

**Gardner Community Consolidated Grade School  
District 72-C  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
Thursday, February 16th, 2017  
Board Room  
7:00 PM**

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**AGENDA**

- I. *Call to order*
- II. *Roll Call*
- III. *Pledge of Allegiance*
- IV. *Discussion related to Board Minutes from regular board meeting held on January 19, 2017.  
MOTION TO APPROVE minutes from the above date/meeting as presented.*
- V. *Audience/Visitor Participation*
  - a. *Mr. Mike Leone and parent representatives for the band program*
- VI. ***Financial Business***
  - a. *MOTION TO APPROVE the allocation of \$2,000 towards helping purchase band uniforms*
  - b. *MOTION TO APPROVE payment of bills for the month of February, 2017*
  - c. *MOTION TO APPROVE payroll in the amount of \$38,394.93*
  - d. *MOTION TO APPROVE the Treasurer's Report*
  - e. *MOTION TO APPROVE the milk contract with Lakewood Dairy Company for the 2017-18 school year.*
- VII. ***Other- New Business/Superintendent Report***
  - a. *Investment through Standard Bank matures on March 10<sup>th</sup>*
  - b. *Draft one of proposed 2017-18 Public School Calendar*
  - c. *Title I & Title II final approval*
  - d. *MAP Testing – Session II Update*
  - e. *Upcoming PARCC Testing*
  - f. *ELL students and assistance with WIDA and ACCESS testing*
  - g. *E-Beam Interactive White Board Demonstration*
- VIII. *Motion to adjourn into closed session to consider information regarding the appointment, employment, or any permissible matter under the open meetings act 5 ILCS 120/(2)(1)*
- IX. *Motion to adjourn closed session and return to open session*
- X. *Motion to act on any business discussed in closed session*
- XI. *Other items of discussion to include on regular board of education meeting agenda set for Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017.*
- XII. *Motion for Adjournment*

**Greetings Board of Education and HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!  
February 14, 2017**

**Here is some supplemental information regarding the agenda for the upcoming Board meeting Thursday night. After reading through this information please don't hesitate to give me a call with any questions or concerns.**

- ***Motion Item A: Approval to allocate \$2,000 toward helping the band purchase uniforms. After thinking this through, and it being a topic of discussion at the last couple board meetings I felt compelled to include it as an action item, make a decision and put the issue behind us. How did I come up with the \$2,000 amount? As I have eluded previously there is a balance in last year's 8<sup>th</sup> grade class activity account in the amount of \$1,546. I would like to zero out that account. There is also a balance in the band activity account of \$189.00. We still maintain the generous donation from the City of Gardner in the amount \$2,000. This amount has been temporarily placed in the Band Activity Account. Mr. Leone went to the city council meetings on three occasions sharing with them information and asking for financial assistance. Not only did the city allocate \$2,000 to us they also did the same for the high school. In my conversation with Mr. Parrot he shared with me he simply passed along the entire \$2,000 to help support the band. The amount of funds in the activity accounts total \$1,735. I would like to supplement this amount with \$265 from the city's donation and transfer the remaining balance into the revenue line item of "donations from private sources" (revenue line item 10.192000). This would allow us to use those funds as we deem fit for other organizations providing help for as many students as possible, which is my interpretation of the letter from the city accompanying the donation and based on my conversation with the Mayor. For us to allocate \$2,000 to help with purchase of uniforms for the band, or other assistance as they deem fit would be in line with what I believe would be our obligation as a member of the larger "COOP" community.***
- ***Motion Item C & D: You will notice the amount of payroll for this motion item is only \$38,394.93, which is much lower than what you have seen in recent months. This is due to only having one pay period because of the payment of salaries that took place on December 22, 2016 prior to the Christmas break. You might also notice a significant difference in the ED fund from January 2016 as compared to January 2017 (\$320,518). I would like to make a recommendation at the March 16<sup>th</sup> Board meeting to transfer funds from Working Cash into the ED fund in order to get us back up to a balance to an amount we would need in place for the remainder of this year.***
- ***Motion Item E: The milk contract for the cafeteria is up for renewal. I spoke with Mrs. Morecraft regarding her satisfaction with this company. She expressed she is very happy with them and has not been able to find another milk provider in the area to match the prices we have in place with Lockwood Dairy Company. Currently we are paying approximately 26 cents for white and chocolate milk. My recommendation, as well as the recommendation of Mrs. Morecraft is to renew our contact with this company with locking in the same price for the 2017-18 school year.***
- ***Other-New Business/Superintendent Report Item A: We have an investment through Standard Bank that will be coming to maturity on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. This was a 15 month certificate with the initial investment amount of \$519,837.97. The interest rate***

*was VERY good at the time (.395%) leading to a maturity amount of \$540,361.44, or a return of \$20,523.47! I have read through the Board Policy related to investments to ensure I follow the appropriate steps in how to proceed from here. We received a letter, along with the statement from Standard Bank which would allow us to simply renew this certificate. As you know Standard Bank will now be First Mid-State Bank coming up soon. Today I am meeting with the bank president at First National Bank in Dwight to get an idea of what type of interest rate they can offer as well as calling Katie Bodine here in town, or meeting with her to do the same. I have also contacted a company called PMA Financial Network Inc. out of Naperville. This company was recommended to me by Mr. Jason Smith from Coal City, which is the firm they use in handling their investments. I have included information from PMA in your packet to read through, however I will also share some further information regarding our options at the board meeting. My intent is to follow the guidelines outlined in the investment policy, provide you all with some information and rates and make a decision as to how we move forward with these funds.*

- *Other-New Business/Superintendent Report Item B: Included in your packet is a draft of the 2017-18 school calendar. I matched our calendar with the calendar at the high school, which is also in line with Braceville and South Wilmington. I will have a recommendation at the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting to approve the calendar. I have shared with draft with the staff but have not heard any feedback as of yet.*
- *Other-New Business/Superintendent Report Item C: I finally received final approval for our Title I and Title II grants. This was a difficult process for a couple reasons. First, it was my first time going through the process and secondly I learned after submitting it the first time our "Cage Code" had expired (in 2011). I had NO IDEA what a Cage Code was but ultimately learned I had to register with an account online at [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov) in order to get our cage code renewed. That in and of itself was a CRAZY process! But I am happy to say not only did we finally get these grants approved but we also received approximately \$6,500 more in Title I than we anticipated at the start of the year. That required me to modify our budget before submitting again.....*
- *Other-New Business/Superintendent Report Item F: We currently have several students in our classrooms who may qualify for ELL services based on how they completed their home language survey at registration, and based on Spanish being spoken at home (or Spanish being their "native language"). I have had extensive experience working with ELL students, more specifically those of Hispanic origin. They have special educational needs which are not only in their best interest in learning but from a legal perspective as well. I have contacted Morris School District who has agreed to "lend" us one of their ELL staff to come to Gardner for a day to administer the WIDA and ACCESS assessments for these students. The ACCESS test will provide us with an excellent report that will help guide us towards better servicing these students. I greatly appreciate the Morris School District for their assistance. They are doing this with no expectation of us covering the costs of the testing materials, or covering the cost of a sub for the day or her travel.*
- *Other-New Business/Superintendent Report Item G: Recently I purchased a technology tool called an "E-Beam". Several years ago I won one in a drawing at the IPA conference and found it to be an excellent way to provide classrooms with interactive white board functions at a fraction of the cost.*