

**Galena City School District
Board of Education Meeting
Charles Evans Community Library
Wednesday, October 18, 2023**

1) CALL TO ORDER

President Bryant called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

a) Introduction of Guests

Staff Members: Chris Javier, Sally Javier, Dean O'Dell, Jessie Towarak, Adrian Johnson, Cory Stringer, Naomi Winters, Lynn Betterton, Will Kramer, Ben Blasco, Edith Hildebrand, Vicky Hamm, 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 Bodony made a motion to approve the agenda.

Board member Huntington seconded the motion.

Motion carries. Board (5/0)

Amendments: Board member Cleaver requested to Table agenda item, "Reorganization of the Board" to await for City Official to join at the next meeting.

5) STUDENT/STAFF PRESENTATIONS

Staff member presented outdoor adventure camps and opportunities for students to pursue this summer.

Board Member Bodony highlighted student art appearing in the most recent Alaska Migratory Bird Calendar.

6) STUDENT/STAFF COMMENTS

None

7) COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Board Member Cleaver discussed her recent site-visits throughout the entire, expressed her appreciation for Galena schools as well as staff and provided information pertaining to GeoForce opportunities for students.

8) REPORTS

Board member Cleaver made a motion to approve the agenda.

Board member Bodony seconded the motion.

Motion carries. Board (5/0)

- a. **Secretary's Report**
September Board Meeting Minutes

- b. **Financial Report** – Edith discussed the status of the audit, presented highlights of the included report and TVEP funding for the District.

- c. **Principals' and Directors' Reports**
 - Maintenance** – Jason Johnson presented the main points associated with the report included in the packet.
 - Technology** – Chris Javier
 - Provided an overview of the “Texting Communication Rollout” to improve timely communication and dialogue with parents/guardians
 - Discussed improvements associated with the “Microsoft 365 Communication Updates” to help drive forward elements of the strategic plan
 - IDEA** – Dean O’Dell
 - Outlined the importance of the new Homer and Palmer offices in best serving our students, families and the communities we serve within
 - Emphasized celebrating homeschool culture, honoring our parents and areas IDEA was working to enhance within their operational structure
 - Special Education Director** – Jessie Towarak
 - Highlighted to current status of the Special Education Audit and work the District was undertaking to address those requirements and requests
 - Celebrated the work of her team in serving over 500 students
 - SHS Principal** – Cory Stringer
 - Detailed the progression of the After-School Programming and steps that are being taken to include Math as an after-school support
 - Outlined the academic testing requirements in place at the Elementary School
 - GILA Principal** – Naomi Winters
 - Explained the positive impact and significance of our new teachers joining us the options/support it is providing students
 - Noted the implementation of the GILA’s quarterly newsletter to expand communication with parents/guardians
 - Residential Life Director** – Ben Blasco
 - Stated that there were 183 students at GILA currently
 - Expounded upon the importance of elevating student activity opportunities at Residence Life

- d. **Activity Director** – Cory Stringer
 - Clarified existing support for the Wrestling program and addition to coaching staff
 - Applauded the state qualifiers for Cross Country

- e. **SEGA Report** – None

- f. **Assistant Superintendent Report** – Jason Johnson provided an overview of the Assistant Superintendent’s report included within the packet.
 - Superintendents Report** – Dr. Jason Johnson
 - Praised staff for enabling IDEA and SHS to be recognized as spotlight schools from DEED
 - Walked through the recently awarded grant funding and the impact it will have on the District

g. **Correspondence**

AK Star data release update from DEED

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. Confluence Strategies Contract

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

MOTION: I move to approve the services for the consultative, advisory, and lobbying services from Confluence Strategies, Inc. Contract for \$55,000 for the calendar year from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

DISCUSSION:

1. Included within Board packet.

Motion carries. Board (5/0)

b. HVAC Emergency Repairs

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

MOTION: I move to approve Aaron's Plumbing and Heating Company to complete the HVAC inclusions noted within the provided "scope of work" at SHS for \$125,670 per the attached Galena Elementary School AHU Update proposal.

DISCUSSION:

1. Included within the Board packet.

Motion carries. Board (5/0)

c. Staff Adjustments

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

MOTION: I move to approve the following hires:

- SHS Secretary/Registrar – Molly Kinsey
- SHS Early Childhood/Elementary Teacher – Janice Porazo
- SHS/GILA Maintenance II – Parker Pitka
- GILA Assistant Cook I – Teodora Decoy
- IDEA Contact Teacher (Region A) – Ann Williams
- IDEA Clerical II – Kevin Odegard
- IDEA Region K Coach – Jessica Keller
- GCSD Migrant and ELL Programs Coordinator – Beverly Kokrine
- GCSD Dir. of Administrative Projects – Jim Merriner
- IDEA Computer Tech III – Ronnie Maynard
- GCSD Special Education Administrative Assistant I – Aleena Beal

DISCUSSION:

1. Included within the Board packet.

Motion carries. Board (5/0)

Next meeting: November 1 and 8, 2023

9) BOARD COMMENTS:

Cleaver, thanked the team for the great atmosphere and energy at the school this year from the superintendent to instructional team to all of the classified staff.

Kauffman, expressed her appreciation to team

Bodony, noted her excitement to be elected to serve another three years on the board and to help continue the recent progress

Huntington, appreciated the current state of the District, the teachers, administrators and superintendent for their work in helping the District to be recognized by DEED

Bryant, excited about all of the growth occurring within the District's academic programs, happiness with the direction of the over-all District.

10) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Board member Bodony made the motion.

Board member Huntington seconded the motion.

MOTION 1: I move to go into Executive Session at 8:57 P.M. for subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation of character of any person; provided that the person may request a public discussion.

Board member Cleaver made the motion.

Board member Bodony seconded the motion.

MOTION 2: I move to exit Executive Session at 9:33 P.M.

Both Motions carries. Board (5/0)

11) NEW BUSINESS (CONT')

- d. Student Board Representative

Board member Cleaver made the motion.

Board member Bodony seconded the motion.

MOTION: I move to approve Alissa Peters as a student Board Representative of the GCSD Board of Education representing GILA students.

Motion carries. Board (5/0)

ADJOURNMENT

President Bryant adjourned the regular meeting of the GCSD Board of Education at 9:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Huntington, Board Secretary

Date Minutes Approved