



MEMBERS PRESENT: Tallin Curran, Lori Silva, Eric Stacy, Don Lienemann, Becky Bradley and Randy Christy, Jr. *Via Google Meet - Erica Venne.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

EMPLOYEES PRESENT: Dr. Don Harris, Superintendent of Schools, Jody Batson, Stephanie Boyer, Genie Bratten, Sarah Corzine, Patrick Curry, Brad Ervay Dr. Adam Garrett, Dr. David Keel, Steven Mathes, Chris McCullough, Chris Mitchell, Eric Mitchell, Dr. Liz Niepert, Nikki Petrillo, Tom Schooley, Brad Smith, Eric Smith, Zack Suhre, Marci Sweet, Carrie Wallace, Micki Watkins, and Ann Wilson

STUDENT ADVISORY

BOARD MEMBER:

OTHERS PRESENT: PASTOR MARK MAYNARD and Officer Det Ficker #253

This was an open meeting that took place in the Board Room at the Board of Education Offices. There was a total of twenty-three (23) Employees, Twenty-seven (27) Guests, and Six (6) Board Members, physically present and One (1) Board Member Via Google Meet.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION;

ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM; The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board President, Eric Stacy. Roll was called. Six {6} Board Members were physically present, one {1} Board Member was remote and a quorum was declared. President Stacy 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 Mark Maynard with Calvary Life Church, offered the invocation.

1. ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Aye: Tallin Curran, Erica Venne, Lori Silva, Randy Christy, Becky Bradley, Don Lienemann, and Eric Stacy

Carried 7-0

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. INVOCATION

Pastor Mark Maynard with Calvary Life Church will offer the invocation.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Granite City Board of Education welcomes visitors – including employees, students, parents and other citizens – to its regular meetings. To accommodate the public, certain rules have been

established. Any person wishing to give Public Comment(s) during a regular or special Board of Education meeting is encouraged to register with the Superintendent's Office prior to the meeting. Any person may comment to the School Board (public participation), subject to the reasonable constraints established and recorded in the guidelines below. During public participation, there will be a 20-minute minimum total length of time for any one subject. When public participation takes less time than these minimums, it shall end. To preserve sufficient time for the Board to conduct its business, any person appearing before the Board is expected to follow these guidelines:

1. Address the Board only at the appropriate time as indicated on the agenda and when recognized by the Board President.
2. Identify oneself and be brief. Ordinarily, the time for any one person to address the Board during public participation shall be limited to five minutes.
3. Observe, when necessary and appropriate, the Shortening of the time for each person to address the Board during public participation to conserve time and give the maximum number of people an opportunity to speak;
4. Conduct oneself with respect and civility toward others. Petitions or written correspondence to the Board shall be presented to the Board in the next regular Board packet.
5. To maintain confidentiality, the BOE asks that any matters concerning personnel or students be communicated to the BOE privately.

The public should not expect a Board response during Public Comment. There may be discussion by the Board concerning Public Comment when the issue is addressed on the Agenda.

Please send any public comment requests/statements to any of the following individuals by 12PM on April 23, 2026:

Donald J. Harris, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; superintendent.office@gcsd9.net

Eric Stacy, President, Board of Education; eric.stacy@gcsd9.net

Carrie Wallace, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent; carrie.wallace@gcsd9.net

4.1 STUDENT RECOGNITION

A. GCSD9 BOE and Administration we like to recognize **Senior ADRIANNA IRELAND** who made her mark at the Illinois Music Education Association All State Band Competition this year by being selected in the top trumpet players to perform in the ILMEA Honors All State Band. ADRIANNA was selected for the ILMEA HONORS ALL-STATE BAND, this is the highest honor a high school musician can receive. She performed before a packed house in the Peoria Civic Center on Saturday, January 31st, representing the pinnacle of musical excellence in the State.

B. GCSD9 BOE and Administration would like to recognize **Freshman NATALIE JONES**, who earned 1st place in Illinois for Microsoft Excel in the 2026 Microsoft Office Specialist State Championship Fall Qualifier. MOS is the industry-recognized leader in Microsoft Office certification, and Natalie competed against top students across the state to earn this distinction. As a result of her first-place finish, she has been invited to attend the MOS U.S. National Championship this summer in Nashville, Tennessee.

C. GCSD9 BOE and Administration would like to recognize **Senior LUKE GRIFFIN**, who recently represented Granite City High School at the Project MFG National Machining League Championship. After a grueling week of competition against the top 15 student machinists in the nation, Luke showcased unbelievable precision and technical skill. We are thrilled to announce that out of that elite group of finalists, Luke earned a spot on the podium, taking home second place in the country!

On April 17, Luke competed at the SWIC CTE Showcase, where he took the top spot in the Masters of CNC competition. We congratulate Luke on these elite-level achievements and his unwavering dedication to technical excellence.

D. GCSD9 BOE and Administration would like to recognize **Junior STEVEN SUMPTER**, for his outstanding performance at the recent CTE Showcase held at SWIC. Competing in the Manual Mill Competition, Steven demonstrated exceptional technical skill and precision, earning a 2nd place finish. We congratulate Steven on this achievement.

E. GCSD9 BOE and Administration would like to recognize **Senior MASON SCARBOROUGH**, for his outstanding performance at the recent CTE Showcase held at SWIC. Competing in the Manual Lathe Competition, Mason demonstrated exceptional technical skill and precision, earning an impressive 3rd place finish. We congratulate Mason on this achievement.

F. GCSD9 BOE and Administration would like to recognize **the GCHS Vocational Culinary Arts Team and Dr. Warren** for their extraordinary performance at the Southwestern Illinois College Chef Competition. By securing the titles of Best Support Staff, Best Table Display, Best Entrée, and the ultimate honor of Best of Competition, these students have demonstrated technical mastery and unparalleled creativity. Their "Alice in Wonderland" themed menu—from the smoky mushroom risotto to the Cheshire Cat tart—captivated the judges and showcased the high caliber of our CTE programs. We celebrate your teamwork, your composure under pressure, and your success in bringing the traveling trophy back to GCHS.

The Culinary Team

Leon Lasiter, Arycka Oliver, Peyton Crowell, Tyhlee Simms, Eliette Harper, Sophie Davison, Kennedy Carson, Marshae Cooper, Elizabeth Windle, Bailey Cass, Arionna White, Keelia Walker, Caylen Wilson and Anyelit Aguilar-Navarro.

G. GCSD9 BOE and Administration would like to recognize **7th Grader ALEXANDER JONES** who was awarded 2nd Place in the Madison County Upcycling Innovation Challenge in the junior high division. Alexander's winning entry, a handcrafted crochet character named Ella, was created using five discarded t-shirts that were destined for the landfill. By meticulously cutting the shirts into 1-inch strips and following a complex crochet pattern, Alexander transformed textile waste into a unique, high-quality piece of art.

H. GCSD9 BOE and Administration would like to recognize the following students who are winners of the 2026 Madison County Green Schools Clean Air Bookmark Contest:

MASON PATERSON - 1st Place, Wilson Elementary

DANIELA BARRENO - 2nd Place, Prather Elementary

BRIANNA GALVAN - 3rd Place, Wilson Elementary

4.2 PRESENTATION

After School Elementary Athletics Program

Presented by; John Moad GCHS Athletic Director

4.3 Guidelines for Public Comment

4.4 Members of the Public May Address the Board

5. MINUTES

5.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on **March 24, 2026.** {available upon request}

Moved by: Tallin Curran; seconded by: Erica Venne

Aye: Tallin Curran, Erica Venne, Lori Silva, Don Lienemann, and Eric Stacy

Abstain: Randy Christy and Becky Bradley

Carried 5-0

6. CONSENT AGENDA

(The Consent Agenda contains those items that are repetitive and routine in nature. Any member may make a motion to approve the Consent Agenda or request that any of the items be moved to Section VII for individual discussion and consideration.)

Consent Agenda items are listed below and on the GCSD9 website.

Moved by: Erica Venne; seconded by: Tallin Curran

Aye: Tallin Curran, Erica Venne, Lori Silva, Randy Christy, Becky Bradley, Don Lienemann, and Eric Stacy

Carried 7-0

6.1 Treasurer's Reports;
March 2026 Treasurer's Report
{available upon request}

6.2 Bill List;
March 19, 2026 - April 22, 2026
{available upon request}

6.3 Approval of Paid and Unpaid Leaves;

Name	Position	Building	Dates
Larry Dellamano	Paraprofessional	Coolidge	04/17/2026-05/08/2026
Katrina Martin	Physical Therapist Asst	District	03/18/2026-09/18/2026
Marc Mason	Custodian	Lake	04/27/2026-05/22/2026
Donna Thomas	Teacher/KG	Grigsby	03/26/2026 - 06/18//2026
Kristine Heatherly	Paraprofessional	GCHS	04/27/2026 - 05/06/2026

6.4 FOIA Requests;

We received 10 requests under the Freedom of Information Act during the period of March 17, 2026 through April 20, 2026.
{available upon request}

6.5 Policies;

The Policy Committee is recommending the approval of the following policies that were reviewed at the March 24, 2026, Policy Meeting:

2:260 E Uniform Grievance Complaint Form

5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal

6:185 Remote Educational Program

6.6 Donations;

Amazon - GCSD9

United States Steel - GCSD9

6.7 School District Library Grant Program;

The Granite City School District was awarded \$2,193.03

7. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Resignations and Retirements

Retirement rescind request

Retirements

Resignations

Extracurricular resignations and rescind 2025-2026

Retirement rescind requests:

Name	Position	Building	Date
Tom Becherer	Custodian	GCHS	05/01/2030
Marc Mason	Custodian	Lake	09/30/2029

Retirements:

Name	Position	Building	Date
Lee Elliff	6th Grade Teacher	Grigsby	End of 2030/2031
Christy Ledbetter	Psychologist	GCHS	End of 2030/2031
Marc Mason	Custodian	Lake	08/07/2026

Resignations:

Name	Position	Building	Date
Sheila McElroy	Cafe Aide	Coolidge	04/06/2026
Tyler Owens	School Social Worker	Coolidge	End of 2025/2026
Alyssa Upshaw	Paraprofessional	Mitchell	End of 2025-2026
Rachel Wallace	Science Teacher	GCHS	05/22/2026
Tom Becherer	Custodian	GCHS	07/03/2026
Stephanie Green	Administrative Assistant	Lake ESSC	06/26/2026

Extracurricular resignation and rescind:

Name	Position	Building	Resignation / Rescind
Michaela Genovese-Moss	4th Quarter Lunch Duty	Mitchell	Rescind
Kellie Hutchings	Photography Club Sponsor	GCHS	Resignation end of 2025-2026
Kellie Hutchings	Working Warriors Sponsor	GCHS	Resignation end of 2025-2026
Cindy Akeman	4th Quarter Metal Detector Supervisor	Grigsby	Rescind

Moved by: Erica Venne; seconded by: Becky Bradley

Aye: Tallin Curran, Erica Venne, Lori Silva, Randy Christy, Becky Bradley, Don Lienemann, and Eric Stacy

Carried 7-0

9.2 **Request to post/hire one (1) full-time equivalent Bilingual Paraprofessional for the 2026-2027 School Year**

The administration is requesting the approval of one (1.0) full-time equivalent bilingual paraprofessional position at the high school beginning in the 2026–2027 school year. This position will support staff and students in providing instructional assistance, improving communication, and ensuring access to grade-level curriculum.

Moved by: Don Lienemann; seconded by: Tallin Curran

Aye: Tallin Curran, Erica Venne, Lori Silva, Randy Christy, Becky Bradley, Don Lienemann, and Eric Stacy

Carried 7-0

9.3 Employments

Employments

2025-2026 Extracurricular assignments

2026-2027 Extracurricular assignments

Extracurricular volunteers

Certified and Classified Substitutes

**pending completion of required paperwork*

***pending verification of previous employment*

Employments:

Name	Position	Building
Brett Bloomquist	Custodian	GCHS
Jennifer Ortiz	Bilingual. /ESL Teacher	TBD
Rachel Paule	Speech Language Pathologist	TBD
Karina Velasquez	Bilingual Paraprofessional	GCHS

2025-2026 extracurricular assignments:

Name	Position	Building
Michaela Genovese-Moss	4th Quarter Metal Detector Supervisor	Mitchell
Lee Elliff	4th Quarter Metal Detector Supervisor	Grigsby

2026-2027 extracurricular assignments:

Name	Position	Building
Tim Wilson	National Honor Society Co-Sponsor	GCHS
Kyle Thompson	Assistant Football Coach	GCHS
Jessica Thompson	Head Cheer Coach	GCHS
Gerard Moore	Head Boys Basketball Coach	GCHS
Melanie Lohman	Head Bowling Coach	GCHS
Tim Wilson	Asst Bowling Coach	GCHS
Matt Warfield	Head Girls Wrestling Coach	GCHS
Chris Kilmer	Asst Girls Wrestling Coach	GCHS
Kyle Thompson	Head Boys Wrestling Coach	GCHS

2026-2027 extracurricular assignments CONT:

Name	Position	Building
Steve Davis	Asst Boys Wrestling Coach	GCHS
Melissa Kimble	Head Dance Team Coach	GCHS
Christy Taylor	Asst Dance Team Coach	GCHS
Wesley Copper	Club/Play Individual Events	GCHS
Amy Pennell-Davis	Debate	GCHS
Jaime Pamatot	Scholar Bowl	GCHS

**pending completion of required paperwork and verification of previous employment*

Extracurricular volunteers:

Name	Position	Building
Randy Christy	Baseball Coach	GCHS

Certified and classified substitutes:

Name	Certified / Classified
Michelle A. Miller	Certified
Cameron Stofel	Certified
Nicole Towery	Certified
Jennifer Wiegers	Certified
Lucas Wilson	Certified
Jacqueline Sonntag	Classified
Wilma Powell	Classified

Moved by: Lori Silva; seconded by: Randy Christy

Aye: Tallin Curran, Erica Venne, Lori Silva, Randy Christy, Becky Bradley, Don Lienemann, and Eric Stacy

Carried 7-0

9.4 **Miscellaneous**

The GCSD9 Administration request the approval of a 1-day unpaid suspension for an employee.

Moved by: Erica Venne; seconded by: Don Lienemann

Aye: Tallin Curran, Erica Venne, Lori Silva, Randy Christy, Becky Bradley, Don Lienemann, and Eric Stacy

Carried 7-0

9.5 **Running Start Program - Contract Renewal**

We would like to continue to offer the Running Start Program with Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC). Since the 2013-14 school year the Board has approved ongoing student participation in this dual credit program at the parents' expense. SWIC has proposed to continue the program agreement with us at a rate of \$4,550 per student per school year (this is the same as last year's price). Eligible students would participate in their junior and senior year of high school and would have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and an Associate Degree simultaneously.

We are seeking approval to continue to participate in this dual credit program and enter into this intergovernmental agreement (attached) where parents will pay the full tuition rate to provide their child with this opportunity while the district accepts the responsibility to manage the program with SWIC.

NOTE: SWIC bills the parents directly which eliminates the District from making payment to SWIC first then requesting reimbursement.

[SWIC Running Start Agreement](#) 

Moved by: Lori Silva; seconded by: Becky Bradley

Aye: Tallin Curran, Erica Venne, Lori Silva, Randy Christy, Becky Bradley, Don Lienemann, and Eric Stacy

Carried 7-0

9.6 Auditor Extension

Authorization is requested to extend the agreement with Honkamp, P.C. for auditing services for a 3-year period.

Year Cost
2026 \$49,830
2027 \$54,810
2028 \$60,290

Moved by: Erica Venne; seconded by: Don Lienemann

Aye: Tallin Curran, Erica Venne, Lori Silva, Randy Christy, Becky Bradley, Don Lienemann, and Eric Stacy

Carried 7-0

9.7 Breakfast After the Bell Opt-out Hearing Authorization

Administration is seeking authorization to notify the State Board of Education and publish on the district's website notification of a public hearing on June 23rd at 6:00 PM and the regular Board of Education meeting regarding the Granite City School District opting out of the "Breakfast After the Bell" mandate for fiscal hardship reasons.

According to Public Act 99-0850 (105 ILCS 126/16)(d)(ii)

"due to circumstances specific to that school
district, the expense reimbursement would not fully cover the
costs of implementing and operating a breakfast after the bell
program may be relieved of the delivery model requirement
to the board of education of the district, the board of
education holds a public hearing, and the board of education
passes a resolution that the district cannot afford to operate
a breakfast after the bell program. The district shall post
information that sets forth the time, date, place, and general
subject matter of the public hearing on its website and notify
the State Board of Education at least 14 days prior to the
hearing."

Timeline

- April 28, 2026- Authorization to notify ISBE and public for hearing on June 23, 2026
- May 12, 2026 - Cost Analysis presented to Board of Education
- June 23, 2026 - Hold a public hearing and pass resolution to opt out of “Breakfast After the Bell”

Moved by: Lori Silva; seconded by: Randy Christy

Aye: Tallin Curran, Erica Venne, Lori Silva, Randy Christy, Becky Bradley, Don Lienemann, and Eric Stacy

Carried 7-0

9.8 6th Hour Assignment; Special Education CJHS

GCSD9 Administration requests approval of the following 6th hour assignment retroactive for the third quarter at Coolidge Jr. High. This assignment is retroactive due to an extended teacher absence and the need to combine classrooms.

Teacher - Kelley Wallace

Moved by: Lori Silva; seconded by: Tallin Curran

Aye: Tallin Curran, Erica Venne, Lori Silva, Randy Christy, Becky Bradley, Don Lienemann, and Eric Stacy

Carried 7-0

9.9 Finance/HR System Renewal {Ivisions}

Authorization is requested to renew the agreement for the 2026-2027 School Year with Tyler Technologies for the Infinite Visions Finance/HR system. An annual support agreement is required for updates, including state-mandated changes and technical support. This software is used by all administration and administrative assistants for Finance and HR processes. All staff members also have online access to pay, time off, and contract information. The renewal has been budgeted for the 2026-2027 School Year at a cost of \$118,081.60.

Moved by: Lori Silva; seconded by: Becky Bradley

Aye: Tallin Curran, Erica Venne, Lori Silva, Randy Christy, Becky Bradley, Don Lienemann, and Eric Stacy

Carried 7-0

9.10 Remote Education Program

The district proposes to offer a remote education program exclusively for students who have demonstrated a need for a highly individualized and flexible learning environment after exhausting all existing in-person options. Eligibility for this program will be limited to students who have previously participated in the traditional day school setting, have been enrolled in and supported through the district's alternative education program, and have also attended the county's Safe School program, but were subsequently removed. This remote option is intended to serve as a final pathway to support continued academic progress, credit recovery, and graduation for students who have not found success in more structured, in-person settings, while still maintaining accountability, engagement, and access to necessary educational services.

Moved by: Tallin Curran; seconded by: Lori Silva

Aye: Tallin Curran, Erica Venne, Lori Silva, Randy Christy, Becky Bradley, Don Lienemann, and Eric Stacy

Carried 7-0

9.11 GCHS - Two (2) Job Coach Positions

Due to the increase in transition programming at GCHS, the GCSD 9 Special Education Administration is requesting the addition of two (2) full time job coaches.

The current half time job coach position will be eliminated to become a full-time position to support students all day in the existing school based and community-based programming.

The second full time job coach is needed to support the life skills students with their community work experiences as well as other transition activities as they relate to their post-secondary goals for employment, education, training, and independent living.

Without additional support from the job coach positions, students will not have the opportunity to participate in these activities.

Moved by: Don Lienemann; seconded by: Erica Venne

Aye: Tallin Curran, Erica Venne, Lori Silva, Randy Christy, Becky Bradley, Don Lienemann, and Eric Stacy

Carried 7-0

9.12 **GCSD9 Student School Board Member Advisor for the 2026-2027 School Year**

The GCSD9 Student Board Member Advisor Committee consisting of Board of Education Secretary Erica Venne, Board of Education Member Lori Silva, GCHS Principal Tim McChristian, and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Donald Harris, are recommending **Lily Booker** to serve as the GCSD9 Student School Board Member Advisor for her Senior year at Granite City High School for the 2026-2027 school year.

Moved by: Randy Christy; seconded by: Becky Bradley

Aye: Tallin Curran, Erica Venne, Lori Silva, Randy Christy, Becky Bradley, Don Lienemann, and Eric Stacy

Carried 7-0

9.13 **New Teacher Mentoring Program**

GCSD9 Administration and GCFPE have worked collaboratively to develop new teacher mentoring training program. The goal of this program will be to mentor our new teachers, conduct peer observations, and provide support throughout the school year. Veteran teachers will be selected to conduct activities throughout the school year and will be paid a stipend of approximately \$701 per new teacher as per the negotiated MOU and extra-curricular stipend schedule.

Moved by: Erica Venne; seconded by: Tallin Curran

Aye: Tallin Curran, Erica Venne, Lori Silva, Randy Christy, Becky Bradley, Don Lienemann, and Eric Stacy

Carried 7-0

10. **REPORTS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**

11. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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 price thereof; 2(c)(5)(6)

▪ **Collective bargaining matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives; and 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)

12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES;**

13. **SETTING OF THE AGENDA;**

May 12, 2026 Regular Board of Education Meeting

Moved by: Don Lienemann; seconded by: Randy Christy

Aye: Tallin Curran, Erica Venne, Lori Silva, Randy Christy, Becky Bradley, Don Lienemann, and Eric Stacy

Carried 7-0

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

@ 8:16 PM



Eric C. Stacy, President
Board of Education
Community Unit School District #9



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