

Regular Board of Education Meeting

Monday, March 15, 2021 6:00 PM

City of Gering Council Chambers
1025 P Street
Gering, NE 69341



Minutes

1. **GPS Board of Education Information**
2. **Opening Procedures**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Excuse Absent Board Member(s)
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Opening Meetings Act**
5. **Consent Agenda**
 1. Minutes from the previous month's board meeting(s)
 2. Approval of Claims/Bills
 3. Board Policy Adoption
 - i. First Reading of Board Policies
 1. 903.7. TRAFFIC AND PARKING PROCEDURES
 2. 903.8 VANDALISM
 3. 903.9 ENERGY CONSERVATION
 4. 904.2 LEASE, SALE OR DISPOSAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY
 5. 905.1. FACILITIES INSPECTIONS
 6. 905.2 ANNUAL EMERGENCY SAFETY PLAN
 7. 905.3 WARNING SYSTEMS
 8. 905.4 BOMB THREATS
 9. 905.5 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
 10. 905.6 ACCIDENT REPORTS
 11. 905.7 SAFETY DRILLS
 12. 905.8 SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND CANCELLATIONS
 13. 905.9 EYE PROTECTIVE DEVICES
 14. 905.10 ASBESTOS CONTROL
 - ii. Second Reading of Board Policies
 1. 901 OBJECTIVES OF BUILDINGS & SITES
 2. 902.1 BUILDINGS & SITES LONG RANGE PLANNING
 3. 902.2 CONSTRUCTION PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS
 4. 902.3 SITE ACQUISITION
 5. 902.4 BIDS AND AWARDS FOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

6. 902.5 CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AT RISK SCHOOL
CONSTRUCTION ALTERNATIVE
 7. 902.6 DESIGN-BUILD SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION ALTERNATIVE
 8. 903.1 SECURITY
 9. 903.2 ACCESS TO BUILDINGS
 10. 903.3 MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE
 11. 903.4 REQUESTS FOR IMPROVEMENTS
4. Personnel Items
 - i. Approval of Certified Staff Contract(s)
 1. Lea Hendrickson - Speech, Language Pathologist, District-Wide
 - ii. Certified Staff Resignation
6. **Patron Comments**

Former GHS band teacher Randy Raines spoke about the history of the program as well as _____. 3 years ago 128 students to 52 currently. Morale low. 21 years. Relationship with students. Prokop example - soccer and softball. Summer program. Accomodate. Have to maintain interest. Worked w/ student all last week - auditioned for Marine Band today. Tough stuff/ masters degree, and couldn't play it. Dropped Jazz Band. Dick Moore started it and took 1st place first year. Zero hour class. Never used freshmen in marching / stronger. This year it is combined. Won't ever get it back if you cut it back. Focus on excellence. Had all 11 kids / last 2 have dropped. Need more 1:1. COVID part of it, but can't blame 75 students dropping. FT position. Band and choir - difference. Every instrumnet is treated diffently. If you want students to excel; Music in the brain. Analytical learning and academics affected.
7. **Reports and Discussions**
 1. Recognition of March Bulldog Staff Member of the Month: Amanda Diedrich, GHS English Teacher

Principal Rocky Schneider commended Mrs. Diedrich following the reading of nomination letters from peers recognizing her commitment to GHS students.
 2. Curriculum/Personnel Committee Report
 3. Business/Facilities Committee Report
 - i. Trial Balance Summary
 - ii. Fund Balances
 - iii. Schedule of Investments
 - iv. Financial Statements
 4. Superintendent's Report
 - i. Presenter: Dr. Brett Gies, School Improvement Specialist
 5. Announcements of Upcoming Events for the Board
 8. **Action Items**
 1. Discuss, consider and take necessary action regarding approval of the 2021-22 school calendar.
 9. **Board Comments**

Brady Shaul voiced opposition to the proposed transition away from block scheduling. He encouraged additional research prior to committing. An article published in the Omaha World Herald indicated the possibility of adopting block scheduling to which Shaul commented "maybe it is not as archaic as we are being told. We need to look at all avenues." He also expressed concern that WNCC credits may not be transferrable to UNL based on feedback he received from students who were required to retake courses previously taken as dual-credit at GHS. Shaul indicated that while he understands budgetary concerns, the Board should not rush to reach a decision. Next, Mary Winn shared her excitement to the news that GPS hired

a Speech Pathologist. She also shared kudos to the team for their prep and presentation to the School Improvement audit team. "These are the times that try men's souls. Everything that can happen, has. We persevere," Winn stated. Josh Lacy concurred with this statement. He also addressed the proposed scheduling saying "Although I haven't been as involved in the process (business committee member, not curriculum), Mr. Gies makes good points, but so does Brady. We need to work together with students in mind and take our time." Brent Holliday remarked that the school year had truly been a "perfect storm," but reflected on "great leadership" throughout. He looks forward to continuing that with Dr. Nicole Regan at the helm as he thanked Gary Cooper (interim) for his service as well as all the staff for remaining flexible and creative this year. "Step by step we have progressed. We won't sit back and see all we accomplished until many years later. The pandemic has reshaped us in many ways. It was an honor to see the growth that took place this year," Brent added. The Holliday Family of Companies appreciated being a part of the career fair at GHS. Brian Copsey elaborated further stating that the communications that took place behind the scenes were key. "That is what the school board has envisioned with the addition of the Community Engagement Director. It is exciting to see what is taking off," he said. Copsey had attended the recent community forum highlighting the proposed scheduling revisions. "All of my kids were part of block. The comments this evening are that our budget has driven the look, but I don't know any organization that goes 25 years without internal review. The forum was surprising; the chief complaint from parents and students was concern that they would have homework. For me, this set off a red flag about block scheduling becoming a study hall. Perhaps we have lost the emphasis this model had 25 years ago. It should be about teachers delivering curriculum, and I don't feel that is what we are achieving today," Copsey stated. In closing, BJ Peters shared that the school board's role is to provide for our students. "It won't be an easy task and there are lots of moving pieces, but I remain confident that all six of us have one common goal. We will do what is best for students," said BJ Peters. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

10. Adjourn

**GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GERING, NE**

POLICY ADOPTION

The board shall give notice of proposed policy changes or adoption of new policies by placing the item on the agenda of two regular board meetings. The proposed policy changes shall be distributed and public comment will be allowed at each meeting prior to final board action. This notice procedure shall be required except for emergency situations. If the board adopts a policy in an emergency situation, a statement regarding the emergency and the need for immediate adoption of the policy shall be included in the minutes. The board shall have complete discretion to determine what constitutes an emergency situation.

The final action taken to adopt the proposed policy shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the board at the next regular meeting after the meeting allowing public discussion. The policy will be effective on the later of the date of passage or the date stated in the motion.

In the case of an emergency, a new or changed policy may be adopted by a majority vote of a quorum of the board. The emergency policy shall expire at the close of the third regular meeting following the emergency action, unless the policy adoption procedure stated above is followed and the policy is reaffirmed.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-520 (Class III)
 79-521 (Class IV)
 79-522 (Class V)
 79-523 (Class VI)
 79-526
 84-712 et seq.
 NDE Rule 10.004.01A1

Cross Reference: 201.1 Board Powers and Responsibilities

| Approved 1/20/03

Reviewed ~~8/17/09~~2/23/15

Revised 9/14/09

POLICY 204.12
GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GERING, NE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

The board recognizes the importance of citizen participation in school district matters. In order to assure citizens are heard and board meetings are conducted efficiently and in an organized manner, the board shall set time aside for citizen participation, either at a specific time during the meeting or during the discussion of agenda items. The board has the discretion to limit the amount of time set aside for public participation.

If the pressure of business or other circumstances dictate, the board president may decide to eliminate this practice at a particular meeting. The board president will recognize these individuals to make their comments at the appropriate time. The orderly process of the board meeting shall not be interfered with or disrupted. Only those speakers recognized by the board president shall be allowed to speak. Comments by others are out of order. If disruptive, the individual making the comments or another individual causing disruption may be asked to leave the board meeting.

Citizens wishing to address the board on a certain agenda item must notify the superintendent prior to the board meeting. Citizens wishing to present petitions to the board may do so at this time. However, the board will only receive the petitions and not act upon them or their contents.

Subjects for comment should involve areas within the board's proper responsibility. Discussion on unrelated matters is to be discouraged.

Individuals who have a complaint about employees may bring their complaint to the board only after they have followed board policy addressing citizens' complaints. Students who have a complaint may only bring their complaint to the board after they have followed board policy addressing students' complaints.

Any written or printed materials to be circulated for a meeting of the school board must be submitted to the superintendent by the Wednesday preceding a Monday night meeting. This material will be transmitted to the members of the board for their consideration.

Legal Reference: Nebraska Statute 84-1408 to 1414

Cross Reference: 201.7 School Board Liability
204.3 Public Hearings
204.10 Agenda
403.5 Public Complaints about Employees

Approved 1/20/03 Reviewed 2/23/15 Revised 9/14/09

**GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GERING, NE**

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT EMPLOYEES

The board recognizes situations may arise in the operation of the school district which are of concern to parents and other members of the school district community. While constructive criticism is welcomed, the board desires to support its employees and their actions to free them from unnecessary, spiteful, or negative criticism and complaints that do not offer advice for improvement or change.

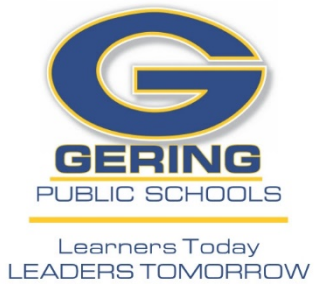
While speakers may, during public meetings, offer objective criticism of school operations and programs, the board will not hear personal complaints concerning district personnel nor against any person connected with the school system unless that complaint is an agenda item having followed the process described below. To do so could expose the board to a charge of being party to slander and would prejudice any necessity to act as the final review of administrative recommendations regarding the matter. The board president will direct the patron to the appropriate means for board consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving individuals.

The board firmly believes concerns should be resolved at the lowest organizational level by those individuals closest to the concern. Whenever a complaint or concern is brought to the attention of the board it will be referred to the administration to be resolved. Prior to any board consideration however, the following should be completed:

1. Matters concerning an individual student, teacher, or other employee should first be addressed to the teacher or employee.
2. Unsettled matters from (1) above or problems and questions about individual attendance centers should be addressed to the employee's building principal for certificated employees and support staff. At this level, if requested by the administrator, the complainant shall put the complaint in writing.
3. Unsettled matters regarding certificated employees from (2) above or problems and questions concerning the school district should be directed to the superintendent.
4. If a matter cannot be settled satisfactorily by the superintendent, it may then be brought to the board in writing. The board will follow policy 1005.01 in handling public complaints.

Cross Reference: 204.10 Agenda
204.12 Public Participation at Board Meetings
1005.01 Public Complaints

Approved 03/15/10



Geil: 7:55 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Early dismissal at 2:15 p.m. every Wed.

Lincoln: 7:50 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.

Early dismissal at 2:10 p.m. every Wed.

N.Field: 7:55 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Early dismissal at 2:15 p.m. every Wed

School Calendar

2021-22

GJHS: 8:05 a.m. - 3:27 p.m.

Early dismissal at 2:30 p.m. every Wed.

GHS: 8:00 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.

Early dismissal at 2:30 p.m. every Wed.

Calendar Legend

- First / Last Day of School
- End of Quarter / Semester
- NO SCHOOL: Teacher In-Service
- NO SCHOOL: Students / Staff

AUGUST				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

SEPTEMBER				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

OCTOBER				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

NOVEMBER				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

DECEMBER				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST

- 4-6 New Staff Orientation
- 9-12 Teacher In-Service
- 12 **Elementary Open House**
All Schools 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Jr./Sr. High Orientations
See back page for details!
- 13 First Day of School

SEPTEMBER

- 6 No School: Labor Day
- 24 No School: Students
Teacher Work Day

OCTOBER

- 14 End of 1st Quarter
- 15 No School: Students
Teacher Work Day
- 18-21 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 22 No School: Students/Staff

NOVEMBER

- 24-26 No School: Students/Staff

DECEMBER

- 21 K-12 Students & Staff –
11:30 a.m. Dismissal
End of 1st Semester
- 22-31 No School: Students/Staff

JANUARY				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

FEBRUARY				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28				

MARCH				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

APRIL				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

MAY				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

JANUARY

- 3 No School: Students
Teacher Work Day
- 4 School Resumes
- 28 No School: Students
Teacher In-Service

FEBRUARY

- 18 No School: Students/Staff
- 21-22 No School: Students
Teacher In-Service/Work Day

MARCH

- 10 End of 3rd Quarter
- 11 No School: Students
Teacher Work Day
- 15-17 PT Conferences
- 16-17 No School: Students
- 18 No School: Students/Staff

APRIL

- 15-18 No School: Students/Staff
- 19 No School: Students
Teacher Work Day

MAY

- 14 GHS Graduation
- 20 Last Day of School –
11:30 a.m. Dismissal
- 23-24 Teacher Work Days

Important Dates

First and Last Days for Students

August 13, 2021 (Friday)

May 20, 2022 (Friday)

*05/20 will be the last day of school unless there are days to be made up. Inclement weather may alter the school calendar.

No School for Students

Labor Day	9/6
Teacher Work Day	9/24
Teacher Work Day	10/15
Fall Break	10/22
Thanksgiving Break	11/24 - 11/26
Winter Break	12/22 - 12/31
Teacher Work Day	1/3
Teacher In-Service	1/28
School Break	2/18
Teacher In-Service	2/21 - 2/22
Teacher Work Day	3/11
Teacher Work Days	3/16 - 3/17
School Break	3/18
Spring Break	4/15 - 4/18
Teacher Work Day	4/19

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Mon, Oct 18 – Thurs, Oct 21

Mon, Mar 14 – Thurs, Mar 17

Make-Up Days for Students

If necessary, missed days will be made up to meet instructional hour requirements.

Inclement weather may alter the school calendar. For information about weather-related delays or closings, follow local media or check for announcements on the district's website, Twitter account, and Facebook page.

www.geringschools.net



Gering Public Schools



@GeringBulldogs

School Hours

District-wide early dismissal every Wednesday for Professional Development.

Geil Elementary	7:55 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Lincoln Elementary	7:50 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.
Northfield Elementary	7:55 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Gering Junior High	8:05 a.m. to 3:27 p.m.
Gering High School	8:00 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.
Preschool (AM Session: 3-4 year old)	8:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
Preschool (PM Session: 4 year old)	12:00 p.m. to 3:25 p.m.

*** No preschool classes on Wednesdays!

Important Telephone Numbers

Gering Public Schools District-Office	308-436-3125
Student Lunch Accounts	308-633-
Transportation (First Student)	308-635-6214
Geil Elementary	308-436-2545
Lincoln Elementary / Preschool	308-436-2350
Northfield Elementary	308-436-5555
Gering Junior High	308-436-3123
Gering High School	308-436-3121

School Meal Prices

All schools offer nutritious breakfast and lunch options including a wide variety of side options on the daily salad bar.

The federal Community Eligibility Provision will allow qualifying students to receive breakfast and lunch at a reduced-price or no daily charge. Students who qualify based on USDA guidelines will need to submit an application.

	Breakfast	Lunch
Elementary	\$1.90	\$2.95
Secondary	\$2.15	\$3.20
Adult	\$3.70	\$4.00
Milk	\$0.50	\$0.50

To obtain an application, visit your child's school or www.geringschools.net/district/nutrition-services/free-and-reduced-information.html Applications for free and reduced-price meals must be renewed annually no later than September 1.

Secondary Student Orientations

GRADE	TIME	DATE / LOCATION:
6 TH	TBD	Gering Junior High School Thursday, August 12, 2021
7 TH	TBD	
8 TH	TBD	
9 TH	TBD	Gering High School Thursday, August 12, 2021
10 TH	TBD	
11 TH	TBD	
12 TH	TBD	