



“AT THE BOARD”

Regular Meeting: October 27, 2026

GRANITE CITY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #9

BOARD OF EDUCATION

◆ Pastor Berry Shepherd with Tri-City Assembly of God offered the invocation.

➤ **Staff Recognition**

GCSD9 Board of Education and Administration are proud to recognize **Mrs. Laura Cell** for her incredible dedication to our students.

Through her work with Granite City High School’s transition program, Mrs. Cell helps students explore vocational and technical career paths, preparing them for success after graduation. During a recent trip to SWIC’s Manufacturing Day, she demonstrated that her care for our students goes far beyond career preparation.

When a student began choking during lunch, Mrs. Cell sprang into action without hesitation, successfully performing the Heimlich maneuver and saving the student's life.

Mrs. Cell works every day to prepare our students for their futures, and her quick, courageous actions reminded us all how deeply she cares for them today. Thank you, Mrs. Cell, for your bravery, compassion, and commitment to Granite City High School.

- GCSD9 Board of Education and Administration would like to recognize **Mrs. Tina Buck** for her outstanding presence of mind, quick action, and courage during a recent emergency at Wilson Elementary School. Her decisive response prevented a potential tragedy and ensured the safety and well-being of one of our students.

The incident occurred when a student took a drink of water while chewing gum, causing the gum to become lodged in his throat. Noticing the student making distressed noises, Tina immediately approached him and asked if he could breathe. When the student shook his head no, she responded without hesitation.

Demonstrating incredible composure under pressure, Tina performed the Heimlich Maneuver, successfully dislodging the gum and restoring the student’s airway. Following the successful intervention, she stayed by his side, comforting and reassuring him until he was safely escorted to the school nurse's office.

- GCSD9 BOE approved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on Tuesday, **September 22, 2026.**
- BOE approved the following Consent Agenda Items:
- **Treasurer’s Report**
September 2026 {available upon request}
 - **Bill List**
September 17, 2026 – October 16, 2026 {available upon request}

- **Approval of Paid and unpaid leaves and extensions - Garret**

- paid and unpaid leaves

Name	Position	Building	Dates
Andrew Tretter	Custodian	GCHS	09/14/2026 - 10/15/2026
Brooke Deckard	Paraprofessional	Wilson	09/05/2026 - 12/26/2026: Intermittent leave, up to 3 days per week, up to 12 weeks total.
Penny Tingley	Paraprofessional	GCHS	08/05/2026 - 01/05/2027: Intermittent leave, up to 3 episodes per month lasting up to 4 days per episode, up to 12 weeks total.
David Wright	Custodian	GCHS	09/14/2026 - 12/07/2026
Erin Feldman	Teacher	CJHS	11/24/2026 - 02/16/2027
Traci Garrett	Teacher	Prather	9/29/26 - 12/29/26

- paid and unpaid extensions to leave

Name	Position	Building	Dates
Monte Hopke	Custodian	District	10/01/2026 - 10/15/2026

- **FOIA Requests**

We received twelve (12) requests under the Freedom of Information Act during the period September 14, 2026 through October 19, 2026.

- **Curriculum Committee Report – October 14, 2026 – CURRY**

The Board approved new course proposals unanimously following the Curriculum Committee's October 14, 2026 meeting. The committee reviewed ongoing curriculum initiatives and district instructional priorities, which will guide instructional planning and development for the remainder of the 2026–2027 school year.

- **Donations**

- **St. John United Church of Christ (Donation in Memory of Christy Dawson) - GCSD9**

On behalf of the BOE and Administration, a heartfelt thank you to St. John UCC Granite City for donating nine Walmart gift cards to support GCSD9 students and families! Our school social workers will use these cards to provide direct support to families in need. This generous gift was given in loving memory of Christy Dawson, a dedicated former GCSD9 social worker who cared deeply for our community. We extend our sincere gratitude to Christy's father, Mr. Jack Dawson, and the entire St. John congregation for honoring Christy's legacy in such a meaningful way.

- **Central Christian Church - Prather Elementary**

On behalf of the District Administration and staff, a sincere thank you to Mary Borger and Central Christian Church for their wonderful donation of a \$500 Walmart gift card to support our students. These funds will be used directly to meet any student needs that arise throughout the school year. Central Christian Church has also generously offered to assist with future student needs as they come up. We are deeply grateful for their ongoing kindness, partnership, and dedication to our school community.

- **United States Steel Corporation - GC Boys and Girls Wrestling Program**

On behalf of the Board of Education, District Administration, and Granite City Athletics, thank you to the United States Steel Corporation for its generous donation of \$11,880 to the GCHS Boys and Girls Wrestling programs! These funds will be used to replace all the wall padding in the GCHS Wrestling Room, ensuring a safer and updated training facility for our student-athletes. We are deeply grateful to U.S. Steel for their continued investment in our schools, athletic programs, and community.

➤ **Dollar General Literacy Foundation - Granite City High School**

On behalf of the Board of Education, District Administration, and Granite City High School, thank you to the Dollar General Literacy Foundation for awarding GCHS a \$2,500 youth literacy grant! This grant is part of a national initiative distributing over \$4.1 million to support education in Dollar General's hometown communities. The funds will allow the GCHS Library/Media Center to expand its collection with Hi-Lo (high-interest, low-readability) and Spanish-adjacent titles, directly supporting struggling readers and English language learners. We are profoundly grateful for Dollar General's investment in our students' literacy and academic success.

➤ **1st MidAmerican Credit Union - GCSD9**

On behalf of the Board of Education, District Administration, and GCSD9 staff, thank you to 1st MidAmerica Credit Union for their generous donation of school supplies to support our students! These essential items will help ensure our students have the tools they need to succeed in the classroom. We are so grateful for 1st MidAmerica's continued partnership and commitment to supporting Granite City schools!

NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Resignations and Retirements: - Garrett

➤ BOE approved the following retirement rescind requests:

Name	Position	Building	Date
Jody Batson	Principal	Mitchell	End of 2028/2029
Diana Niepert	Administrative Assistant	Maryville	End of 2028/2029

➤ BOE approved the following retirements:

Name	Position	Building	Date
Jody Batson	Principal	Mitchell	End of 2026/2027
Kimberly Bailey	Teacher	Grigsby	June 01, 2032
Diana Niepert	Administrative Assistant	Maryville	May 27, 2027
Tina Perrin	Paraprofessional	Frohardt	January 8, 2027

➤ BOE approved the following resignations:

Name	Position	Building	Date
Tori Padgett	Teacher	Grigsby	10/19/2026
Anna Katelynn Pulliam	Paraprofessional	GCHS	10/02/2026

9.2 Employments: - Garrett

- BOE approved the following employments rescinded:

Name	Position
Amber Outland	Cafe Worker
Jamie Haynes	Cafe Worker

- BOE approved the following employments

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

Name	Position	Building
Natalie Roy	Special Education Teacher	Prather
Sonia Espinoza	ESL/Bilingual Paraprofessional	Coolidge/Grigsby
Shawn Wylde	Custodian	GCHS
Tammy Garvels	Paraprofessional	Grigsby
Ria High	Paraprofessional	Grigsby
Cheyenne Schulte	Paraprofessional	Mitchell
Kelly Christy	Cafe Worker	Coolidge
Rosa Romero	Cafe Worker	Grigsby

- BOE approved the following 2026-2027 extracurricular assignments.

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

Name	Position	Building
Jeff Anderson	Metal Detector Supervisor	GCHS
Jennifer Connolly	Metal Detector Supervisor	GCHS
Billy Laycock	Metal Detector Supervisor	GCHS
Kim Lignoul	Metal Detector Supervisor	GCHS
Lisa Miller	Metal Detector Supervisor	GCHS
John Moad	Metal Detector Supervisor	GCHS
Shannan Muskopf	Metal Detector Supervisor	GCHS
Bill Puhse	Metal Detector Supervisor	GCHS
Julie Schreiber	Metal Detector Supervisor	GCHS
Ann Sykes	Metal Detector Supervisor	GCHS
Meredith Tabscott	Metal Detector Supervisor	GCHS
Tim Wilson	Metal Detector Supervisor	GCHS

Liz Cicio	Evening Academy Metal Detector Supervisor	GCHS
Peggy Wilson	Evening Academy Metal Detector Supervisor	GCHS
Gayla Bennett	Metal Detector Supervisor	Coolidge
Jennifer Dutko	Metal Detector Supervisor	Coolidge
Jodie Jackels	Metal Detector Supervisor	Coolidge
Adrienne Johnson	Metal Detector Supervisor	Coolidge
Terri Kunz	Metal Detector Supervisor	Coolidge
Nicole Parker	Metal Detector Supervisor	Coolidge
Laura Pavlovec	Metal Detector Supervisor	Coolidge
Sonja Stewart	Metal Detector Supervisor	Coolidge
Holly Bladdick	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Frohardt
Jodi Blomme	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Frohardt
Darla Bremer	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Frohardt
Lindsay Carney	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Frohardt
Karen Kocarnik	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Frohardt
Ann Mayhall	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Frohardt
Staci Melvin	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Frohardt
Kim Merz	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Frohardt
Karen Kocarnik	Metal Detector Supervisor	Frohardt
Ann Mayhall	Metal Detector Supervisor	Frohardt
Andrea Apperson	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Grigsby
Courtney Bosworth	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Grigsby
Kaycia Buehler	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Grigsby
Angelique Dorris	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Grigsby
Amy Griffith	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Grigsby
Lori Hawthorne	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Grigsby
Shelby Myatt	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Grigsby
Janet Niles	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Grigsby
Leah Schreiber	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Grigsby
Mary Kay Wilson	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Grigsby
Liz Biewald	Metal Detector Supervisor	Grigsby

Laura Coracy	Metal Detector Supervisor	Grigsby
DeAnn Siville	Metal Detector Supervisor	Grigsby
Ann Smith	Metal Detector Supervisor	Grigsby
Kate Becker	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Maryville
Erin Ernst	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Maryville
Meagan Harper	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Maryville
Amy Sanvi	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Maryville
Scott Schardan	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Maryville
Carrie Sitton	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Maryville
Denise Stout	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Maryville
Lori Wilson	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Maryville
Meagan Harper	Metal Detector Supervisor	Maryville
Denise Stout	Metal Detector Supervisor	Maryville
Claudia Cass	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Mitchell
Amanda Corey Cox	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Mitchell
Catherine Delmore	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Mitchell
Penny Feldt	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Mitchell
Michaela Genovese-Moss	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Mitchell
Laura Marzluf	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Mitchell
Chery Weaver	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Mitchell
Jeremy Weaver	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Mitchell
Michaela Genovese-Moss	Metal Detector Supervisor	Mitchell
Christy Taylor	Metal Detector Supervisor	Mitchell
Pam Brezger	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Prather
Christy Marana	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Prather
Brandy McFarland	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Prather
Malori Meador	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Prather
Teresa Meador	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Prather
Stephanie Medlin	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Prather
Julie Mueller	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Prather
Lea Ann Oller	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Prather

Sara Rials	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Prather
Brandi Widel	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Prather
Christy Marana	Metal Detector Supervisor	Prather
Teresa Meador	Metal Detector Supervisor	Prather
Julie Mueller	Metal Detector Supervisor	Prather
Lea Ann Oller	Metal Detector Supervisor	Prather
Kacie Bamert	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Wilson
Angela Ellis	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Wilson
Sarah Fernandez	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Wilson
Tanya Miller	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Wilson
Ashlynn Robinson	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Wilson
Sarah Shaw	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Wilson
Richie Skirball	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Wilson
Erica Stone	2nd Quarter Lunch Duty	Wilson
Melissa Kimble	Metal Detector Supervisor	Wilson
Tanya Miller	Metal Detector Supervisor	Wilson

- BOE approved the following extracurricular volunteer.

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

Name	Position	Building
Sara Delp	Girls Volleyball	GCHS
Chris McCullough	Boys Basketball	GCHS
Jonavan Woods	Girls Volleyball	GCHS

- BOE approved the following certified and classified substitutes:

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

Name	Certified/Classified	Name	Certified/Classified
Brooke Segrest	Classified	Kartasha Leonard	Certified
Ernelinda Gutierrez	Classified	Stephanie Vacca	Certified
Courtney Blair	Certified	Lucas Wilson	Certified
Kristi Henderson	Certified	Jennifer Woods	Certified
Amy Knight	Certified	Vicki Branding	Classified
Brittany Miller	Classified	Kevin Hayes	Classified

Joseph OBrian	Classified	Maximus Polley	Classified
Cheyenne Schulte	Classified	Brittni Neuling	Classified

9.3 YMCA BASEP Agreement and Contract - HARRIS

- BOE approved a multi-year contract (Aug 1, 2026 – May 31, 2030) with the Gateway Region YMCA for the Before and After School Enrichment Program. Rental fees are waived while annual enrollment exceeds 100 students; otherwise, the YMCA pays \$8.00 per child per month based on peak attendance.

9.4 GCHS SRO Agreement for the 26-27 SY - HARRIS

- BOE approved renewing the agreement with the City and Police Department to maintain a School Resource Officer at the High School for the 2026–2027 school year, with program expenses covered by the District.

9.5 CJHS SRO Agreement for the 26-27 SY - HARRIS

- BOE approved renewing the agreement with the City and Police Department to maintain a School Resource Officer at Coolidge Junior High School for the 2026–2027 school year, with program expenses covered by the District.

9.6 Elementary Drug Education Program {S.A.B.R.E} Officer Agreement for the 26-27 SY - HARRIS

- BOE approved renewing the agreement with the City and Police Department to maintain a Elementary Drug Education Program {S.A.B.R.E} Officer at the Elementary Schools for the 2026–2027 school year, with program expenses covered by the District.

9.7 Granite City S.A.B.R.E Committee School Dances 26-27 SY - HARRIS

- BOE approved the request to host youth dances and distribute flyers at the Junior High School gymnasium from October 2026 through April 2027.

9.8 PROPERTY TAX APPEAL DOCKET NO. 2025-03037.001-I-3 -Resolution - Harris

- BOE approved the following Resolution Property Tax Appeal Board Docket NO 2025-03037.001-I-3 an appeal by WPT Inner Park Drive LLP.

9.9 PROPERTY TAX APPEAL DOCKET NO. 2025-03039.001-I-3 – Resolution - Harris

- BOE approved the following Resolution Property Tax Appeal Board Docket NO 2025-03039.001-I-3 an appeal by Sealy Lakeview Corporation Drive LLC.

9.10 FY 2026 Region 1 Audit - Suhre

- BOE approved the FY 2026 Audits for Region 1.

9.11 FY27 School Maintenance Project Grant Program - Suhre

- BOE approved the District to apply for the state School Maintenance Project Grant (SMPG) and reserved \$50,000 in matching funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to install a new playground at Prather School.

9.12 GCHS Student Discipline; Request to appeal out-of -school suspension -Keel

- BOE approved the administration's recommendation to uphold the out-of-school suspension of a student.

9.13 6th Hour Assignment for Lake School {ESSC}

- BOE approved the 6th hour teaching assignment for Billy Laycock at Lake School (ESSC) for the Spring Semester.

9.14 GCSD9 School Calendar FY28 - Ervay

- BOE approved Calendar A for the 2027–2028 school year, as recommended by District staff unions. The calendar incorporates full-day Professional Learning Days, pending approval of a waiver request submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education.

- **2027-2028 GCSD9 School Calendar (**Subject to Change)**

- ❖ **August 9–11, 2027:** Teacher Institute
- ❖ **August 12, 2027:** First Day of Student Attendance (Semester 1)
- ❖ **September 6, 2027:** No School (Labor Day)
- ❖ **October 8, 2027:** County Institute / Teacher Institute
- ❖ **October 11, 2027:** No School (Columbus Day)
- ❖ **November 11, 2027:** No School (Veterans Day)
- ❖ **November 22–23, 2027:** Parent-Teacher Conferences
- ❖ **November 24–26, 2027:** Thanksgiving Break
- ❖ **December 20, 2027 – January 3, 2028:** Winter Break
- ❖ **January 4, 2028:** Teacher Institute
- ❖ **January 5, 2028:** First Day of Student Attendance (Semester 2)
- ❖ **January 17, 2028:** No School (MLK Day)
- ❖ **February 21, 2028:** No School (Presidents Day)
- ❖ **February 23, 2028:** Teacher Institute
- ❖ **March 29, 2028:** Professional Development / PT Conference
- ❖ **April 10–17, 2028:** Spring Break
- ❖ **May 19, 2028:** Last Day of Student Attendance (Half Day - No Emergency Days Used)
- ❖ **May 26, 2028:** Last Day of Student Attendance (Half Day - All Emergency Days Used)

9.15 Five-Year School Calendar Modification – Professional Learning Days - Ervay

- BOE approved a five-year calendar modification for the 2027–2028 through 2031–2032 school years to transition designated Professional Learning Days from half-day to full-day sessions, pending state approval. A public hearing was held prior to approval with no public objections raised.

9.16 Practical Assessment Exploration System {PAES} - Watkins

- BOE approved \$92,750 in IDEA federal funds—at no local cost—to purchase two Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES) labs: a replacement for Granite City High School and a new lab for Coolidge Middle School. The equipment, curriculum, and initial staff training will be installed and completed before Winter Break, with a second training session reserved for Fall 2027.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- **The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; 2(c)(1)**

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES;

- GCSD9 BOE approved the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held on Tuesday, **September 22, 2026**.

12. SETTING OF THE AGENDA

November 17, 2026 Regular Board of Education Meeting.