

Galeton Area School District
School Board Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2016

A meeting of the Galeton Area School Board was held in the Music Room of the Galeton Area School District.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board President Bonita Stover at 6:30 PM.

Board Members and all others present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance

The following School Board Members were also present, as confirmed by roll call: Tony Cimino, Beth Fuller, Dr. Mary Geiter, Michael Hoza, Julie Lane, Charles Tameris, and Rick Yonkin. Charles Bach was absent.

Attendance

Others present included Superintendent Dr. Brenda Freeman, Principal Clyde Pierce, Business Manager/Board Secretary Penny Crowell, and interested community members.

President Stover asked for a motion to consider approval of the minutes from the December 2, 2015, Reorganization Board Meeting. On motion of Mr. Tameris and second of Mr. Yonkin, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the minutes.

Minutes

President Stover asked for a motion to consider approval of the minutes from the December 2, 2015, Regular Board Meeting. On motion of Mrs. Lane and second of Mrs. Fuller, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the minutes.

President Stover asked for a motion to consider approval of the General Fund Bills List. On motion of Mr. Tameris and second of Mrs. Lane, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the bills.

President Stover asked for a motion to consider approval of the School Lunch Fund Bills List. On motion of Mrs. Lane and second of Mrs. Fuller, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the bills.

President Stover announced that John Ruman, Maintenance/Custodial Employee, passed away on December 24, 2015. He will be greatly missed.

Superintendent Dr. Brenda Freeman reported on the following:

Superintendent's Report

- **John Ruman:** Dr. Freeman expressed sympathy to the family and colleagues of Mr. Ruman. He was a very valuable employee and member of the Galeton school family. The students wanted to do something in memory of John, so one student designed a fireman's badge and student council made badges for all students and staff. They took donations which will be used to frame a photo taken by John to be displayed in the school. Any extra donations will go to the fire company where John was a well-respected fire fighter.

Students of the Month: Zak Knudson, Elementary Student, was nominated for being a model student who always uses his manners, compliments other students, helps out in the classroom, is compassionate and has a strong work ethic. **Jesse Crawford, Secondary Student,** was also nominated for being a model student.

Jesse always greets us with a smile, tries his hardest and helps in class and other students with being asked. He is always interested in displaying Galeton pride.

- **School Director Recognition Month:** Dr. Freeman recognized the school board. They are here for the right reason—the best thing for students. She said that she is proud to serve with these board members and encouraged the community to thank a board member this week.
- **Dual Enrollment Courses:** The District has 23 courses being taken by 14 students.
- **Potter County Leadership Program:** The District hosted their monthly meeting on December 18th, which had the theme of Education. Four superintendent's provided a panel discussion and Galeton National Honor Society Students hosted the guests and gave them a school tour.
- **Act 34 of 2014:** This law required all school employees and bus drivers to update their clearances by 12/31/15. All of our background checks were in place by the deadline.
- **PSBA Lawsuit:** This suit was brought against the Governor and legislators for illegally withholding state funding during a budget impasse. We are hoping this results in no liability to the district due to our borrowing.
- **Inservice Day January 18:** Mandated Reporter Training is being provided to support staff, substitutes and bus drivers. Teachers will be working on team building activities and student progress/CDT data review.

Principal Clyde Pierce reported on the following:

- **Family Lunch Day:** Over 140 people came for this event. It was an awesome day for our families to share time with their students. Lunch was awesome too.
- **Family Reading Night:** This was held in December with a Polar Express theme and included a guest reader and smaller grade level reading groups.
- **Holiday Store:** PTO held a store for students to purchase gifts for the holiday. It was well attended and students enjoyed the activity.
- **Door Decorating Contest:** Classes participated in this school-wide activity with winners named in several categories.
- **Lunch with Santa:** Thank you for Mr. Tameris for bringing this event to our students.
- **Rotary Speeches:** Speech class students have been attending Rotary meetings to present speeches—14 in all.
- **Second Grade:** STEM projects are a focus right now, as well as a new positive behavior system called Class Dojo—an online program similar to Facebook, but a non-public system, which allows teachers and parents to communicate readily and easily.
- **Physical Education:** various sports units have been presented to students in which they are learning individual and team skills, as well as daily fitness activities and the Presidential Physical Fitness testing. Tenth grade students are learning about the benefits of physical activity, a balanced diet and physical fitness, along with the effects of tobacco and alcohol on body systems. This will help students make wiser, more well-informed choices about dangerous substances.
- **Other items:** The discipline and athletic reports were given. The end of the marking period will be January 19, with report cards sent home January 25.

Principal's Report

Business Manager Penny Crowell reported on the following:

2015/16 Budget: The State has still not approved a budget and news reports indicate that legislators are not close to resolving the impasse. The current Treasurer’s Report shows that the district had \$844,966 (not including \$403,524 of fund balance) available for expenditures as of December 31. The state did release 45% of the expected funding on January 5th in the amount of \$1,254,899. This provides \$2,099,865 in the general fund for daily expenditures. This release of funds allows the District to continue; however, it will not be enough to complete the school year.

Citizen Recognition: *There were no citizen comments.*

Action Items:

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration’s recommendation for the employment of Korianne McManus as Secondary Emotional Support Teacher retroactive to January 7, 2016. Ms. McManus will be employed at Bachelor’s Step 1, \$40,700, plus benefits as per the GEA/GASD Agreement. This employment is contingent upon

Ms. McManus being approved for a PA emergency certificate in Special Education 9-12 by the first day of the 2016/17 school year and maintaining said certificate until the Instructional I certificate is received. Continued employment is contingent upon

Ms. McManus being approved for the Instructional I Special Education 9-12 certificate by August 1, 2019. On motion of Mr. Tameris and second of Dr. Geiter, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the employment.

President Stover asked for a motion to approve the Administration’s recommendation to add Jewel Mack, Emergency Certified Teacher, to the 2015/16 Day-to-Day Substitute Employees’ List, effective January 12, 2016. On motion of Mr. Yonkin and second of Mrs. Lane, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the substitute.

President Stover made the following announcements:

Executive Session: January 11, 2016, 6:00 PM, Galeton Area SD Library
RE: Employee

Next Work Session: *none scheduled at this time*

Next Board Meeting: February 8, 2016, 6:30 PM
Galeton Area School District Music Room

Being that there was no other business before the Board, President Stover asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On motion of Mr. Tameris and second of Mr. Yonkin, the meeting was adjourned by a vote of 8 to 0.

Approved as read February 8, 2016.

Respectfully submitted by:

Penny L. Crowell
Board Secretary

Business Manager’s
Report

Citizen Recognition

Emotional Support
Teacher Employment

Substitute Employee

Announcements

Adjournment