

Larry B. Hammond, Superintendent
Board Report
June 21, 2022

Staffing remains a high priority within the district at the current time. The assistant principal vacancy at the middle school remains open as well as a school psychologist position. We have been unable to fill the psychologist position for the past two years and will not likely be filled this year. We have been meeting the need through a contractual arrangement which will continue in the absence of securing someone for a fulltime position. Thirteen teaching positions are currently open within the district. This scenario is like situations with our neighboring districts and the remainder of the Commonwealth.

The City of Warsaw continues with planning to install a sidewalk on Dorman Drive. It will be located on District property if approved by the Board. I have continued conversation the Mayor on the specifics of the sidewalk after getting input from some of you. The last proposal was to install a 54" sidewalk on grade with the existing roadway. This was after I had expressed the need to have a six-inch curb on the sidewalk. Mayor French indicated the curb would create an issue due the need for drainage from the roadway. After receiving your thoughts, I will get back with him on the latest development.

Recently, we had issues with the District Website, and it has been determined a need exists to seek a different Content Management System (CMS). Our current provider is somewhat inexpensive but appears to have much room for improvement. Austin has conducted some preliminary research on other providers. Item VI. C. has some attachments for your review and consideration prior to the July meeting. He will be doing further review of this issue and sharing his findings with Superintendent Cash. He wants to ensure a recommendation to change providers will be based on thorough research. The expectation would be for an updated website to meet the needs for several years. His findings will be included on the July agenda for your consideration.

Lastly, I want to compliment you in the selection of Mr. Cash as Superintendent. The search process was truly an example of your potential to provide leadership through your elected positions. With the weighing of strengths and weaknesses of each candidate from the screening phase to the final selection, you displayed the ability to consider the current needs of the district with unity. Your diversity enhances the overall strength of the Board and system. Although only four members were able to vote to select Mr. Cash, I feel confident the vote would have been 5:0 if Mrs. Giles had been in attendance. With the continued support of Mr. Cash and the administrative team, the future for Gallatin County Schools remains bright. This community has tremendous potential and you can be instrumental in making the future brighter for the current residents through your continual team effort. It seems impossible for me to have been in Gallatin County for five years. I feel confident in saying the District is in a much better position than 5 years ago through personnel changes and facilities upgrades. (The next District Facility Plan is due in December.) You can continue this trend through appropriate board actions. Supporting the students of this community with a public education system that is second to none must remain your priority.