

August 19, 2026 MINUTES

Regular

Meeting of Trustees

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Committee (Agenda Setting) of the Board of Trustees of School District #35 was held on **August 19, 2026 at 6:03 PM in the school library and through Google Meet.**

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Aaron Schwieterman, Brian Nickolay, Carissa Paulson, Luke Hancox

NON-COMMITTEE STAFF PRESENT

Kelly Henderson, Heather Mumby

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

Lain Kaye, Jacki Van Meter, Fraulein Jaffe, Andrea Barham, Lisa Jarvis, Madison Phelps, Mike Coon, Sara D'Agostino, Brittany Nickolay

PUBLIC COMMENT - NON AGENDA ITEMS

Aaron Schwieterman read the statement regarding public comment that was provided by MTSBA.
Lain Kaye expressed her disappointment in the limitations set for public comment.

Superintendent Report: Current enrollment is 130 students. Events happening at the school: Back to School Week for our staff begins on August 24, 2026. We will have Active Intruder Training on August 28th for the staff. Back to School is August 27th. Back to School Staff BBQ is August 26th
We only had three students signed up for Volleyball this school year. We are working with the homeschool group to get our girls into their program as all the surrounding school programs are full.

We were able to sell our route buses and purchase two new mini-buses. They should be at the school shortly. The new mini-buses are new. According to the law, we can use Bus Depreciation once to purchase mini-buses, if we've never had them before. Once we purchase mini-buses with the Bus Depreciation fund, we can not purchase another with this fund. New was the way to go with these buses.

Building Walkthrough - September Board meeting.

District Clerk Report: Mrs. Henderson reported for Ms. Dinnan. Tasks completed included food service, transportation, and back to school information for parents.

Business Manager Report: Mrs. Mumby gave a summary of the CAMPS proposal for school finance for the 2027 Legislative session. Since starting in June, she has been working on getting things reported accurately. This has proven to be very challenging due to the fact that the budget information in the accounting system was not accurate and the district has not been balancing with the county for at least the last two fiscal years.

We have established procedures to make sure that internal controls are being implemented for payroll and accounting. Every month the process is getting smoother and more efficient.

Once the budget has been accepted, she will go into the accounting system and update the budgets and line items to accurately reflect the current budget. The Board will receive monthly reports showing the status of every account and grant. This will help prevent over spending in any funds, grants or sub funds.

The plans for this year are going to concentrate around getting the accounting system cleaned up, accurately balancing with the county, and reporting on a regular basis to the Superintendent and School Board.

The Core Purpose of Gallatin Gateway School is to embrace an engaging learning culture in a safe, nurturing environment where each student thrives now and into the future.

CONSENT AGENDA

Action Item: - Motion LH

Second CM

Board Comment: None

Vote: Unanimous

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion Items:

- Committee Information: Discussed the scope and timeline for each committee group. Mrs. Henderson will start scheduling for September shortly.
- Board Activities: Back to School, Open House dates and times were covered
- School Finance Roles and Responsibilities: Mrs. Henderson reviewed the roles and responsibilities
- MCEL Attendance: As none of the Board members can attend, Heather will attend and report back to the Board.
- Open Education: The board watched a video recorded by Grant Hewitt. He discussed the changes to the programming. We will not enroll students for the 26-27 school year as OPI is continuing to deny funding. Following the video the board discussed possible legal action with OPI. We currently have a liability with Open Ed for over \$2 million because OPI is constantly changing the rules. This will be an agenda item in September.
- Staffing Clarification: Based on conversations heard within the community the board addressed the topic of hiring a part time superintendent who works remote.

Action Items:

- Audit Report Findings:
 - Action Item - Motion CM
 - Second LH
 - Board Discussion: The Governing Board discussed the audit findings with the ongoing issues relating to completion of processes and procedures. Heather discussed the solutions to the ongoing issues and how we are remediating the issues.
 - Public Comment: None
 - Vote: Unanimously passed
- Handbook Review
 - Action Item - Motion BN
 - Second - CM
 - Board Discussion: none
 - Public Comment: None
 - Vote: Unanimously passed

NEW BUSINESS

Action Items:

- Discuss and Consider Trustee's Financial Summary for 2025-26
 - Action Item - Motion LH
 - Second - CM
 - Board Discussion: As everything was discussed and covered during the Budget hearing, no discussion was had.
 - Public Comment:
 - Vote: Unanimously passed
- Discuss and Consider Budget for 2026-27
 - Action Item - Motion CM
 - Second - BN
 - Board Discussion: As everything was discussed and covered during the Budget hearing, no discussion was had.
 - Public Comment: Lain Kaye wanted more information on position cuts and the use of the levy funding. There were no additional cuts from last spring. The levy funding is covering half of the counselors position and a classroom supply budget for staff. She asked additionally how we were handling lunch and transportation. Board: We provided transportation

contracts to parents as well as parent who will be assisting with lunch and breakfast. She asked for clarification of the counseling FTE. Answer: This is a full time position, but the levy only covered half of the salary and benefits.

- Vote: Unanimously passed
- Non-Resident Student Applications
 - Action Item - Motion LH
 - Second - BN
 - Board Discussion: As everything was discussed and covered during the Budget hearing, no discussion was had.
 - Public Comment: Lain Kaye asked if we only had three out of district students. Answer: No, we have three new from the June board meeting.
 - Vote: Unanimously passed

NEXT MEETING: September 3, 2026 at 1pm for Work Study Session and the Regular meeting is September 16, 2026.

TIME OF ADJOURNMENT: 7:29pm