

**Girard School District Board of Education
Board Workshop Minutes
Monday, August 10, 2026
Immediately Following Board Special Meeting
Girard High School Auditorium**

1. Meeting Opening

Board President, Mr. Rich Brown, called the August 10, 2026 Board Workshop Meeting to order at 5:56 p.m.

Mr. Brown stated the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and a moment of silent meditation was observed at the 5:45 p.m. Board Special Meeting.

Board Members Present:

Rich Brown, Joe Legnasky, Kelly Fisher, Daniel Maher, Joseph Meka, Brady Sager, Melissa Smith

Absent: Sean Dunn, Mike McConnell

Informational: 1.4 Recognition of Visitors

President Brown welcomed visitors in attendance and thanked them for attending.

Others Present: Jacob Hagmaier, Michelle Doritty, Shannon Holley, Heather Pier, Mike Trudnowski, Erin Pizzo, Clinton Southworth, Angel Ghastin, Dave Ashton, Greg Proper, Darrin Mayes

2. Public Comments

Informational: 2.1 Public Comments

Mr. Hagmaier stated no public comments were received.

3. Education

Informational: 3.1 Elk Valley Elementary School Updates

EVES Assistant Principal Shannon Holley provided an update on elementary school activities and initiatives. She thanked Community School Director Tammy Rader, the PTO, and everyone who assisted with National Night Out on August 4. New blacktop activities have been painted by the Maintenance Department and Community School program providing additional opportunities for organized play and physical education classes. The PBIS team is preparing for the start of the school year and will review procedures and expectations for areas including bathrooms, buses, and other common settings. The Bee Bucks program is expanding to allow students to earn individual Bee Bucks for positive actions and behaviors. The school hopes to establish a student store where Bee Bucks can be used, providing students with opportunities to practice responsibility and money management. A new Learning and Movement Lab pilot program is being introduced, which will provide students with an additional 20 minutes of movement each day beyond regular recess. Ms. Holley also announced the upcoming Kindergarten Kickoff, which will give incoming kindergarten students an opportunity to become familiar with the building, routines, and school day prior to the first day of school.

Informational: 3.2 Rice Avenue Middle School Updates

RAMS Principal Mike Trudnowski provided the Board with a handout outlining current middle school updates. An 8th grade STEM Innovation Lab has been added this year to immerse students in engineering and design concepts. With the addition of a third music teacher, several classes were reinstated and ukulele and electric keyboard were added. Mr. Trudnowski then reviewed student scheduling and current student-to-teacher ratios with the Board. He noted that student apathy continues to be a challenge despite motivational efforts implemented last year. This year, students will select their own cafeteria seating for breakfast and lunch, with four students assigned to each table. Mr. Trudnowski and Assistant Principal Jeff Brasington will lead the RAMS intramural program this year. They will seek student input regarding activities of interest, with potential offerings including hiking, Pokémon, and other activities.

Informational: 3.3 Girard High School Updates

GHS Co-Principal Dave Ashton provided an update on high school activities and preparations for the upcoming school year. He thanked Heather Pier, the new Athletic Director/Cyber School Coordinator, noting her strong work and expressing confidence in her selection for the position. Mr. Ashton reported that preparations are underway for Link Crew, with junior and senior program orientation taking place this week. Link Crew students will serve as mentors to younger students throughout the school year. Mr. Ashton and Co-Principal Eric Louis will serve as mentors to students who may be experiencing challenges at GHS. A ninth-grade parent orientation is scheduled for next week to introduce families to the high school and provide information on how parents can support their students. The administration has also made proactive phone calls throughout the summer to students who have experienced challenges, helping maintain connections with families and identify opportunities to connect students with district programs and services.

Informational: 3.4 Curriculum Updates

Mrs. Angel Ghastin provided the Board with a handout outlining updates in curriculum, professional development, human resources, and special programs. She reported that Summer Academy is taking place this week, with 91 staff members participating in various training and planning sessions. The EVES Title I Planning Committee will finalize the Schoolwide Plan at its next meeting. The completed plan will be presented to the Board in September. The annual Title I Parent and Family Information Night is scheduled for September and will provide families with information regarding Title I, curriculum, assessments, state testing, and ways to support student learning at home. Mrs. Ghastin then reviewed curriculum resources, revisions, and realignments being implemented for the upcoming school year. She also reported that the District's AI Committee met multiple times throughout the past school year to develop appropriate guardrails and expectations for the use of AI by students and staff. The District has been busy recruiting for more than 17 open positions. Mrs. Ghastin concluded by reviewing current wellness goals, including updates to the Health and Physical Education curriculum and the addition of health and nutrition information to building newsletters.

Informational: 3.5 Special Education Updates

Mr. Greg Proper reported that Summer Academy includes Handle with Care and Ukeru training for teachers and aides, providing strategies to safely de-escalate and support students experiencing behavioral challenges. He noted that the Special Education Department has worked closely with the administrative team to promote consistency in responding to these situations.

Discussion, Informational: 3.6 Athletics/Cyber School Updates

Dr. Heather Pier provided the Board with updates on athletics and the Cyber School program. Fall sports preparations are underway, with football completing heat acclimation before beginning preseason practice. Homecoming is scheduled for September 25. Golf will hold its first match next week, and fall schedules have been finalized. The cheerleading co-op is being renewed for its second year, with four GHS students participating. The tennis co-op continues for both the fall and spring seasons. Concussion management is transitioning to a mobile app that students can access on their phones. Concussion testing must be completed by August 31 for contact sports and cheerleading. The Athletic Department is working to surplus outdated athletic equipment and is also obtaining quotes for new athletic shot clocks in preparation for the PIAA requirement. Current quotes are lower than originally anticipated, and the District continues to seek a fiscally responsible option for meeting the requirement.

Dr. Pier reported that the Cyber School has successfully transitioned to Edmentum. There are currently 11 full-time students enrolled, along with two students taking individual courses. Several students are expected to return to in-person instruction at EVES, while additional students may enroll in the District's Cyber School. Teacher training on the new software is scheduled for August 21. Dr. Pier also reviewed new state requirements regarding monitoring of full-time cyber students for signs of child abuse and neglect. Procedures have been established to ensure students are visually checked at least once each week during weeks with three or more school days.

4. Technology

Discussion, Informational: 4.1 Technology Updates

No report.

5. Facilities

Discussion, Informational: 5.1 Facilities Updates

Mr. Clinton Southworth provided an update on summer maintenance and facilities projects. At the high school, several areas have been cleaned and restored following the White Sabers Drum Corps' use of the building, with remaining projects expected to be completed by the end of the week. The building will be ready to reopen to teachers on August 12. The middle school conference room wall project is nearing completion and remains under budget. The soccer concession stand repair has been completed and is functioning properly. The building is ready to receive staff and students. At the elementary school, carpet has been installed in some classrooms. The gym air conditioning unit has been repaired, and the annual fire alarm inspection has been completed. Donated chairs from Harbor Creek School District have been placed in classrooms, replacing damaged chairs. EVES will also be ready to receive teachers on August 12. Lastly, Mr. Southworth reported that the new zero-turn mower has performed very well and requested consideration of purchasing the second zero-turn mower previously discussed.

6. Finance

Discussion, Informational: 6.1 Finance Updates

Mr. Jacob Hagmaier provided the Board with a finance updates. He reported that 224 of 280 requisitions for the 2026-2027 school year have been processed. He is working to close out the 2025-2026 school year in preparation for the annual audit and is also working with the Controller to transition payroll forms to an electronic format. Mr. Hagmaier reviewed current grant activity, including submitted grants and anticipated state award timelines. He then discussed a potential free feasibility study service which provides building assessments and software that could assist the District in complying with the state requirement to submit building status information by April. The service may also include free grant-writing assistance. Mr. Hagmaier is awaiting additional information and will provide an update to the Board. Mr. Hagmaier reported that CSIU demonstrated its financial software, which offers additional efficiencies compared to the District's current system. He is gathering pricing information for further consideration.

7. Human Resources/Negotiations

Discussion, Informational: 7.1 Culture/Climate Collaborative Committee Discussion

This topic was tabled.

8. Policy

9. Student Affairs/Activities

Discussion, Informational: 9.1 Girls Wrestling Team

The Board discussed whether to proceed with approving a resolution to establish the program. Board member Melissa Smith expressed support for the opportunity and noted that the Elk Creek Recreation Board already offers a feeder program. Dr. Pier explained that the program would have a full competition schedule and reviewed county-wide participation and program details. The Board also discussed potential cost increases associated with adding the wrestling program. Dr. Pier indicated that she anticipates minimal to no additional costs to the District, noting that the program would be similar to the District's existing swimming program.

10. Other

Discussion: 10.1 Review Board Goals

Board President Rich Brown noted a new survey was sent to the Board and asked members to complete prior to the September Workshop.

11. Items for Board Agenda

Informational: 11.1 Tentative Items for August 24, 2026 Board Meeting

Board President Brown reviewed anticipated items for the August 24, 2026, Board Meeting Agenda.

Board President Brown announced that Board Members will meet in Executive Session after recess of the August 10, 2026 Board Workshop to discuss personnel and legal matters. No action will be taken.

The August 10, 2026 Board Workshop Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mr. Jacob Hagmaier, Board Secretary