

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

Meeting	Type	Location	Time	Date
No. 1	Regular	PAC	6:00 pm	August 21, 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 6:00 pm by David Williamson with seven Board members present at roll call. Mr. Randy Moll was present to represent the local press. Visitors were present and included but not limited to the following: Tonya Sweeten, Savannah and Aubrey Dickinson, Wendy Jackson, Janae Fairchild, Mary Jech, Jennifer Ellis-Lundholm, Kaley Nelson, Karen Williams, and many other visitors supporting the Teachers of the Year other employees being recognized.

2. Moment of Silence

Observed

3. Welcome and Celebrations

[3_FY24 Pioneer Story August 2023.pdf](#)

Ms. DePaola asked to move the FFA request up. The FFA President Reagan Amos request permission for the FFA Meats team to attend the National FFA convention October 31 - November in Indianapolis. The group will travel in two school vans. This will include the Team of four and additional students to fill the seats in the vans. Wendy Jackson will be attending with the group.

Stacy Nations made a motion to approve the FFA trip as presented. Gary Dunlap seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

Ms. DePaola recognized the following teachers and staff and presented each with a plaque.

Teacher of the year:

Primary School: Jennifer Ellis-Lundholm

Intermediate School: Karen Williams

Middle School: Tonya Sweeten

High School: Andrew White (Mr. White was unable to attend)

District Teacher of the Year: Karen Williams

District Classified employee of the year : Kaley Nelson

Retirement after the end of the year 34 years + service to education: Mary Jech

The Board took a short intermission at 6:09 pm to allow the staff to take pictures with their families. The meeting was called back in session at 6:14 pm

Mr. Harper presented the Pioneer story items including but not limited to Summer professional development, new staff members, Facebook posts and Welcome Back breakfast.

4. Consideration of Board Minutes

[4a June 19, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

[4b June 26, 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

[4c May 15, 2023 Special Board meeting minutes.pdf](#)

[4d May 22, 2023 Special Board meeting minutes.pdf](#)

Jim Barnes made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Gary Dunlap seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

5. Consideration of Financial Reports

[5a Arvest July Bank Recon.pdf](#)

[5a Arvest June Bank Recon.pdf](#)

[5a Grand Savings Checking April Bank Recon.pdf](#)

[5a Grand Savings Checking July Bank Recon.pdf](#)

[5a Grand Savings Checking June Bank Recon.pdf](#)

[5a Grand Savings July Bank Recon.pdf](#)

[5a Grand Savings June Bank Recon.pdf](#)

[5a_Grand Savings May Bank Recon.pdf](#)

[5b_Period 1 FY 24 Board Report.pdf](#)

[5c_Period 1 FY 23 Check Register](#)

[5d_Period 1 FY 24 Fund 2000 Expenditure Summary.pdf](#)

[5e_Period 1 FY 24 Fund 2001 Revenue Summary.pdf](#)

Ms. DePaola reported the Grand Savings account is generating \$18,000 monthly interest. The balance in the Arvest account is approximately \$4.8 million.

Melissa Holland made a motion to approve Financial report items 5a-5e as presented. Becky Burkhalter seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

f) Preliminary Numbers Stadium

Ms. DePaola gave an update on the stadium project. The rough estimate (\$3.9 Million) for turf on the football field and adding a lane on the track (we need the additional lane to host meets). The Baseball and Softball fields are listed as alternates. We will need to see how the bids come in.

David Williamson: How about the fieldhouse?

Ms. DePaola: We will cover that question.

Melissa Holland: Can we have the bids include the Baseball and Softball fields?

Ms. DePaola: This is just information right now.

Becky Burkhalter: What is the timeline?

Ms. DePaola: This will go out for bids in September. To have the turf on the Football field for next year. The weather plays a big factor in this and there will be no use of the field during this process, including games and practice for soccer and track.

6. Facilities and Transportation

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

b. Mr. Barrett presented the information on the report including the summer projects the support staff completed over the summer. These projects included but were not limited to: floors district wide, resurfacing of the HS parking lot, MS gym rock wall removed, windows at Middle school, new roofing on the ticketbooth and fieldhouse, Head start project, Agri, blinds at the Middle school and replacement wall pads in Middle school and Intermediate school gyms. We are still waiting on the HVAC project to be completed.

The safety grant spending has begun. New Interior signs district wide have been placed so emergency personnel can find the rooms easily and anyone in the room will be able to say which room they are located. Signs with the room information were also placed in exterior windows if available.

The Raptor system is here and installed. This will be pushed out next week.

All the rekey hardware has been ordered and will be sent to us a campus at a time to be installed.

c. The first day of school traffic went well considering the rain and a fender bender on Pioneer Lane. We spent the first week watching the traffic and it has gotten better each day. We will be studying a different way for traffic to exit the Primary school.

Ms. DePaola said Mrs. Conrad and Mrs. Folger had worked together to help with the student pick up routine at the Primary school.

Melissa Holland wanted to thank the guy who was out in the rain directing traffic. Ms. DePaola said he is a volunteer.

7. Personnel

a. Staff Transfers

b. Resignation, Disciplining, Demotion, Promotion, Appointment, Hiring Staff, Waiver
[7_Personnel August 21, 2023 Meeting #1 FY 24.pdf](#)

Jim Barnes made a motion to approve the personnel items as presented. Gary Dunlap seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

The new administration was introduced:

Monica Minor - Middle school Principal

Devon Conrad - Primary school Principal

Mark Hawbaker - Intermediate school Assistant Principal

8. Consideration of Various Tuition /Purchased Service Agreements MOU/MOA

a. Reduced Cost Meals [8a_Act 656 Attestation Statement Reduced Cost Meals.pdf](#)

b. MOU NWACC-Career Coach [8b_MOU NWACC-Career Coach.pdf](#)

Mrs. Toland- this is an additional career coach for the High provided through a grant with NWACC Career and Tech. We will have two coaches.

c. Lighthouse ABA & Behavioral Consulting [8c_2023-2024 Independent Contract Agreement_Gentry School District and Lighthouse.pdf](#)

- d. Arisa School Based Mental Health Services MOA [8d_2023.24 SY Arisa and Gentry SB MOA.pdf](#)
- e. Arisa TDT Tuition Agreement FY 24 [8e_2023.24 SY Arisa and Gentry TDT Tuition Agreement.pdf](#)
- f. MOU Coop Migrant [8f_MOU Coop Migrant.pdf](#)

Ms. DePaola said, this agreement had been missed and we do plan to stay in the consortium with the Co-op with Migrant, so when we receive our funds they will be sent to the co-op.

Melissa Holland made a motion to accept the various agreements as presented. Gary Dunlap seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

David Williamson mentioned that the Bentonville Fire Department is interested in coming to the High school to talk to students about career opportunities.

9. Student Transfers

a. Board to Board

1. Ashley Smith-parent/guardian, Katelyn Ray-age 15 Grade 10, Siloam to Gentry
Stacy Nations made a motion to approve the transfer as presented. Melissa Holland seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.
2. Dalton Coffey-parent/guardian, Jonathan Coffey-age 16 Grade 11, Siloam to Gentry
Stacy Nations made a motion to approve the transfer as presented. Becky Burkhalter seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.
3. Jamie Loik-parent/guardian, Archer Loik-age 8 Grade 3, Decatur to Gentry
Stacy Nations made a motion to approve the transfer as presented. Becky Burkhalter seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.
4. Lisa Williams-parent/guardian, Cooper Williams-age 15 Grade 10, Decatur to Gentry
Stacy Nations made a motion to approve the transfer as presented. Becky Burkhalter seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.
5. Keeley Miller-parent/guardian, Thorin Del Villar-age 6 Grade K, Gentry to Siloam
Stacy Nations made a motion to approve the transfer as presented. Becky Burkhalter seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.
6. Amber Morrell-parent/guardian, Carter Morrell-age 16 Grade 11, Gentry to Siloam

Stacy Nations made a motion to approve the transfer as presented. Becky Burkhalter seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

7. LeAnn Rayburn-parent/guardian, Layla Asencio-age 16 Grade 11, Gentry to Siloam
Stacy Nations made a motion to approve the transfer as presented. Becky Burkhalter seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

8. Thai Lee-parent/guardian, Kimerlyne Lee-age 16 Grade 11, Gentry to Siloam
Stacy Nations made a motion to approve the transfer as presented. Becky Burkhalter seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

9. Belinda Hill-parent/guardian, Bentley Hill-age 5 Grade K, Gentry to Siloam
Alfie Hill-age 4 PreK, Gentry to Siloam
Cooper Hill-age 3 PreK, Gentry to Siloam
Stacy Nations made a motion to approve the transfer as presented. Becky Burkhalter seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

10. Assistant Superintendent

a. Teacher Administrator Recruitment Plan [10a_Recruitment Plan.pdf](#)

Mrs. Toland presented the Recruitment plan for Gentry Public schools. We want to seek out and hire teachers who reflect our diverse population. We have several bilingual staff this year and our students are feeling more comfortable.

Melissa Holland made a motion to accept the Recruitment plan as presented. Jim Barnes seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

11. Student Data Report

[11_Enrollment Numbers for Board 082123.pdf](#)

Mrs. Toland reported that at 9:30 am on 8/21/23 enrollment was up by 27 students.

138 instructional staff up by 4. This year there are 38 new teachers, 12 new to education.

Last year 62 new teachers 42 new to education.

Melissa Holland– what number do we need to look at expanding our building?

Ms. DePaola- we still have room. Not all the classrooms are full in the portable building.

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

12. Athletics

Ms. DePaola reported that there are questions concerning multi-sport athletes. She is also looking into game day attendance. The committee is working on the handbook and will have updates when the handbook is presented.

13. Calendar FY24 update

[13_2023-24 Traditional Calendar-Updated.pdf](#)

Ms. DePaola reported that due to the LEARNS act there would not be any AMI (Alternative method of instruction) days. All days that need to be made up due to weather will be added to the end of the calendar. Ms. DePaola added there are no plans to take away spring break to make up days missed.

Melissa Holland made a motion to accept the updated calendar and Gary Dunlap seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

14. Second Reading of Policy

None

15. First Reading of Policy

None

16. FFA present to Board- Wendy Jackson

This was presented with the Welcome and celebrations.

17. a. Handbook for FY 24 [17a_Gentry Parent Student Handbook FY 24.pdf](#)

The Parent/Student handbook will be printed only upon request. The paperwork will be sent home listing where the handbook can be found on our website.

b. Certified Policy [17b_FY 24 Certified.Licensed Personnel Policy Updated.pdf](#)

These policies have been updated with model policy.

c. Classified Policy [17c_Classified Policy Book FY 24 \(Need updated calendar for FY 24\).pdf](#)

Melissa Holland asked us to include for the record where these handbooks can be found: On our website under state required information [Handbooks](#)

Gary Dunlap made a motion to approve the handbooks as presented. Jim Barnes seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

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

[18. Statement of Assurance Arkansas Law and Constitutionally Protected Prayer.pdf](#)

This statement assures we will follow all laws. Also, protects prayer, we can not stop student prayer.

Gary Dunlap made a motion to accept the Statement of Assurance as presented. Stacy Nations seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

Stacy Nations made a motion to accept the Statement of Assurance for Constitutionally protected prayer as presented. Gary Dunlap seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

19. Miscellaneous and Informational Items

a. School Board Election

Ms. DePaola talked about the School Board Election. It looks like since two seats ran unopposed, they may have to run again. Ms. Burkhalter's term is expiring as well. Zones 2, 3 and 4 are open.

Stacy Nations mentioned that she may have an email that mentions she will not have to run again and she will look for this information.

20. PPC/CPPC

Ms. DePaola gave a report on the new requirements for PPC and CPPC. Election is now by secret ballot and all meetings will be recorded. Ms. DePaola will meet with each group to go over the new requirements.

21. Miscellaneous Items after Publication of Agenda

Ms. DePaola gave a report on the Boys and Girls Club Summer program in Gentry. 79 Gentry students attended the summer program. They had several activities over the summer that included academic programs as well.

Ms DePaola gave a report on the following:

Intermediate school and Primary school will be assigned a Literacy Specialist from the co-op
This is for grades K-3, we will be including grades 4-5 as well.

School Board training, there is a new management system to keep track of this. New Board members need 9 hours and returning Board members need 6 hours.

The facilities lady the district works with is willing to come and present Board training for facilities.

There has been a \$110,000 increase in Property insurance. The State will refund us approximately \$33,000

We just changed student insurance to one with better options and will save the district \$6-7 thousand dollars.

Computer monitoring: We currently use Bark. Mr. Millsap has three bids and is asking to switch to Blocks. Blocks will send alerts and also monitor the public wifi.

Round Table:

Stacy Nations: Excited about the new year

Becky Burkhalter: Excited about the new year and welcome to the new Admin.

Melissa Holland: Asked Mr. Blanchard if an Assembly had been set up concerning the dangers of vaping.

Ms. DePaola: I have been working on this and planning an event trying to work around all sports. I would like to start the educational information concerning the dangers of vaping at the 5th grade level.

Melissa Holland: I enjoyed the district breakfast. Looking forward to the great things we are doing this year.

Ms. DePaola: There is a good feel this year.

Chad Amos: Nothing

Gary Dunlap: Welcome to the new staff. Congratulations to the Teachers of the Year.

Jim Barnes: Enjoyed the first day of school pictures on social media. Mentioned Springdale district is using a new system that students have to scan their ID when they get on and off the bus each day.

Ms. DePaola: Students would have to keep up with their ID. The new Middle school principal has mentioned she would like the Middle school students to have their badges each day with each grade level wearing a different color lanyard.

David Williamson: Welcome to the new Admin. I enjoyed attending Open House at each Campus.

22. Adjourn

Melissa Holland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm. Gary Dunlap seconded the motion. The vote carried 7-0.

24. Round Table

25. Adjourn