

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

Meeting	Type	Location	Time	Date
No 3	Regular	PAC	6:30 p.m.	August 15, 2022

Present

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

Absent

Jon Holt – Member

Call to Order

The Gentry Board met in regular session on August 15, 2022, at the PAC. Mr. Williamson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm after the Board’s site tour of the portable classrooms at 6pm. Six members were present. Mr. Holt was absent. Mr. Moll represented the local press. Also, in attendance included but may not have been strictly limited to the following:

1. Justin Blanchard- Staff
2. Brian Little - Staff
3. Brae Harper - Staff
4. Christie Toland - Staff
5. Danielle Freeman - Staff
6. Jason Barrett - Staff
7. Wendy Jackson - FFA Sponsor
8. Janae Fairchild - FFA Sponsor
9. Jace Galyean - FFA Student
10. Reagan Amos - FFA Student
11. Bailey Malone - FFA Student
12. Madison Lenda - FFA Student
13. Kayla Philpott- FFA Student
14. Robert Baker - FFA Student
15. Tahmara Coones - Staff
16. Kristen Smartt - Staff
17. Victoria Groomer- Staff

Moment of Silence

Observed

Welcome and Celebrations

- Director's Report- Pioneer Story

None

Consideration of Board Minutes

- [4a #31 Regular Board Meeting June 20, 2022.pdf](#)
- [4b #1 Special Board Meeting July 05, 2022.pdf](#)
- [4c #2 Regular Board Meeting July 18, 2022.pdf](#)

Jim Barnes moved to accept the board minutes as presented and Gary Dunlap seconded. The vote carried 6-0.

Consideration of Financial Reports

- [5b Period 1 FY 23 Board Report.pdf](#)
- [5c Period 1 FY 23 Check Register.pdf](#)
- [5d Period 1 FY 23 Fund 2000 Expenditure Summary.pdf](#)
- [5e Period 1 FY 23 Fund 2001 Revenue Summary.pdf](#)

Ms. DePaola (formerly known as Ms. Metz) reported a balance of \$2.8 M in the operating fund. She reported that there was no FY23 Budget in the system yet. More information for the bank reconciliation and year end financials will be presented in September. Gary Dunlap moved to accept the Financial Reports as presented and Melissa Holland seconded. The vote carried 6-0.

Facilities and Transportation

- a. Ms. DePaola- Discussed safety and the possibility of adding another full time SRO - 2.5 SROs currently working for the District. The half-time SRO is a part-time employee at Siloam Springs so he will work around a bus route he drives for them. In light of recent attacks around the country the goal is working toward one full-time SRO for each campus. She reported that she could bring a recommendation to hire another SRO this year if state funding comes through. Ms. DePaola discussed Building Safety Teams. Ms. DePaola and Mr. Barrett reportedly have been working through safety recommendations from Surveys as well as recommendations from Governor Hutchinson and the State Safety Department.
- b. F& T Report - Informational - [6a July 2022 F&T Report.pdf](#)
- c. HVAC update - Plans are completed and the project is ready for bid. Mr. Barrett recommended a Construction Manager based on the recommendation of the architect.- It will make for a better, more streamlined process. Mr. Barrett asked Ms. DePaola and the Board to consider advertising for a CM. Ms. DePaola agreed with the suggestion, noting

that this project is extensive and even if bids were complete and things were in place tomorrow it might still be the spring or early before the project is started and complete. She recommended the Board approve the request to advertise for a CM. Gary Dunlap moved to approve the CM advertising and bid as recommended Jim Barnes seconded. The vote carried 6-0.

Ms. DePaola explained to the Board that she and Ms. Toland had been reviewing the most recent survey results noting concerns about facilities. She has been saving money for facilities upgrades. She noted that later in the agenda she would be talking about ESSER funding and why she decided to use the building fund for things like the HVAC project and stadium renovations. She said that there were some pretty strict requirements for projects funded with ESSER.

Personnel

[7 Personnel August 15, 2022 Meeting #3 FY 23.pdf](#)

Jim Barnes requested an Executive Session with Ms. Depaola at 6:42 pm. The others agreed by consensus. The Board returned to open session at 7:18 pm.

Ms. DePaola reviewed the personnel recommendations. Explained enrollment is up to 1631 as of this morning and more staff has had to be hired to serve this increased student population.

Mr. Williamson noted that Mr. Little would be asked to not drive a bus in his interim year as assistant principal without monetary loss and that Mr. Hester would also be contracted at no financial loss to him for the FY23 year. Gary Dunlap moved to accept the personnel items as revised. Jim Barnes seconded, and the vote carried 6-0.

Ms. DePaola presented a request for a 3-month unpaid leave request for a cafeteria employee Gary Dunlap moved to accept the request as presented and Jim Barnes seconded. The vote carried 6-0.

Consideration of Various Tuition/Purchased Service Agreements

None

ARP ESSER - Toland

- [9 ARP ESSER Plan Revision 081822.pdf](#)
- [9 August 15, 2022 Gentry School District REVISED Attachment two LEA Plan for Use of ARP ESSER Funds \(1\).pdf](#)

Ms. Toland reviewed necessary changes to the ARP ESSER Plan, due to legislative changes. All details in links above. She provided a historical review of surveys and isolated top areas of concern and recommendations from the beginning of this provided funding to date.

Ms. Toland noted the following:

1. Areas of decrease and adjustment are highlighted
2. All ESSER funding will be expended by the end of this year. That is a full year earlier than originally planned
3. The adjustments in this plan, if approved, ensures compliance with recommendations made by the legislative committee
4. Will deeply impact students and their academic success
5. Items originally planned for next year will have to be absorbed by another allowable fund or they will be cut and that will include six staff positions.

Ms. DePaola and pointed out that losing the year of funding would create \$750,000 worth of budgeting and planning deficit that ARP ESSER was supposed to cover. The deficit combined with the legislative recommendation for bonuses (\$5,000 Certified) (\$2500 Classified) would amount to approximately \$8000. She asked the Board to approve to allow her to pull funds as needed from the Building Fund to make up the total \$1.7 million. If the Board agrees to approve the bonuses and the Plan revision, the Plan will be sent for State approval. The Board would also agree to the following:

1. Use Building fund to make up the loss of \$750,000 ARP ESSER Funding
2. \$800,000 approximately in staff bonuses to be paid from ARP ESSER per legislative recommendation. (This proposal would include some attendance requirements for staff included in the application for approval.) The bonus would be for currently contracted and actively working staff. If they receive the bonus and do not finish the year, they will owe the money back to the District.



Funding proposal for
ESSER.pdf

Ms. DePaola recommended the Board approve the proposed changes as well as the approval for changes to funding sources for loss of funding areas intended for ARP ESSER for FY23. It is noted all is contingent upon state approval of the application. Gary Dunlap so moved, and Jim Barnes seconded. The vote carried 6-0.

FFA Trip Presentation

This item was moved up on the agenda to accommodate students just prior to item 3. FFA Officers Introduced themselves. Robert Baker, FFA President, noted they were there to ask the Board for permission to attend the FFA National Convention, October 25-29, in Indianapolis, Indiana Mr. Baker noted that there were multiple benefits to attending, all of which have potential for improving the local FFA program and the leadership of local officers. The Milk Quality and Products Team qualified to compete at Nationals. Three former students, Hannah Jackson, Haley Sweeten and Falyn Cordeiro and FFA members will be receiving their American FFA degrees and will be recognized at the convention. Only three previous Gentry members

have ever gotten the American FFA Degree. Officers would like to attend as well. Robert Baker has attended previously and told the Board what he had taken away from previous attendance. Melissa Holland moved to accept the request as presented and Jim Barnes seconded. The vote carried 6-0.

Athletics/Activity

None

Student Transfers

1. Jesus Escherichia - Decatur to Gentry
2. Ella Smith - Gentry to Siloam
3. Grace Smith - Gentry to Siloam
4. Caden Burr - Decatur to Gentry
5. Kenlee Burr - Decatur to Gentry
6. Elyon Neto - Gentry to Siloam
7. Rhett Johnson - Gentry Siloam
8. Jenella McMillan - Gentry to Siloam
9. Jackson Staton - Gentry to Siloam

Ms. Toland reported 1631 current student enrollment as of today. It was 1554 this time last year. Enrollment was 1454 in FY 21 the first week of school. Ms. DePaola informed the Board that she had been approached by The ABC Pre-K director to take over the program. It is a possible consideration for the future.

Jim Barnes moved to accept the transfers as presented. Melissa Holland seconded, and the vote carried 6-0.

Statement of Assurance Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools

[13 Statement of Assurance Constitutionally Protected Prayer 080422 165922.pdf](#)

Melissa Holland moved to accept the Statement of Assurances as presented. Becky Burkhalter seconded, and the vote carried 6-0.

Vaping

Ms. DePaola and Mr. Barrett attended a safety training in Springdale and part of the training was on Vaping. They learned of a Vaping Prevention Program that could be used as an education and discipline tool. She asked the Board to approve exploring the program with the PPC and a possible parent group with Ms. Freeman and Mr. Blanchard, to add to the student policies. Gary Dunlap moved to approve as presented. Becky Burkhalter seconded. The vote carried 6-0.

Second Reading of Policy

None

First Reading of Policy

None

CPPC/PPC

None

Miscellaneous and Informational Items

[18 Board Member Oath - Jul 15 2022 - 6-34 AM.pdf](#)

Miscellaneous Items after Publication of Agenda

None

Round Table

- Jim Barnes- Thanked Jason Barrett for the tour of the portable classrooms. He noted that the “Classrooms are super nice.” and added a word of “thanks to custodians, maintenance, and technology departments for their efforts in getting them ready for students.
- Becky Burkhalter - Enjoyed the New Teacher Luncheon and really enjoyed it. I enjoyed seeing all the new faces, excited staff, the new building, things were ready for a new year and the increase in enrollment - it’s just an exciting start.
- Melissa Holland - agreed with Ms. Burkhalter. Everyone was an excited and positive atmosphere. One teacher said it “felt like family.” She thanked Ms. Toland for organizing the event saying, “ it was great.” There was good staff interaction.
- Gary Dunlap- echoed all
- Melissa Nations -None
- David Williamson - welcomed Ms. Nations to the Board and noted he agreed with the other comments.

Ms. DePaola encouraged the board members to check their e-mail for information regarding a one-day board training in September.

Adjourn

Melissa Holland moved to adjourn at 7:43 pm and Jim Barnes seconded, and the vote carried JB 6-0.