Girard School District Board of Education
Board Workshop Minutes
Monday, October 12, 2026
5:45 p.m.
Girard High School Auditorium

1. Meeting Opening

Board President, Mr. Rich Brown, called the October 12, 2026 Board Workshop Meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and a moment of silent meditation was observed.

Board Members Present:
Rich Brown, Mike McConnell, Joe Legnasky, Kelly Amenta, Kelly Fisher, Daniel Maher, Joseph Meka, Brady Sager
Absent: Melissa Smith

Informational: 1.4. Recognition of Visitors
President Brown welcomed visitors in attendance and thanked them for attending.
Others Present: Superintendent David Koma, Jacob Hagmaier, Michelle Doritty, Heather Pier, Erin Pizzo, Angel Ghastin, Mike Trudnowski, Cheryl Krachkowski, Britta Barrickman, Dave Ashton, 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
Mrs. Cheryl Krachkowski, Assistant Principal, reported that Fire Safety Week was successful, with local first responders visiting the school to teach students about emergency preparedness and provide hands-on experiences with emergency vehicles. Planning is underway for an upcoming reunification drill. First-quarter after-school programming concludes this week, with 89 students participating in activities including theater, soccer, board games, and fishing. EVES is also looking forward to its upcoming Night at the Museum family event, which will provide families with a private museum experience, dinner, and a snack.

Informational: 3.2. Rice Avenue Middle School Updates
Principal Mr. Mike Trudnowski reviewed the annual Washington, D.C. student trip, including transportation costs through Anderson Coach and the new requirement of a 20% nonrefundable deposit. He requested that the Board advance the deposit, acknowledging that the funds would be forfeited if student interest is insufficient. He also outlined the random selection process for participating students and the establishment of a waitlist. Additionally, due to minimal returns from recent PTO fundraisers, he proposed an overnight school fundraiser featuring supervised activities for students. A draft schedule of the event was shared. Following discussion, the Board agreed to add both items to the October agenda for consideration.

Informational: 3.3. Girard High School Updates
Mr. Dave Ashton, Co-Principal, shared that Yvonne Conley, Diversified Occupations Coordinator, reported 17 students currently participating in the program. Juniors and seniors on track to graduate take two classes at GHS before transitioning into the community to gain work experience with local businesses. September and October have focused on reestablishing the school's SWARM expectations, addressing behavioral concerns, and reinforcing positive student behavior. He noted minimal pushback regarding the restrictions on student cell phone use during school hours. Mental health, addiction, and oppositional defiant disorder (ODD) continue to be among the challenges addressed by the administration, along with instances of parents or guardians declining recommended services.

Informational: 3.4. Curriculum Updates

Mrs. Angel Ghastin reported on the recent in-service day, noting that teachers attended off campus regional break-out sessions while on-campus work focused on English Language Arts, Mathematics, Special Education, Health & Physical Education, and Intervention Pathways. The EVES Schoolwide Title I Plan for 2026-2027 has been submitted and is awaiting PDE approval, and 2026-2027 is the District's Cyclic Monitoring Year for Federal Programs. The district is reviewing English Language Arts vendors, with a recommendation and purchase planned by the end of the school year to meet the structured literacy requirement for SY 2027-28. Mathematics K-4 curriculum maps were approved in September, while Mathematics 5-12 and Science 6-12 revisions continue, and Health & Physical Education teachers have begun reviewing curriculum in light of PDE's proposed revision of the 2003 standards. PSSA/Keystone scores for Science/Biology are still pending from the state. Mrs. Ghastin also announced the first quarterly AI-focused professional development day on October 13, the first building-level wellness committee meetings on October 19 and 20, and that Dr. Danielle Garris will leave the Achievement Center of LECOM Behavioral Health, with her last day on October 23.

Informational: 3.5. Special Education Updates

Dr. Erin Pizzo reviewed the special education department's training and meetings held during the in-service day. Discussions focused on improving K-12 vertical alignment to support students transitioning into general education settings and making the IEP writing process more efficient to better meet individual student needs. A K-12 gifted alignment meeting is also planned in response to the District's growing gifted population. Dr. Pizzo reviewed district requirements for families who choose to decline services and noted that Speech and Language teachers have assumed responsibility for assistive technology services previously provided through IU5. Preparations are also underway to update the Special Education Plan, due in May, and to prepare for an upcoming special education audit.

Informational: 3.6. Athletics/Cyber School Updates

Dr. Heather Pier reported that fall sports are approximately two weeks from completion, with playoff information expected to be released October 22. The marching band will compete in championships at the end of October. Golf had three All-Region selections. Baseball and softball schedules are nearly complete, and updates to game worker job descriptions are underway. McDowell has expressed interest in having GSD serve as a co-op receiving school for girls wrestling next year. The wrestling coaches are interested, and Dr. Pier will provide an update next fall. The stadium sound system is nearing the end of its lifespan but is expected to last through the next few football games. Temporary equipment may need to be rented for the remainder of the fall sports seasons while replacement costs are explored for next year. Final quotes are also being gathered for the shot clock replacement project, which is expected to cost less than originally projected.

Dr. Pier also shared that cyber program enrollment has decreased compared to this time last year, as more students have returned to in-person learning. The district currently has more students enrolled in its in-house cyber program than in out-of-district program.

4. Technology

Informational: 4.1. Technology Updates

No report.

5. Facilities

Informational: 5.1. Facilities Updates

No report.

6. Finance

Informational: 6.1. Finance Updates

Mr. Jacob Hagmaier reported that the Act 1 Index has been released, with a base index of 3.6% and an adjusted index of 5.2% available to the District. The projected millage impact based on these figures was reviewed.

7. Human Resources/Negotiations

8. Policy

9. Student Affairs/Activities

10. Other

Discussion: 10.1. Review Board Self-Assessment/Goals

Board President Brown distributed the results of the recent Board self-assessment and led a discussion of the findings. Board members were asked to email one or two suggested goals to Mr. Brown for consideration at the November 9 workshop, where the Board will work to establish new goals.

Discussion: 10.2. Other

Board Member Dan Maher expressed interest in updating lighting for the soccer field, which currently does not meet PIAA requirements. Mr. Brown noted that all existing lights would need to be replaced to achieve compliance. Mr. Hagmaier reviewed project costs obtained through a previous grant application that was not awarded. An engineer would need to assess the site and determine potential light locations and installation requirements. Dr. Pier and Superintendent Koma also discussed other funding options being explored for the project.

Board President Brown announced that Board Members will meet in Executive Session after recess of the October 12, 2026 Board Workshop to discuss personnel and legal matters. No action will be taken.

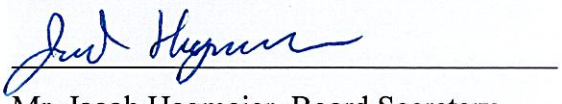
11. Items for Board Agenda

Informational: 11.1. Tentative Items for October 26, 2026 Board Meeting

Superintendent David Koma reviewed anticipated items for the October 26, 2026, Board Meeting Agenda.

The October 12, 2026 Board Workshop Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mr. Jacob Hagmaier, Board Secretary