund 2001 Revenue Summary.pdf](#)

Ms. DePaola reported the current balance is \$3.3 million.

Jim Barnes made a motion to accept A-E financial reports as presented and Gary Dunlap seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

[5f_Certified Audit Gentry Public Schools.pdf](#)

Ms. DePaola reported there were no major findings for the audit. A simple finding reported that for Fiscal year 22, money was deposited in the incorrect account and that has been corrected.

Jim Barnes made a motion to accept the Gentry Audit financial report as presented and Gary Dunlap seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

[5g_NWAESC Certified Audit.pdf](#)

Ms. DePaola reported that this was just information on the Co-op audit. There were no significant findings. \

Melissa Holland made a motion to accept the Co-op Audit financial report as presented and Gary Dunlap seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0

6. Facilities and Transportation

[6a_March 2023 F&T Report.pdf](#)

Mr. Barrett reported that October 25, 2023 is still the projected ship date for the new HVAC systems. Hight Jackson is working to expedite the installation once the systems arrive.

Gentry Public schools have been awarded a safety grant from ADE in the amount of \$163,000 For Safety improvements. Priority 1, 2 and 3 in that order.

Melissa Holland asked what the Priority 1 items are?

Jason Barrett said the Priority 1 items included

- electronic access controls at all buildings.
- Visitor management systems, such as Raptor, which scans the driver's license, runs a quick background check and prints a visitor name tag.
- Vision panels for classrooms
- Locks on all classroom doors that are ADA compliant and are always locked from the outside.
- Grand master key for all buildings for fire, police and admin.
- Classroom numbers that are visible on the outside of all classrooms
- Touch bar exits
- Fencing projects

Priority 2 and 3 have similar projects.

7. Personnel

_____ requested the Board go into executive session with Ms. DePaola at 6:54 pm. The Board returned from executive session at 7:12 pm.

[7a and b_Personnel April FY 23.pdf](#)

Stacy Nations made a motion to accept Personnel items A and B as presented and Jim Barnes seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

[7c. Certified Staff 2023-24.pdf](#)

Gary Dunlap made a motion to accept the certified non administrative contract renewals in Personnel item C as presented and Jim Barnes seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

7d Ms. DePaola presented a leave of absence request from a classified employee.

Gary Dunlap made a motion to approve the leave of absence request and Melissa Holland seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

8. Consideration of Various Tuition/Purchased Service Agreements

None

9. Manuals

a. PD

[9a_PD Handbook FY24.pdf](#)

Gary Dunlap made a motion to accept the PD handbook as presented and Becky Burkhalter seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

b. ESOL

[9b_2023-24 ESOL Program Guide - Gentry.pdf](#)

Melissa Holland made a motion to accept the ESOL Program guide as presented and Jim Barnes seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

c. District Parent Student Handbook

[9c_Gentry Parent-Student Handbook FY 24.pdf](#)

Ms. DePaola said the changes in the Parent /Student handbook were moving policy to make sense in the order. The mission and vision statements will be added.

Jim Barnes made a motion to accept the Parent-Student Handbook as presented and Gary Dunlap seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0

10. FACE Family and Community Engagement

Andrea Folger Elementary District Coordinator for FACE

Scott McCollum Secondary District Coordinator for FACE

[10_23-24 Family & Community Engagement Plans.pdf](#)

The highlights, plans and goals were reported by Mrs. Folger and Mr. McCollum.

Elementary Schools:

More communication was incorporated via Talking points, class dojo and google.

Good feedback from parents that we have Spanish translators onsite

Intermediate School has an HRT Level 1-3 teacher- Melinda Ramsey

The Laundry was opened. David Terrell, State Director for FACE, asked to use the pictures and information in the newsletter that goes out. They are excited about the opportunities Gentry is offering our parents.

We have had successful parent nights. It has helped to back up the event with student performances.

Middle school:

Family Literacy Night

Survivor Night with themes for Literacy, Math, Stem, included prizes

Goals are to look for ways to bring in parents.

6th grade only Open House

High School:

Elective Fair

Later time for Parent teacher conferences was well received

Social Media Posts are well received, just need to pull back a little.

Incorporate Parent events during sporting events.

11. Athletic/Activities

We had six interviews for Sr. Boys Basketball coach and the interviews went well.

12. Student Transfers

Nathan Cross- Siloam Springs to Gentry

Alykyus Jones-Gentry to Siloam Springs

Tabitha Gray - Gentry to Siloam Springs

Kaylie Gray - Gentry to Siloam Springs

Eve Wilson (2023-24) Gentry to Siloam Springs

Gary Dunlap made a motion to accept the transfers as presented and Becky Burkhalter seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

13. Second Reading of Policy

None

14. First Reading of Policy

[14a_Certified Salary Schedule FY 24.pdf](#)

Ms. DePaola gave information concerning the new Certified salary schedule. These changes are because of the LEARNS act requiring the Base salary for certified teachers is \$50,000 or if they already meet the base of \$50,000 they will get a \$2,000 raise.

This salary schedule is for classroom teachers only and the Administrative salary schedule will be next month.

This schedule includes 3 levels

0-10 years \$50,000

11-20 years \$53,000

21-30 years \$56,000

Increased the difference for additional education.

Every certified personnel in the district will get a raise. A few that are over the \$56,000 will need a stipend to meet the \$2,000 raise.

These salaries will cost the district approximately \$8.6 million just on certified
It will be a couple million dollars more for the other staff.

This salary schedule will be sent to PPC.

Ms. DePaola gave more raises than needed by the LEARNNS act. We are giving the opportunity for everyone to get a raise—trying to make it good for all.

Jim Barnes said he tried to look at the information the State provided and wanted to know what information they used to determine the funds they will provide.

Ms. DePaola said the State looked at our Cycle 1 data and we have added teachers after that information was pulled. They are providing funds for classroom teachers only, we have to come up with money for the counselors, librarians, administrators. Some of our staff was paid with ESSER funds and we will now have to fund those positions.

We will need to look at the Admin salary schedule to bring it into line with the teacher salary schedule.

There will be no funds for classified staff, but we would like to revamp their schedule as well.

Gary Dunlap made a motion to send the new certified salary schedule to PPC and Jim Barnes seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

15. CPPC/PPC

None

16. Miscellaneous and Informational Items

None

17. Miscellaneous Items after Publication of Agenda

Melissa Holland would like to make a recommendation to move the Board meeting time to 6:00pm. There is a concern for the Admin who stays for the meeting and bumping up the time will get them home earlier and more time with family.

Stacy Nations made a motion to accept the recommendation and Becky Burkhalter seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

Ms. DePaola said the two school board seats were uncontested and there would be Absentee and Early votes only.

Next Board meeting will be May 15, 2023

Graduation will take place at JBU on Friday, May 19, 2023

18. Round Table

Chad Amos- Nothing

Gary Dunlap- Congratulations to the Basketball team, eSports and on receiving the safety grant.

Jim Barnes- Agree with Gary

Stacy Nations - nothing

Becky Burkhalter- Congratulations to the teams. Love hearing all the good things.

Melissa Holland - This last week I went to Primary school to shadow MCL Andrea Folger. I want to say how proud I am of Primary school. How Michelle Jech taught her Kindergarten students was on point. They had just started this lesson and it was like she had been teaching it for a while. What the MCL does, it was just so exciting.

Those kids, wow, great things are happening at Primary.

David Williamson- concur with the board members comments. How is attendance going?

Ms. Freeman: Middle school is having a contest by grade level for students who stay in school all day. We need the students to be in school all day. 7th grade won the contest this last week with 60% attendance. The reward was 20 mins of free tech time.

6th and 7th grade are staying close in attendance

Mr. Blanchard: High school has chronic attendance issues 1st hour. We are working on how we can intervene on those students and students who miss more than 10 days. Phone calls don't work well. It's different with every kid.

Mrs. Groomer: Primary is trying to post attendance to Social media daily. Last Thursday attendance was Kindergarten- 93%, 1st grade 94% and 2nd grade 93%

Mrs. Smartt: Intermediate has chronic attendance issues. Looking at how we can work with parents to keep students in school all day. Behavior intervention helps, there is greater attendance when students feel safe.

Jim Barnes: I would like to complement the Admin on the Social Media posts about our students' accomplishments.

Jim Barnes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 pm and Melissa Holland seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

