

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

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Date</b>
No 9	Regular	PAC	6:30 p.m.	December 19, 2023

**Present**

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

**Absent**

Jon Holt

**Call to Order**

Mr. Williamson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm with six members present at roll call. Mr. Holt was absent. Mr. Randy Moll was present to represent the local press.

**Moment of Silence**

Observed

**Welcome and Celebrations**

[3a\\_GMS Library Spotlight.pdf](#)

Sue Ann Chenault, GMS Library Media Specialist, was present with two students, Harley Jenks, and Florence Landaverde, to discuss how the library has become a more interactive and exciting area for students. The presentation was labeled “The GMS Library Is Not the Boring Place It Used to Be.” After an interaction and presentation with students Ms. Chenault said, “This is my second career in education, and this is where I really feel like I am meant to be.”

The Board praised the change and thanked the students and Ms. Chenault for the information presented.

**Consideration of Board Minutes**

[4a #8 Regular Board Meeting November 14, 2022.pdf](#)

Jim Barnes noted that the call to order in the November minutes was incorrect and had mistakenly listed Gary Dunlap as absent.

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

### **Consideration of Financial Reports.**

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

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

Ms. DePaola reported that the attendance bonuses went out to qualifying staff and it was not an easy task. She praised the Central Office Staff and expressed her appreciation for their hard work to get bonuses accurately and out to staff as soon as possible. She praised Ms. Shawver for her dedication and leadership to that end. The amount of the bonuses totaled \$1.2 M.

### **Facilities and Transportation - Informational**

- [6a November 2022 F&T Report.pdf](#)

Mr. Barrett reported that The Stadium Project is also in progress. Updates may be available in January in the same fashion as the HVAC Project progress reports.

### **Personnel**

[7 Personnel December 19, 2022 Meeting #9 FY 23.pdf](#)

Melissa Holland moved to accept the personnel items as presented and Gary Dunlap seconded. The vote carried 6-0.

### **Consideration of Various Tuition/Purchased Service Agreements**

None

**Ethics Disclosure Forms**

- [9 Ethics Disclosure FY 23.pdf](#)
- 1. [9 Courtney Millsap Place Resolution FY 23.pdf](#)
- 2. [9 Joni Wilson Resolution FY 23.pdf](#)
- 3. [9 Leanna Floyd FY 23.pdf](#)
- 4. [9 Rebecca Tingley FY 23.pdf](#)
- 5. [9 Wendy Jackson Resolution FY 23.pdf](#)

Jim Barnes moved to approve the ethics resolutions as presented and Stacey Nations seconded. The vote carried 6-0.

**Superintendent Evaluation**

Ms. DePaola passed out forms and information for the Board as a preliminary to her evaluation in January.

**Athletics/Activity**

[11a Home Uniform.jpg](#)

[11b Road or Away Games Uniform.jpg](#)

[11c Alternate Uniform.jpg](#)

Melissa Holland moved to approve the uniform recommendations as presented and Gary Dunlap seconded. The vote carried 6-0.

It was noted that like most everything else, the cost has skyrocket since the last order and shipping length has increased.

**Student Transfers**

Escobar Rico	2	Siloam	Gentry
Escobar, Reina	6	Siloam	Gentry
Lor, Leo	5	Decatur	Gentry
Lor,Jace	2	Decatur	Gentry
Nguyen, Binh	12	Gentry	Siloam
Davis, Olivia	Pre-K	Gentry	Siloam
Jr. Burns, Cody	K	Gentry	Siloam
Lee, Joan	10	Siloam	Gentry
Deason, Amy	11	Gentry	Gravette

Stacey Nations moved to accept the student transfers as presented and Melissa Holland seconded. The vote carried 6-0.

### **Second Reading of Policy**

None

### **First Reading of Policy**

[14a Vaping Policy change--Suggested and current.pdf](#)

There was some discussion regarding this issue. Melissa Holland said that she felt the new policy provided too many chances to do the right thing with the vaping. She said that she preferred a hard stance on vaping as they have to compete with peer pressure.

Mr. Blanchard, speaking from the audience, said “the new policy is not much different without the community service piece. There are three strikes before a meeting with the Board. There is a difference between nicotine vape and THC. It is a nationwide problem.” There was a brief discussion regarding Vape Detectors and that parents are also losing the battle at home. Someone asked, “how can we work together and make headway?” “Even the flavored vapes are addicting and unhealthy.” Ms. Holland said she was in favor of a “much stricter and much more education based approach.” Ms. DePaola said they were working on an evening presentation for educating parents and an open dialogue on how to create a teamwork approach with families. Ms. Freeman, from the audience, also said that the SRO indicated the juvenile judges do not even want to see the cases anymore for “minor in possession” because it is overwhelming the courts. All agreed kids have learned to disguise their vaping, - The question was posed “is expulsion best for students?” The group discussed Community Service Discussion – what is and is not allowable by law. They agreed that there was a need for proactive steps as well as reactive and punitive measures. This could be in the form of student and parent education and encouraging parent co-operation.

### **CPPC/PPC**

PPC - [15 PPC Minutes December 6, 2022.pdf](#)

CPPC – None

Ms. DePaola recommended the Board approve a \$1200 stipend, effective immediately, for Robotics. Jim Barnes so moved, and Gary Dunlap seconded. The vote carried 6-0 to be issued retroactively on the FY23 contract.

### **Miscellaneous and Informational Items**

[16a Statement-of-Financial-Interest.pdf -](#)

These were completed and given to Ms. Bradshaw to file with the Benton County Clerk prior to January 31, 2023.

### **Miscellaneous Items after Publication of Agenda**

- Resignation – Ms. DePaola reported that Mr. Holt had submitted a resignation from the board so his daughter, Lindsey Hershenson, could be hired by the district. See attached letter. Volunteers for a Zone 2 interim board member will be considered and similarly to the process followed after the resignation of Mr. Bolinger, interested parties will meet with the board. The Board has 30 days to fill the vacancy.

David Williamson asked that it be put on the District Facebook page. Next meeting January 23rd. candidates will be considered and the board will vote. It was noted that the Board may need a special meeting to meet the requirements.

### **Round Table**

Gary – Expressed his appreciation for the fantastic job from Ms. Chenault tonight and her students.

Jim Barnes- Recognize the Administrators for their wisdom leading the school -

Stacey Nations- The staff appreciation for the bonus did not go unnoticed.

Becky Burkhalter – Agreed that the Library presentation was “great”

Melissa Holland - Thanked Central Office and especially Ms. Shawver for working on the bonuses so diligently. Expressed she felt the GIS winter concert was well attended and so much fun. Merry Christmas wishes to all. Ms. DePaola said the drama presentation of Newsies was amazing as well.

David Williamson- Said “I concur with all and also would like to recognize the student athletes who have been receiving awards and conducting college intent signings.

### **Adjourn**

At 7:32 pm Gary Dunlap moved to adjourn, and Melissa Holland seconded. The vote carried 6-0.