



MEMBERS PRESENT: Becky Bradley, Tallin Curran, Linda Knogl, Don Lienemann, Lori Silva, Eric Stacy and Erica Venne.

EMPLOYEES PRESENT: Dr. Don Harris, Superintendent of Schools, Jody Batson, Stephanie Boyer, Genie Bratten, Regina Bright, Lisa Cockrum, Sarah Corzine, Brad Ervay, Cory Ervay, Dr. Adam Garrett, Chris Hutchings, Dr. David Keel, Melissa Kimble, Julie Matarelli, Steve Mathes, Tim McChristian, Chris McCullough, Chris Mitchell, Eric Mitchell, Tim Moran, Dr. Liz Niepert, Kristen Novacich-Koberna, Amy Pennell-Davis, Nikki Petrillo, Stephanie Schleper, Tom Schooley, Scott Smallie, Brad Smith, Eric Smith, Zack Suhre, Micki Watkins, Megan Wedekind, and Ann Wilson.

STUDENT ADVISORY
BOARD MEMBER:

LilyRose Cockrum.

OTHERS PRESENT: Trenton Clutts, Angela Dailey, Grant Dailey, Brandon Davis, Mya Hall, Ann Hanks, Bailey Hanks, Kaniyah Hunter, Cleison Miranda, Briana Moore, Dave Patel, Marge Pennell, SRO Scott Penny, Emily Petry, Todd Richey, Emilee Saggio, Stephanie SanSoucie, Bev Scroggins, Sarah Torrez, Brandon Vogler, Jade Williams, Emma Wing, James Wing, and Hailey Wise.

This was an open and virtual meeting that took place using the Zoom application. There was a total of thirty-three (33) Employees, twenty-four (24) Guests, one (1) Student Board Member, and seven (7) 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. Seven {7} members were physically present, 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 Eddie Bradley with LifePoint Church offered the invocation.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT;

- A. GCSD9 BOE and Administration recognized Granite City High School Debate Coach Amy Pennell-Davis who was named the Southern Illinois Debate League Championships 2024 Coach of the Year!

Thank you for your countless time and hard work that granted every student the opportunity to participate in debate these past few years, giving them the confidence to find their purpose. Your influence will continue to ripple through the lives of your students, helping them to become not just better debaters, but better people. Congratulations!

- B. GCSD9 Board of Education recognized the following students named 2025-2026 Illinois State Scholars for their outstanding academic achievement, as announced by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission {ISAC};

TRENTON CLUTTS	DAVE PATEL
LILYROSE COCKRUM	EVAN PETERS
MOLLY HANG	NOELLE RICHEY
BAILEY HANKS	EMILEE SAGGIO
RHYS KAMINSKI	FRED SAN SOUCIE
ELIJAH KOLB	FAITH TEETS
SAVANNAH KUJAWA	NOAH VICKERY
CLEISON MIRANDA-GOMEZ	EMMA WING

The Illinois State Scholar designation is a non-monetary award. Each State Scholar will receive a congratulatory letter and a Certificate of Achievement from ISAC.

3. **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOE MEETING;** Motion by Member Venne, seconded by Member Lienemann, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the board of education held on Tuesday, December 10 , 2024.

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

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

Bill List

Bill List from November 6, 2024 - December 4, 2024;

{available upon request}

Gifts

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

Granite City High School; Relleke Farm donated 30 pumpkins to Granite City High School for Mrs. Richey to have a painting contest. We cannot thank them enough for their continued generosity to GCSD9.

Prather Camp Out Monetary Donations; The Irwin Family and Mr. Pat Harris were unable to attend the Prather Perfect Attendance "Camp Out", and graciously donated to help cover the costs of the items for the campsites.

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

5. **RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**; (2) Motion by Member Silva, seconded by Member Knogl, upon the recommendation of administration, to accept the following retirements and resignations:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Brittney Lindsay	Title I Paraprofessional/Grigsby	Resignation	12/19/2024
Alyssa Shellenberg	Paraprofessional/Wilson	Resignation	12/16/2024

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

6. **REQUESTS FOR LEAVES OF ABSENCE**; (2) Motion by Member Stacy, seconded by Member Knogl, 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>
Lisa Captain	Special Ed. Teacher/Coolidge	FMLA	01/17/2025 - 03/03/2025
Michael Schubel	Custodian/Frohardt	FMLA	12/12/2024 - 12/20/2024
Starrette Smith	Paraprofessional/Coolidge	FMLA	02/07/2025 - 04/07/2025
Joyce Trittschuh	Paraprofessional/Coolidge	FMLA	01/03/2025 - 02/02/2025

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

7. **REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS OF LEAVES OF ABSENCE;** (2) Motion by Member Stacy, seconded by Member Bradley, 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>
Steven Akeman	Social Studies Teacher/Coolidge	Medical	01/07/2025 - 05/30/2024
Michelle Mueller	2 nd Grade Teacher/Maryville	Medical	02/01/2025 - 05/31/2025
Megan Cunningham	KG Teacher/Prather	Medical	01/08/2025 - 02/01/2025

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

8. **EXTRACURRICULAR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR;** (3) Motion by Member Stacy, seconded by Member Knogl, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the following extracurricular assignments for the 2024-2025 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Liz Cicio	GCHS 3 rd Quarter Metal Detector Supervisor
Peggy Wilson	GCHS 3 rd Quarter Metal Detector Supervisor
Greg Vaughn	GCHS Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Erin Mueller	GCHS Gay Straight Alliance

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

9. **EMPLOYEE TERMINATION {1};** (4) Motion by Member Venne, seconded by Member Silva, upon the recommendation of the administration, to terminate the employment of **Tyra Jackson**, effective January 14, 2025.

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

10. **EMPLOYEE TERMINATION {2};** (5) Motion by Member Stacy, seconded by Member Knogl, upon the recommendation of the administration, to terminate the employment of **Renee Weidner**, effective January 14, 2025.

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

11. **EMPLOYMENT OF FIVE {5} FOUR-HOUR UNION CAFÉ WORKERS FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR;** (6) Motion by Member Venne, seconded by Member Lienemann, upon the recommendation of the administration, to approve the employment of the following candidates as Four-Hour Union Café Workers for the 2024-2025 school year, pending the submission of the required paperwork;

Kelsey Arosemena
Taylor Campbell
Elyssa Joaquin
Kristen Kleier
Brandi Webb

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

12. **CARTWHEEL SERVICES AGREEMENT;** (7) Motion by Member Stacy seconded by Member Venne, to approve Administrations recommendation to enter into contractual services with Cartwheel to provide additional counseling services to district students in conjunction with GCSD9 Social Workers.

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

13. **GCHS 6TH HOUR ASSIGNMENTS SPRING SEMESTER 2025;** (8) Motion by Member Stacy, seconded by Member Silva, upon the recommendation of administration, to approve the 6th hour assignments for **Chris Harrison** and **Vince Willaredt** for the Spring Semester at Granite City High School.

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

14. **EVENT WORKER PAY PROPOSAL;** (9) Motion by Member Venne, seconded by Member Bradley, upon the recommendation of administration, to approve the following Event Worker Proposal:

Current pay for workers at Granite City High School events is \$37.50 per event. These events range from football games, basketball games, tournaments, dances, etc. We would like to suggest raising the pay to \$40.00 per event. As it stands now, event workers are paid \$37.50 to work a JV and Varsity basketball game that take place on the same night. Technically, these are two separate events and we are asking for event workers to receive \$80.00 for working both events. It is difficult finding event workers and we are hoping that by increasing the pay, that this will allow us to have more staff for bigger events. If approved, we would like for this to take place on January 1, 2025.

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

15. **VISION 2030 RESOLUTION;** (10-12) Motion by Member Venne, seconded by Member Silva, upon the recommendation of administration, to approve the following Vision 2030 Resolution:

ILLINOIS VISION 2030

WHEREAS, public education plays a defining role in ensuring equal opportunity for children in Illinois and throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is our collective duty to ensure that every student, regardless of demographic or geographic identity, has equal access to a quality, public education; and

WHEREAS, we believe that strides need to be proactively made to face challenges and continually improve our public education system; and

WHEREAS, there have been three areas of prioritization identified as integral in improving our public education system: Future-Focused Learning, Shared Accountability, and Predictable Funding; and

WHEREAS, Future-Focused Learning should address: promoting future-driven skills that allow for more college and career exploration; enhancing student safety and well-being; attracting and retaining a high quality and diverse educator pipeline; and promoting curriculum and instructional flexibility to meet the unique needs of local communities; and

WHEREAS, Shared Accountability should address: reforming the Illinois assessment system to be a timely and useful measure of student proficiency and growth over time; reforming the current accountability system to provide local flexibility for identifying indicators that create a more holistic view of student success; and reforming the mandate process to ensure implementation procedures that promote flexibility and local decision making; and

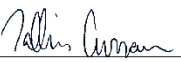
WHEREAS, Predictable Funding should address: protecting the integrity and funding of the evidence-based funding formula; strengthening public education through pension reforms; and establishing equitable funding sources for Capital and safety needs; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that any education improvement proposal for comprehensive change must be developed and supported by not only the education community, but in collaboration with families, communities, businesses, and others whose priorities reflect the best interests of the students:

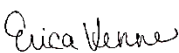
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the GCSD9 Board of Education joins with the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA), Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), Illinois Principals' Association (IPA), Illinois Association of School Business Officials (IASBO), Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (IARSS), Superintendents' Commission for the Study of Demographics and Diversity (SCSDD), Illinois Alliance of Special Education Administrators (IAASE), and the Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools (AIRSS) in supporting the Vision 2030 education improvement policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GCSD9 Board of Education urges the Illinois General Assembly to approve the necessary legislative changes to implement the recommendations under the three pillars of education improvement as contained in the Vision 2030 policy.

Adopted this 14th day of January, 2025.

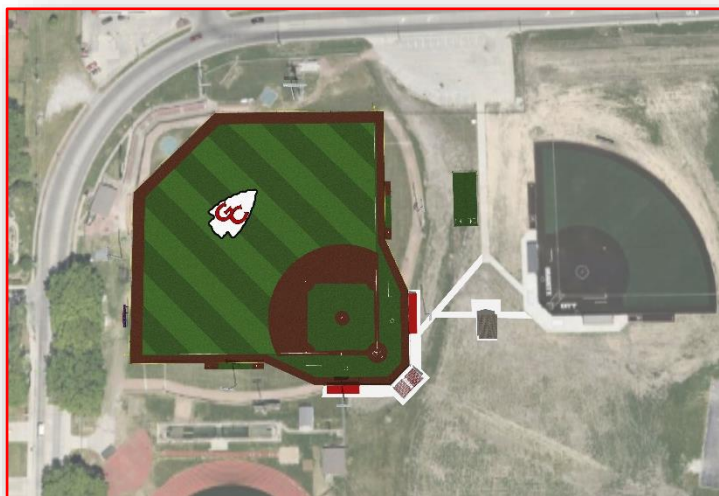
By: 
Tallin Curran, President
Board of Education
Community Unit School District #9

ATTEST:


Erica Venne, Secretary
Board of Education
Community Unit School District #9

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

16. **GCHS BASEBALL FIELD**; (13) Motion by Member Stacy, seconded by Member Bradley, upon the recommendation of administration, to approve a new turf baseball field at a cost of \$2,467,000.00 through ATG. The project includes reorienting the field by 180 degrees and constructing a bullpen with four pitching rubbers, new dugouts, a press room, and storage facilities. Additionally, the project will feature a 100-seat elevated bleacher system with flip-down seats, designed at an angled frame for optimal viewing. This new baseball field represents the final steps in completing the sports complex, with a budget established by the Director of Finance and the Superintendent.



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

17. **CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT**; (14) Motion by Member Venne, seconded by Member Bradley, upon the recommendation of administration, to approve the recommendations from the Curriculum Committee Meeting on December 13, 2024.

GCSD9 District Curriculum Committee
Friday December 13, 2024
1:00-2:00pm

1. Call to order
2. Roll call of committee members
3. Approval of the minutes [w](#) May 2, 2024 - Curriculum Meeting.docx
4. Old Business
5. New Business
 - a. [i](#) Introduction to Spanish Course Proposal
 - b. [i](#) Music History/ Appreciation Proposal 2024
 - c. [i](#) GCHS Change in GPA [i](#) GCHS Change in Course Weights

6. RethinkEd's Mental Health and SEL lessons that address Title IX/ Erin's Law topics by grade level: [ReThinkEd Erin's Law](#)

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

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

A. **Freedom of Information Act {FOIA} Requests;**
{for review only}

We received one {1} request under the Freedom of Information Act during the period of December 4, 2024 through January 7, 2025.

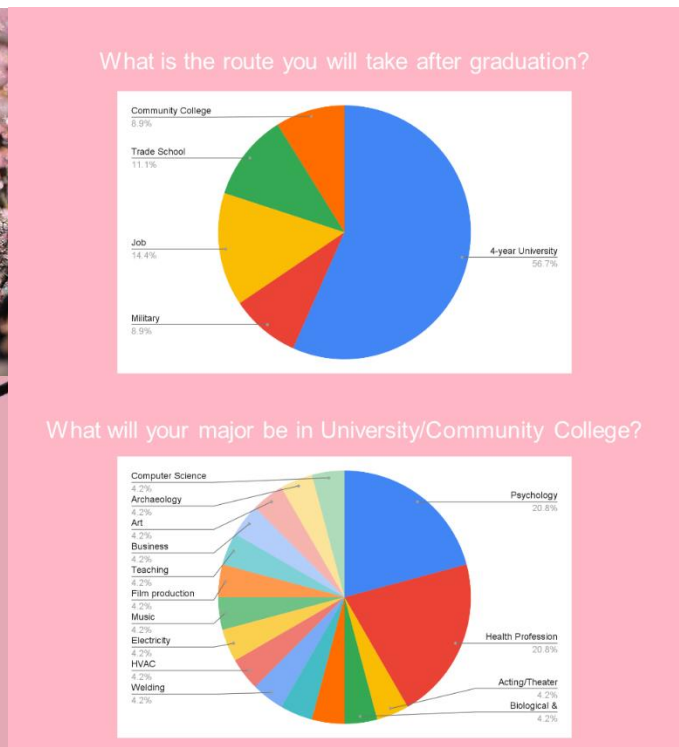
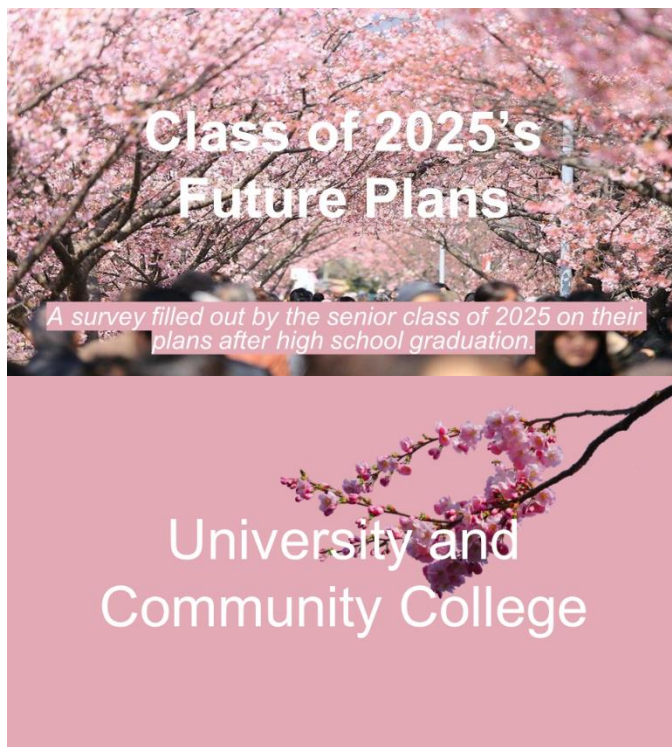
The first request was received on December 28, 2024 from Angel Tormis of SteepSteel, LLC. She requested the following information:

- Purchase Copies of all active leases/licenses or management contracts for cell towers, rooftop antennas, or other wireless installations on property owned or managed by Granite City Community Unit School District #9 , Illinois along with 24 months of associated payment histories.

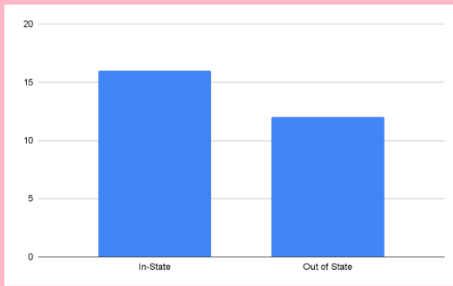
The request was handled by Administration.

B. **GCSD9 Student Board Member Report;**
{GCHS Senior LilyRose Cockrum}

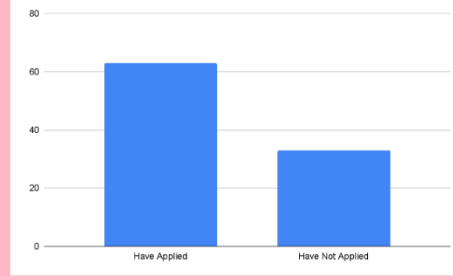
GCHS Senior LilyRose Cockrum gave a report on the GCHS Class of 2025’s Future Plans.



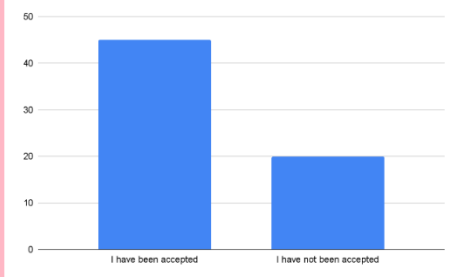
Will your future plans take place in-state or out of state?



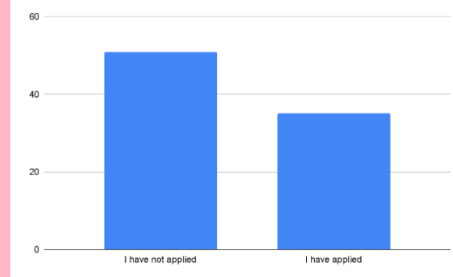
Have you applied to college?



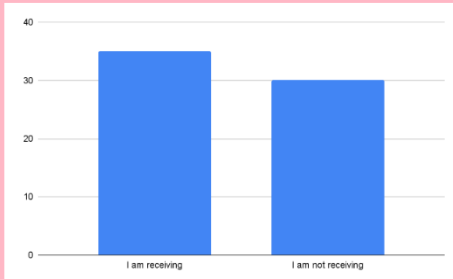
Have you been accepted to any colleges?



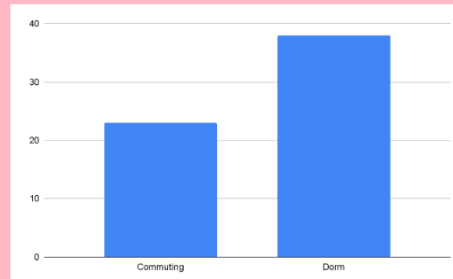
Have you applied to any scholarships?



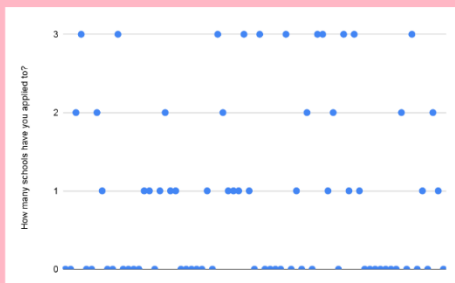
Are you receiving any scholarships?



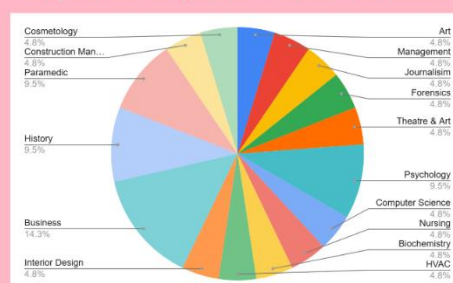
What is your future housing plans?



How many schools have you applied to?

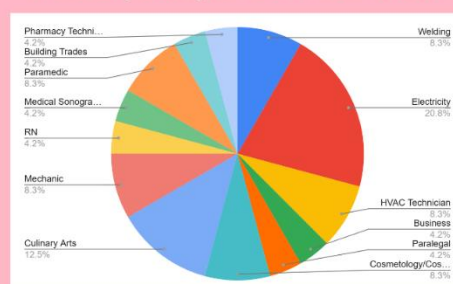


Do you wish to pursue a minor if so what?



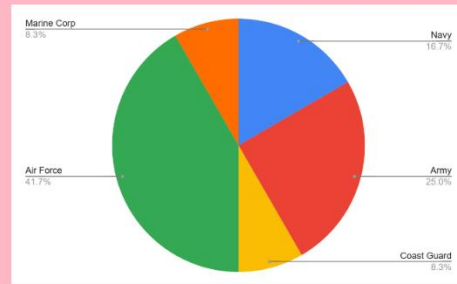
Trade School

What will your degree be in Trade school?

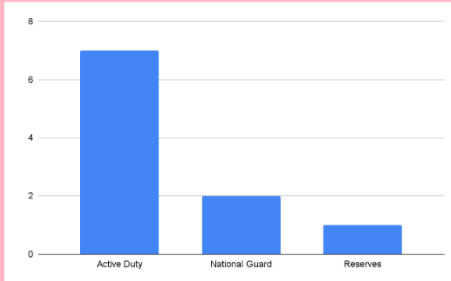


Military

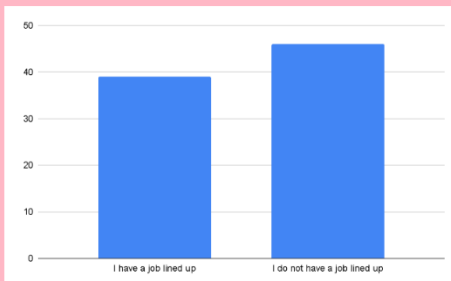
What branch of Military will you go into?



Will your military service be active duty or reserves?



Do you have a job lined up after graduation?



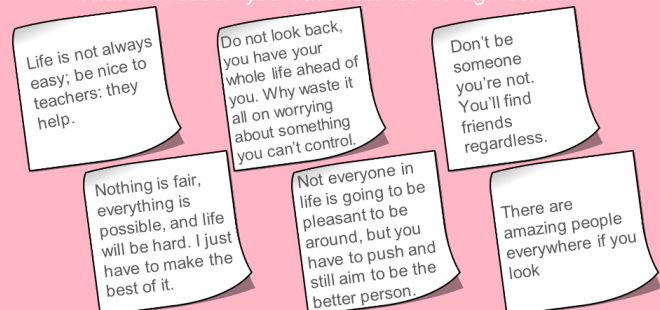
Job

Written Responses

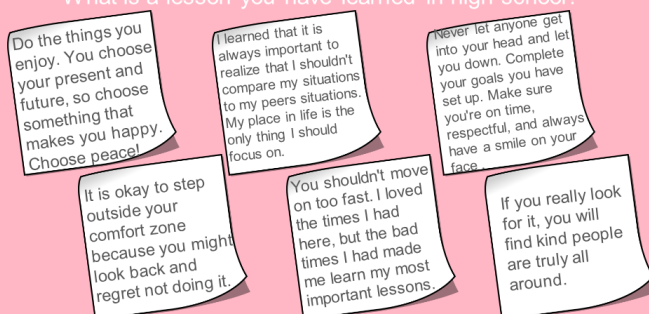
What are your feelings about your future after graduation?



What is a lesson you have learned in high school?



What is a lesson you have learned in high school?



✿ ¡Buena Suerte! ✿

(Good Luck!)



C. Illinois Association of School Boards {IASB} Liaison Report
{ GCSD9 Board Liaison Linda Knogl }

Linda Knogl gave a brief liaison update.

19. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**; Motion by Member Lienemann, seconded by Member Bradley, 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 - Silva, “aye”, Curran, “aye”, Stacy, “aye”, Knogl, “aye”, Lienemann, “aye”, Venne “aye”, and Bradley, “aye”, motion carried.

The Board was called into executive session at 6:44 pm.

Motion by Member Lienemann, seconded by Member Knogl, to exit Executive Session and resume the meeting at 7:40 pm.

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

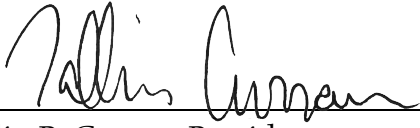
20. **EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOE MEETING**; Motion by Member Lienemann, seconded by Member Silva, to approve the executive session minutes of the regular meeting of the board of education held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

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

21. The next Board of Education meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 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.

22. **ADJOURNMENT**; Motion by Member Lienemann, seconded by Member Bradley, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 pm.

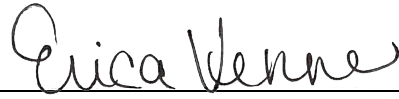
Members voting - all aye; voice vote; motion carried.



Tallin P. Curran, President

Board of Education

Community Unit School District #9



Erica L. Venne, Secretary

Board of Education

Community Unit School District #9