

**Galena City School District  
Board of Education Meeting  
Charles Evans Community Library  
Wednesday, September 13, 2023**

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

President Bryant called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

a) Introduction of Guests

Staff Members: Chris Javier, Dean O'Dell, Jessie Towarak, Kaitlin Applegate, Adrian Johnson, Dennis Spinks, Lisa Shelby, Cory Stringer, Naomi Winters, Lynn Betterton, Ayla Kalke, Anthony Capadona, Lavern Demoski and Jason Johnson.

b) Roll Call

Fred Huntington – present      Marylee Kauffman – present      Shirley Cleaver – present  
Karin Bodony – present      Jenny Bryant – present  
A quorum was established.

**2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance is recited by all.

**3) VISION/MISSION/CORE VALUES**

The Vision, Mission, and Core Values were read aloud by all Board Members.

**4) AGENDA APPROVAL**

a. Agenda

Board member Cleaver made a motion to approve the agenda.  
Board member Huntington seconded the motion.

Motion carries. Board (5/0)

Amendments: None

**5) STUDENT/STAFF PRESENTATIONS**

Students and staff presented Poetry at the board work session.

**6) STUDENT/STAFF COMMENTS**

None

**7) COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Welcome baby Kramer and congratulations to the Kramer family.

**8) REPORTS**

Board member Cleaver made a motion to approve the consent agenda.  
Board member Huntington seconded the motion.

Motion carries. Board (5/0)

**Secretary's Report**

**May and July Board Meeting Minutes**

## No Comments

- a. **Financial Report** – No Report, Edith is working on the audit.

c. **Principals' and Directors' Reports**

**Maintenance** – Jason Johnson, presented the report.

- The maintenance department has been short-staffed since the beginning of the school year. Both the Director and assistant director have been acting as bus drivers. We will begin prepping staff to take the CDL test in hopes of finding other drivers and qualified maintenance staff.
- We will make some structural changes in the maintenance department.

**Technology** – Chris Javier

- We have launched the new template on galenaalaska.org. Thank you to the tech team, as well as all the community input and department leadership support. The new website was launched at the start of the school year.
- Tech is pleased to see Microsoft Bookings taking off! In last month's report, we shared our rollout for 2023/24 involved use for IDEA family support and GILA admissions interviews. Families are immediately able to schedule their appointments with staff utilizing a convenient online availability calendar. Adrian Johnson deserves big kudos for the huge success in connecting with families on a massive scale over this enrollment season. Her calendar has been booked solid and families have been very appreciative.

**IDEA** – Dean O'Dell

- August in-servicing concluded successfully. Our main focus areas, in addition to policy refreshers, were the Science of Reading, Alaska Reads implementation and strategic planning work.
- Thank you again to our tech department for helping us pursue Teams Calling and Teams Texting to allow for more direct access between parents and contact teachers. The feedback from staff and parents alike is that it really has created more opportunities for connection and collaboration. Thank you to the staff for embracing the experiment. New technology can be intimidating, so we want to be intentional in both trying these tools and celebrating their successful implementation.

**Special Education Director** – Jessie Towarak

- As we continue planning for our compliance review with the State being held in October, focus has been brought to streamlining our current Special Education paperwork processes. Our team continues to meet weekly to discuss needs, current procedures, and complete action items.
- IDEA Special Education in-service was held in Fairbanks on August 21-23. During this time, our team spent dedicated time learning about roles/responsibilities shifts, outlining our new Special Education referral and paperwork review processes, ESER and IEP training, and hearing from various local resources such as Counselor Lindsay Pinkelman, Stone Soup Group, and SESA's AK Center for Accessible Materials.
- During the month of August, our Special Education caseload was **458**. As of September 5, we have **469** active Special Education students in IDEA and Galena with 33 additional students in review for IDEA, giving us a grand total of **502** potential students.
- Frequent opportunities for connectedness are intentionally planned. A coordinated Child Find Fair is being coordinated with TCC to be held in Galena in November.

**SHS Principal** – Cory Stringer

Comments:

Board Member Cleaver asked for the timeline for the After School program. Cory Stated it should start in a couple of weeks.

**GILA Principal** – Naomi Winters

- Our first few weeks of school have been great here at GILA. Students are settling in and we have started Voluntary After-School tutoring (VAS) for any interested students. There are teachers available on both campuses Monday through Thursday from 4-5 p.m.

**Residential Life Director – Ben Blasco**

- We have had 180 students at GILA, we are currently at 179 (93 female & 86 males). We have an awesome group of students. The vast majority have been doing great.

**d. Activity Director – Cory Stringer**

**e. Sega Report – none**

**f. Assistant Superintendent Report – Lisa Shelby**

- Students beginning to settle into the rhythm of school, long days away from parents, and structured activities balanced with learning through play
- We are adjusting to meet needs with appropriate staffing, and training for staff to implement PreK curriculum and materials with best practice (training set for this Saturday and over the next couple of Early Out/In-service days).
- Upcoming training includes using the PreK standards-aligned GOLD assessment, which mirrors the AK Reads Act Class assessment we are using in K-3.
- The support for the grantees is intensive, as is the level of work and oversight to create high-quality ECE programs. This is welcome, as this work will dovetail with our strategic plan to build a 1–2-year-old program.

**Superintendents Report – Dr. Jason Johnson**

- The District is working diligently in clarifying roles/responsibilities within the organization in order to best serve our students, staff, and exceptional communities. This redistribution of expectations will ensure that we have a high degree of accountability within our administrative team and are able to respond quickly to the dynamic educational environments we work within. New processes for onboarding students at Residential Life are invaluable.
- The District is collaborating with Hanover Research to develop, implement, and sustain proven approaches to providing a healthy and inviting professional environment for our collective team. Following the first phase of this work, Hanover will be conducting personal interviews with staff in order to help pinpoint the most notable areas to place our efforts in the short-term.
- After our last collaborative meeting with the multiple contractors and our project management team, the project is still aligned with the following dates: Substantial completion by Dec 18, 2023, and final completion by Jan 1, 2024. With the siding beginning to move relatively quickly, I would encourage you to drive by the facility as it is breathtaking to say the very least, and is going to be stunning when completed!

**g. Correspondence**

DEED K-3 MTSS District Reading Intervention Plan Rubric

Board member Cleaver made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Board member Huntington seconded the motion.

Motion carries. Board (5/0)

**9) OLD BUSINESS- None**

**10) NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Louden/GCSD MOU**

Board member Cleaver made the motion.

Board member Kauffman seconded the motion.

**MOTION:** I move to approve the attached MOU with the Loudon Tribal Council.

DISCUSSION:

1. The included MOU formalizes the relationship as well as creates a common foundation of understanding between the Louden Tribal Council and the Board of Education in pursuit of the development and maintenance of staff housing.

Motion carries. Board (5/0)

b. Migrant and ELL Programs Coordinator Position

Board member Huntington made the motion.

Board member Cleaver seconded the motion.

MOTION: I move to approve the creation of a Migrant and ELL Programs Coordinator Position per the attached documentation.

DISCUSSION:

1. BPs 4119.3 and 4212 are attached for reference
2. The position's job description is attached for reference
3. The Superintendent's justification for the position was provided within the Work Session

Motion carries. Board (5/0)

c. Lead Facilitator – Early Learning Position

Board member Cleaver made the motion.

Board member Huntington seconded the motion.

MOTION: I move to approve the creation of a Lead Facilitator Position per the attached documentation.

DISCUSSION:

1. BPs 4119.3 and 4212 are attached for reference
2. The position's job description is attached for reference
3. The Superintendent's justification for the position was provided within the Work Session

Motion carries. Board (5/0)

d. Substitute Pay Rates

Board member Huntington made the motion.

Board member Kauffman seconded the motion.

MOTION: I move to approve the proposed substitute teacher pay scale per the attached documentation.

DISCUSSION:

1. BPs 4119.3 and 4212 are attached for reference
2. The Superintendent's justification for pay scale modification was provided within the Work Session

Motion carries. Board (5/0)

e. IDEA Lease Agreement

Board member Kauffman made the motion.  
Board member Huntington seconded the motion.

MOTION: I move to approve the attached lease agreement between GCSD and WTD Properties in accordance with the provisions of the provided lease to better serve our IDEA families in Region K.

DISCUSSION:

1. **BP 3300 Expenditures/Expanding Authority** is attached for your reference.
2. **BP 3312 Contracts** is also attached which provides guidance for the development and approval of all contracts.
3. The key benefits of the proposed lease include, but are not limited to the following:
  - Honoring the voices and outreach of our Region K Parent-Advisory Committee and the many families we serve within this location of Region K.
  - Providing in-person and on-site support for a consistently growing student population in this area far from the current IDEA Office.
4. The lease provides for the District to evaluate the cost/benefit in detail during this timeframe (One year) prior to engaging in a long-term contractual agreement.

Motion carries. Board (5/0)

f. Early Graduation Request

Board member Huntington made the motion.  
Board member Cleaver seconded the motion.

MOTION: I move to approve the May 2024 early graduation requests for the following GILA students:

- Keona Hess
- Layla Hernandez

DISCUSSION:

- Naomi Winters (GILA Principal) and Wanda Wright (School Counselor) have requested GCSD School Board approval for the early graduation of Keona Hess and Layla Hernandez as they will have successfully completed all graduation requirements by this time.
- Attached are letters of support for these early graduation requests.

Motion carries. Board (5/0)

g. Staff Adjustments

Board member Cleaver made the motion.  
Board member Kauffman seconded the motion.

MOTION: I moved to approve the following hires.

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| SHS – Special Education Instructor           | Krisabelle Pelayo          |
| SHS – Early Childhood Education              | Neil Patrick Lomboy        |
| SHS – Lead Facilitator                       | Sandy Evans                |
| SHS/GILA – Special Education Instructor      | Suzie May Parcon-Bonifacio |
| SHS/GILA – Building Substitute               | Carrie Fennimore           |
| IDEA – Eagle River Admin                     | Dan Kullander              |
| IDEA – Eagle River/Anchorage Contact Teacher | Ruth McElwee               |

IDEA – Computer Tech III (Eagle River)  
IDEA – Resource Room Coordinator (Anchorage)  
IDEA - Contact Teacher (Juneau)

Jonathon Sullivan  
Stephanie Forester  
Tracey Maxwell

DISCUSSION:

1. **BP 4111 Certificated Personnel Recruitment and Selection** is attached which provides guidance for the appointment of certificated personnel.
2. **BP 4212 Appointment and Conditions of Employment (Classified Personnel)** is attached which provides guidance for the appointment of classified personnel.
3. GCS D’s Strategic Plan provides guidance for the recruitment/retention of staff to support student learning.

Motion carries. Board (5/0)

Next meeting: October 11, 2023

9) **BOARD COMMENTS:**

**Cleaver**, I want to wish everyone a safe hunting season. Hopefully, we can get students out, to help build the smokehouse. Welcome back to everyone. I really appreciate all the staff for getting this place ready for school. Looking forward to a busy year as usual, things don’t slow down around here. Congratulations to the Kramer family.

**Kauffman**, thank you Lavern for the great board packet.

**Bodony**, Sorry I’m not there to enjoy the board meeting with you all.

**Bryant**, I had a parent who came to me a couple of weeks ago, I told them to go straight to the point of contact. Things got straightened out quickly. I/we trust our administration to address things and it is awesome.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Bryant adjourned the regular meeting of the GCS D Board of Education at **8:46 pm**.

Respectfully submitted,

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Fred Huntington, Board Secretary

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Date Minutes Approved