



MEMBERS PRESENT: BECKY BRADLEY, TALLIN CURRAN, LINDA KNOGL, LORI SILVA, AND ERICA VENNE {VIA ZOOM}.

MEMBERS ABSENT: DON LIENEMANN AND ERIC STACY.

EMPLOYEES PRESENT: DR. DON HARRIS, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, JODY BATSON, STEPHANIE BOYER, LISA COCKRUM, BRAD ERVAY, CORY ERVAY, DR. ADAM GARRETT, WENDY GUNTER, CHRIS HUTCHINGS, DR. DAVID KEEL, JULIE MATARELLI, STEVE MATHES, TIM MCCHRISTIAN, CHRIS MCCULLOUGH, CHRIS MITCHELL, TIM MORAN, DR. LIZ NIEPERT, KRISTEN NOVACICH-KOBERNA, NIKKI PETRILLO, JILL RELLEKE, TOM SCHOOLEY, BRAD SMITH, ERIC SMITH, ZACK SUHRE, MICKI WATKINS, MEGAN WEDEKIND, AND ANN WILSON.

STUDENT ADVISORY

BOARD MEMBER: LILY ROSE COCKRUM

OTHERS PRESENT: CARLOS BRIAGAS, DETECTIVE FICKER #253, AND PASTOR SAM HART, BRYAN WHITE, AND JENNIFER WHITE.

This was an open and virtual meeting that took place using the Zoom application. There was a total of twenty-seven (27) Employees, five (5) Guests, one (1) Student Advisory Board Member, and four (4) Board Members, physically present.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION;

1. **ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM;** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board President, Tallin Curran. Roll was called. Four {4} members were physically present, one {1} present via Zoom and a quorum was declared. President Tallin Curran asked those present to stand for the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation. He stated that citizens or parents with children in attendance, who did not wish to participate in the Invocation, could wait outside the Board Conference Room until after the Board moved to Item IV, Public Comment. Pastor Sam Hart with City Temple offered the invocation.
2. **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOE MEETING;** Motion by Member Venne, seconded by Member Stacy, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the board of education held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024.

Members voting - Bradley, “aye”, Silva, “aye”, Curran, “aye”, Knogl, “aye”, and Venne “aye”, motion carried. **Members absent** - Stacy, Lienemann

3. **CONSENT AGENDA;** (1-4) Motion by Member Knogl, seconded by Member Venne, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the items listed on the consent agenda as follows:

Bill List

Bill List from September 5, 2024 – September 18, 2024; {available upon request}

Requests from Various Organizations

EF Tour Summer 2027/Hutchings; GCHS Assistant Principal Mr. Chris Hutchings and GCHS Teacher Ms. Kellie Hutchings request permission to distribute the attached letter to students and parents regarding an educational adventure to Great Britain in the Summer of 2027. The tentative departure date will be Monday, July 5, 2027. The tour will be a 12-day tour through EF Educational Tours who have been in business for over 50 years and is the company both GCHS and CJHS has had many successful tours through. The approximate student cost will be \$5,449 and the approximate adult cost will be \$6,449, which includes a \$200 discount for early enrollment.

The first informational parent meeting will be held via Google Meet on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 6:00 pm. To register for the meeting and obtain a Google Meet code, please click this link; EF Tour Summer 2027. All of this information is in the letter below and you can also email Mr. Hutchings at chris.hutchings@gcsd9.net or Ms. Hutchings at kellie.hutchings@gcsd9.net, if you have any additional questions.

Granite City High School



Tim McCristian | Principal

September 24, 2024

RE: EF Educational Tours Summer 2027

Dear Parents,

Kellie and Christopher Hutchings are taking students on an educational adventure to Great Britain in July 2027. Our tentative departure date will be Monday, July 5, 2027. The itinerary includes exploring Dublin's highlights like Grafton Street and St. Patrick's Cathedral, before traveling to Belfast to see the Titanic Belfast and historical murals. The journey continues with a visit to Derry and the Giant's Causeway, then to Edinburgh for a tour of the castle and city. We will end our trip in London, seeing landmarks such as Big Ben and Buckingham Palace, before heading to Paris for a guided tour of iconic sites including the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre. This trip promises to be both educational and memorable, offering students rich cultural experiences across four incredible cities.

We have chosen to travel with EF because they have been in business for 50 years and have offices around the world, which makes us feel secure. We took a group last year to Italy and Greece and fully believe we received the lowest price for the highest quality through EF. The cost of this trip is approximately \$5,449 per student or \$6,449, which includes a \$200 discount for enrolling early. The cost will include airfare, lodging, a full time EF Tour director, sightseeing tours, motorcoach transportation and two meals per day (breakfast and dinner) and includes trip insurance. Students will need to apply for a passport and tip money is additional. Participants will need to bring money for lunch and any souvenirs they might like to purchase. Payment will be made directly to EF tours and payment plans will be available.

We are having our first informational meeting via Google Meet on Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 6:00 pm. To register for the meeting and obtain the Google Meet code, visit <https://rsvp.efcours.com/jtn3lyt>. Please feel free to email either of us if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Kellie and Chris Hutchings
kellie.hutchings@gcsd9.net
chris.hutchings@gcsd9.net

Granite City High School | 3145 Felling Road | Granite City, Illinois 62040-3655
Phone Number: 618-451-5808 | Fax Number: 618-451-5950 | Website: www.gcsd9.net

Gifts

GRANITE CITY CUSD9 DONATIONS; the GCSD9 Board of Education accepted the following gifts with thanks and appreciation.

Midwest Players League; The Midwest Players Pool League held "Big Dogs for a Cause" pool matchup on August 3, 2024, in Woodriver, Illinois and half of the proceeds from the event was donated to GCSD9 to help with school supplies. The total donation is \$350.00.

Tank's Training Facility; They donated 20 TheraBands for rehabilitation and strengthening, to the Granite City High School Volleyball Program.

Books-A-Million; They donated brand new books to the Granite City Special Education Program grades Pre-K through 12th grade. The total value is **\$10,447.00!**

Members voting - Silva, “aye”, Curran, “aye”, Knogl, “aye”, Venne “aye”, and Bradley, “aye”, motion carried. **Members absent** - Stacy, Lienemann

4. **RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS;** (5) Motion by Member Knogl, seconded by Member Venne, upon the recommendation of administration, to accept the following retirements and resignations:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Lisa Mink	Title I Paraprofessional/Maryville	Resignation	09/09/2024
Traci Herrera	ESL/Bilingual Paraprofessional/CJHS	Resignation	09/20/2024

Members voting - Curran, “aye”, Knogl, “aye”, Venne “aye”, Bradley, “aye”, and Silva, “aye”, motion carried. **Members absent** - Stacy, Lienemann

5. **REQUESTS FOR LEAVES OF ABSENCE;** (5) Motion by Member Venne, seconded by Member Silva, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the following requests for leaves of absence:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Danielle Depew	PE Teacher/GCHS	FMLA	01/12/2025 - 04/19/2024
Michelle Mueller	2 nd Grade Teacher/Maryville	FMLA	09/13/2024 - 10/31/2024
Carolyn Pirtle	2 nd Grade Teacher/Maryville	FMLA	08/27/2024 - 11/19/2024

Members voting - Knogl, “aye”, Venne “aye”, Bradley, “aye”, Silva, “aye”, and Curran, “aye”, motion carried. **Members absent** - Stacy, Lienemann

6. **REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS TO LEAVES OF ABSENCE;** (5) Motion by Member Bradley, seconded by Member Silva, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the following requests for extensions to leaves of absence:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Richard Wylde	Custodian/Wilson	FMLA	10/21/2024 - 11/15/2024

Members voting - Venne “aye”, Bradley, “aye”, Silva, “aye”, Curran, “aye”, and Knogl, “aye”, motion carried. **Members absent** - Stacy, Lienemann

7. **EXTRACURRICULAR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR;** (6) Motion by Member Silva, seconded by Member Curran, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the following extracurricular assignments for the 2024-2025 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Chad Alexander	GCHS Head Boys Tennis Coach
Eddie Bradley	Coolidge Asst Football Coach
Amy Pennell-Davis	GCHS Video Journalism Sponsor
Claire Sykes	GCHS Asst Girls Basketball Coach

Members voting - Bradley, “abstain”, Silva, “aye”, Curran, “aye”, Knogl, “aye”, and Venne “aye”, motion carried. **Members absent** - Stacy, Lienemann

8. **RECOMMENDATION FOR GCHS STUDENT WORKERS {CO-OPS} FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR;** (7) Motion by Member Silva, seconded by Member Bradley, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve **Ivette Rios Gonzalez** as a Student Worker {co-op} for the 2024-2025 school year, pending the submission of the required paperwork.

Members voting - Silva, “aye”, Curran, “aye”, Knogl, “aye”, Venne “aye”, and Bradley, “aye”, motion carried. **Members absent** - Stacy, Lienemann

9. **CERTIFIED AND CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTES;** (8) Motion by Member Knogl, seconded by Member Venne, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the following certified and classified substitutes for the 2024-2025 school year, pending the submission of the required paperwork:

Certified; n/a

Classified;

Cheyenne Betts
Ashley Campbell
Danielle Campbell
Hunter Gray

Members voting - Curran, “aye”, Knogl, “aye”, Venne “aye”, Bradley, “aye”, and Silva, “aye”, motion carried. **Members absent** - Stacy, Lienemann

10. **EMPLOYMENT OF PARAPROFESSIONAL FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR;** (9) Motion by Member Silva, seconded by Member Knogl, upon the recommendation of administration, to employ **Jessica Travis** as a Paraprofessional at the Early Childhood Center for the 2024-2025 school year, pending the submission of the required paperwork.

Members voting - Knogl, “aye”, Venne “aye”, Bradley, “aye”, Silva, “aye”, and Curran, “aye”, motion carried. **Members absent** - Stacy, Lienemann

11. **EMPLOYMENT OF ESL/BILINGUAL PARAPROFESSIONALS FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR;** (10) Motion by Member Venne, seconded by Member Silva, upon the recommendation of administration, to employ **Veronica Aldana** and **Monica Tamayo** as ESL/Bilingual Paraprofessionals for the 2024-2025 school year, pending the submission of the required paperwork.

Members voting - Venne “aye”, Bradley, “aye”, Silva, “aye”, Curran, “aye”, and Knogl, “aye”, motion carried. **Members absent** - Stacy, Lienemann

12. **INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL {GIS} ASPHALT PAD AND DRIVE BID #16-24;** (11) Motion by Member Knogl seconded by Member Venne, upon the recommendation of administration, to authorize Administrations request to hire Christ Brothers Asphalt for the construction of an asphalt playground pad and drive at the rear of the GIS building for the sum of **\$304,080**. The new parking lot at the front of the building has improved traffic flow during pickup and drop-off, and we believe that adding a road around the back of the building will further alleviate traffic congestion. Additionally, an asphalt pad will be constructed at the rear of the building. Currently, Grigsby Intermediate School students play in the front parking lot, which raises safety concerns due to the presence of visitors throughout the school day.

Members voting - Bradley, “aye”, Silva, “aye”, Curran, “aye”, Knogl, “aye”, and Venne “aye”, motion carried. **Members absent** - Stacy, Lienemann

13. **GRANITE CITY CUSD9 METAL DETECTORS;** (12) Motion by Member Knogl, seconded by Member Silva, upon the recommendation of administration, to order metal detectors through The Interlocal Purchasing System {TIPS} Cooperative program. The Chief Procurement Officer for General Services {CPO} approved State Agencies to consider contracts procured by this cooperative. TIPS is an approved cooperative for the State of Illinois.

The total quote for the GCSD9 Metal Detectors and accessories is **\$378,595.10**. This will be paid through ESSER Funding.

Members voting - Silva, “aye”, Curran, “aye”, Knogl, “aye”, Venne “aye”, and Bradley, “aye”, motion carried. **Members absent** - Stacy, Lienemann

14. **ADOPTION OF THE GRANITE CITY CUSD9 BUDGET FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR;** (13-14)

Motion by Member Knogl, seconded by Member Venne, to temporarily adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education to hold a Public Hearing on the FY25 Granite City CUSD9 Budget.

Members voting - Curran, “aye”, Knogl, “aye”, Venne “aye”, Bradley, “aye”, and Silva, “aye”, motion carried. **Members absent** - Stacy, Lienemann

Motion by Member Bradley, seconded by Member Silva, after Public comment and a presentation by Zack Suhre, CSBO, to reconvene the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education.

Members voting - Knogl, “aye”, Venne “aye”, Bradley, “aye”, Silva, “aye”, and Curran, “aye”, motion carried. **Members absent** - Stacy, Lienemann

Motion by Member Bradley, seconded by Member Knogl, to Adopt the 2024-2025 Granite City CUSD9 Budget and secure all necessary signatures.

Members voting - Venne “aye”, Bradley, “aye”, Silva, “aye”, Curran, “aye”, and Knogl, “aye”, motion carried. **Members absent** - Stacy, Lienemann

15. **SECTION 125 FLEX BENEFIT PLANS ADMINISTRATOR;** (15-25) Motion by Member Venne, seconded by Member Silva, upon the recommendation of administration, to authorize Administrations request to switch Section 125 Flex Spending providers from TASC to American Fidelity. American Fidelity will provide additional support for staff when choosing the plan that works best for them. Staff will have the ability to schedule an appointment annually to discuss individualized benefits and the best option for them. In the future, American Fidelity will be able to provide voluntary benefits on an individual basis through payroll deductions to staff. The switch will help streamline our processes and insure compliance with IRS rules. The cost to employees will be reduced from \$24 a year to \$0 for plan administration.

Members voting - Bradley, “aye”, Silva, “aye”, Curran, “aye”, Knogl, “aye”, and Venne “aye”, motion carried. **Members absent** - Stacy, Lienemann

16. **GCHS CHESS CLUB PROPOSAL;** (26-29) Motion by Member Venne, seconded by Member Silva, upon the recommendation of administration, to approve the proposal from Granite City High School regarding student interest to start a Chess Club. The Chess Club would meet every other Friday from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm and would be open to any and all students regardless of their knowledge of the game, or chess playing abilities. There are currently two faculty sponsors that are willing to oversee the club.

Members voting - Silva, “aye”, Curran, “aye”, Knogl, “aye”, Venne “aye”, and Bradley, “aye”, motion carried. **Members absent** - Stacy, Lienemann

17. **CEO ADMINISTRATIVE PLACEMENT REQUEST;** (30) Motion by Member Silva, seconded by Member Knogl, upon the recommendation of administration, to authorize Administrations request to send a Granite City High School Student to the CEO Program in Troy.

Members voting - Curran, “aye”, Knogl, “aye”, Venne “aye”, Bradley, “aye”, and Silva, “aye”, motion carried. **Members absent** - Stacy, Lienemann

18. **REPORTS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS;** the following reports were given.

A. **Freedom of Information Act Requests; {FOIA}**
{for review only, no vote}

We received two {2} requests under the Freedom of Information Act during the period of September 3, 2024 through September 17, 2024.

The first request was received on September 13, 2024 from Lana Turley of Illinois Federation of Teachers. She requested the following information:

- Names of all administrative staff including the Superintendent with their hire date, months they work (i.e. 9 months or 12 months, etc.) hourly and salary rate. Please include their signed contract if applicable.
- Names of all administrative assistants, specialists who are not in the bargaining unit including confidential administrative assistants with their date of hire, the months they work, hourly rate and salary for the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026, 2026-2027.
- Names of all administrative assistants who are in the bargaining unit with their hire date, the months they work, hourly rate, salary and step for the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026, 2026-2027.

The second request was received on September 14, 2024 from Dan Tutulo. He requested the following information:

- List of the last five religious exemptions submitted at Maryville elementary school with any personal information redacted. This request is not for commercial purposes.

The requests were handled by Administration.

B. GCSD9 Student Board Member Report;
{GCHS Senior LilyRose Cockrum gave the following report}

The first few weeks of this school year have been eventful.

The Welcome Back Rally took place two weeks ago. Our school's Photography Club and Yearbook Club both took photos of the rally. The dance team, cheerleading team, band, student council, student volunteers, and teachers all took part in the events. Each year we have a school spirit contest during the rally and this year the Seniors won...of course. :)

The high school has many events scheduled leading up to Homecoming, which takes place the week of October 14th. Each day of the week, we have dress up themes. The themes haven't been released yet, but they are always fun.

- 👁 The Homecoming Play will take place October 15th and 17th at the Performing Arts Center. This year's play is titled "Almost Maine" and is a series of short love stories. Make sure to get your tickets and support the theater department.
- 👁 October 16th is the Homecoming Parade at 6pm followed by the Powder Puff Football game at 7pm.
- 👁 On October 18th, Tribe Fest will take place in the afternoon on the football field. That evening, the Warriors will take on Althoff at 7pm at the Kevin Greene Field.
 - 👁 The last Tribe Fest was in 2017. Tribe Fest is a carnival type activity taking place at the high school.
 - 👁 Student clubs and businesses will set up booths of crafts and games. There will be:
 - Pie in the face
 - Photo booth
 - Arts and crafts station
 - Football toss
 - Ring toss
 - And many more
- 👁 The week will end with the Homecoming Dance on October 19th.

Go Warriors!

C. IASB Liaison Report;

{ GCSD9 Board Liaison Linda Knogl, gave a brief report }

Ms. Knogl will be attending an IASB Southwestern Division Legislative Event in Sparta, Illinois tomorrow September 25th. She also discussed the School Board Elections and the Information she had given to the Board from the IASB website.

19. EXECUTIVE SESSION; Motion by Member Bradley, seconded by Member Venne, to go into executive session for the exceptions noted under 5 ILCS 120/2 Open Meetings:

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; 2(c)(1)
- Student disciplinary matters; 2(c)(9)
- The purchase or lease of real property for use by the public body; or setting a price thereof; 2(c)(5)(6)
- Collective bargaining matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives; 2(c)(2)
- Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed...is probable or imminent. 2(c)(11)
- To discuss school building safety and security and security procedures. 2(c)(8); and
- Student Safety 2(c)(8)

Members voting - Curran, “aye”, Stacy, “aye”, Knogl, “aye”, Lienemann, “aye”, Venne “aye”, Bradley, “aye”, and Silva, “aye”, motion carried.

The Board was called into executive session at 6:38 pm.

Motion by Member Silva, seconded by Member Curran, to exit Executive Session and resume the meeting at 7:52 pm.

Members voting - all aye; voice vote; motion carried.

20. The next Board of Education meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Board of Education Offices located at 3200 Maryville Road, Granite City, Illinois 62040-5144. The meeting will be held in the New Board Room. (old Professional Development Center {PDC}/Gymnasium).

21. **ADJOURNMENT**; Motion by Member Silva, seconded by Member Bradley, to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 pm.

Members voting - all aye; voice vote; motion carried.

Members absent - Venne, Stacy, Lienemann

Tallin P. Curran, President

Board of Education

Community Unit School District #9

Erica L. Venne, Secretary

Board of Education

Community Unit School District #9