

Excerpt from GGS Policy #1441- Audience Participation

Audience Participation

The Board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in its meetings. The Board also recognizes the statutory and constitutional rights of the public to participate in governmental operations. To allow fair and orderly expression of public comments, the Board will permit public participation through oral or written comments during the “public comment” section of the Board agenda and prior to a final decision on a matter of significant interest to the public. The Chairperson may control such comment to ensure an orderly progression of the meeting.

Individuals wishing to be heard by the Chairperson shall first be recognized by the Chairperson. Individuals, after identifying themselves, will proceed to make comments as briefly as the subject permits. The Chairperson may interrupt or terminate an individual’s statement when appropriate, including when statements are out of order, too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant. The Board as a whole shall have the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings. It is important for all participants to remember that Board meetings are held in public but are not public meetings. Members of the public shall be recognized and allowed input during the meeting, at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Cross Reference: 1420 School Board Meeting Procedure

Legal Reference: Article II, Section 8, Montana Constitution – Right of participation
Article II, Section 10, Montana Constitution – Right of privacy
§§ 2-3-101, et seq., MCA Notice and Opportunity to Be Heard

“The Gallatin Gateway School community empowers our students to take responsibility for their learning so they may achieve their individual potentials as lifelong learners and productive citizens.”

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES, GALLATIN GATEWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT #35**

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Trustees of the Gallatin Gateway School District #35 met at 5:30pm on Monday, August 24, 2020, via Zoom. Board Chair Aaron Schwieterman presided and called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Aaron Schwieterman, Board Chair; Julie Fleury, Vice Chair; Mary Martin, Carissa Paulson, Patti Ringo

TRUSTEES ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Theresa Keel, Superintendent; Carrie Fisher, District Clerk; and Erica Clark, Administrative Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT

No sign-in sheet due to COVID-19 and meeting being held virtually

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting attendees recited the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

PRESIDING TRUSTEE'S EXPLANATION OF PROCEDURES

Board Chair Aaron Schwieterman explained the public comment process to be followed for addressing the Board in accordance with Gallatin Gateway School policy. He noted: 1) that prior to a vote the public may comment on agenda items; 2) there will be time for public comment on non-agenda items; 3) public comment periods are not intended to be a question and answer session.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Hire: Paraprofessional

Motion: Trustee Patti Ringo to hire Spencer Kirkemo as a paraprofessional at \$14.00/hour not to exceed 40 hours/week for 190 full days (8 hours each day) and \$212.50/month flex (\$2125/year) as a Classroom Aide/Special Education Aide/Substitute Teacher/Lunchroom Supervisor/Crosswalk Duty/Secretary aide pending adequate fingerprint/background check.

Second: Trustee Mary Martin

Public Comment: None

For: Fleury, Martin, Paulson, Ringo, Schwieterman

Opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously

Consider 2020 Athletic Programs

Motion: Trustee Mary Martin to evaluate each athletic season individually throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

Second: Trustee Patti Ringo
Public Comment: Erica Clark
For: Fleury, Martin, Paulson, Ringo, Schwieterman
Opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously

Motion: Trustee Mary Martin to cancel the Fall 2020 volleyball season.
Second: Trustee Patti Ringo
Public Comment: Erica Clark
For: Fleury, Martin, Paulson, Ringo, Schwieterman
Opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously

Superintendent Keel noted that she will be exploring intramural volleyball options for grade-level cohorts and will bring a coaching hire recommendation to the Board in September.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Aaron Schwieterman adjourned the meeting at 6:17pm.



Aaron Schwieterman, Board Chair

Carrie Fisher, District Clerk

Paraprofessional Hire Recommendation

Motion: to hire Spencer Kirkemo at \$14.00/hour not to exceed 40 hours/week for 190 full days (8 hours each day) and \$212.50/month flex (\$2125/year) as a Classroom Aide/Special Education Aide/Substitute Teacher/Lunchroom Supervisor/Crosswalk Duty/Secretary aide pending adequate fingerprint/background check.

Classroom Aide/Substitute Teacher/Playground Supervisor/Secretary

\$14.00/hour not to exceed 40 hours/week for 190 full days (8 hours each day) and \$212.50/month flex (\$2125/year).

Background:

This recommendation will fill one of the paraprofessional vacancies at GGS..

Recommendation:

Spencer Kirkemo

Rationale:

- Mr. Kirkemo has a Bachelor of Arts in English from MSU
- He has substituted at Gallatin Gateway School since 2015
- He understands the expectations of Gallatin Gateway School as a paraprofessional and is excited to begin a chapter in his life that is connected to children

Athletics, Fall 2020

Superintendent Recommendation: To Cancel Volleyball and to evaluate each season separately.

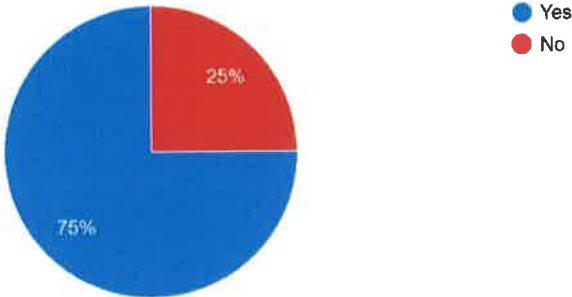
Rationale: This is a difficult recommendation to make. Our data from the survey below is inconclusive; however, I appreciate the passionate responses and all of the suggestions! I make this recommendation based on the current Gallatin County COVID-19 Positivity Rate (5.7%), the unknown that is facing our school with opening face-to-face, and the logic behind paralleling the decision by the Board to temporarily suspend the acceptance of Out-of-District Students. If we are not comfortable adding students to our cohorts in classrooms because of the additional exposure to more children, then we should not be comfortable with our athletes having additional exposure to more children. I appreciate the feedback about students playing softball and baseball this summer in clubs; however, those are outdoor sports, and the proximity of players really only occurs in the dug-outs. I would pursue intramural volleyball; however, they would be grade-level specific on different days of the week.

We are prepared to have Volleyball season – we have a coach who is waiting to see if we have a season before we hire. She would also be the Girls Basketball Coach. We do not have an assistant coach, yet. We would be following the MHSAA Guidelines, and would only play teams who follow those guidelines, as well. There are currently 4 games on the 7-8 schedule and 5 games on the 5-6 schedule.

Athletic Survey August 2020

Do you have a child or children who participate(s) in Athletics?

52 responses



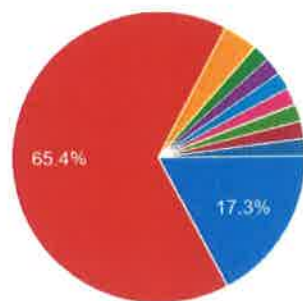
Are you in favor of moving forward with Volleyball season, knowing that, at most, they will play 4 or 5 games?

52 responses



Should we cancel Athletics for the year (as the other Rural districts have done), or should we take it one season at a time?

52 responses



- Cancel Athletics for the year
- Take Athletics one season at a time
- Good question! I guess I feel like the l...
- Don't cancel and let the beginners an...
- Keep athletics the way they were and...
- not applicable
- Even if they only practice and play ea...
- I realize it creates a huge burden on y...

1/2 ▼

Do you have any other questions, comments or suggestions regarding Athletics during this time of COVID?

No

No

Let them play and actually enjoy school, life and everything in between

Not at this time, thank you.

No

I value the opportunity for students to participate in school sports. However, I feel that at this time it is irresponsible to invite our students to play sports with others from around the county when our school is doing so much to avoid getting sick and sticking to strict chorts. Why would we break that? Also, it does not make sense to me that we would invite people not from our student body into our school, especially since we are not even inviting parents into the building except to volunteer in a very specific role. I would assume that the athletes would not be wearing masks because they would be "physically exerting" themselves, which again opens up for more possibility of transmission. One year without sports is doable for all.

No.

Not at this time.

If we're going back to school, let's get back to sports too. Make the necessary changes and get the kids playing again. Extracurricular activities like sports are great benefits of a school program

and enhance the academic experience. Don't give them up! I'm comfortable having my kids be around other kids at Gateway school and other schools in the area.

I feel it is still beneficial for the kids to have training in a sport even if they are not able to compete against outside teams.

Physical activity is important for the kids. It also gives out middle school kids more practice for future years that they may want to play in High School

I believe we should move forward with athletics as it is very important for students physical and mental health. Sports also teach individual and team confidence, integrity, team work, and foundation skills to further their careers in clubs, high school and beyond. Sports are also an outlet for kids to express themselves just as much as is art, choir, band, music etc. sports are a good thing for kids to be involved with all the way around.

We played baseball all summer against many teams from all over. Some in state and some out of state. We had no issues. If your going to cancel the sports programs cancel electives too and only do what is necessary.

Not at this time. I hope we do sports

I think we should worry about keeping our children safe, before we add athletics to their exposure.

Not having athletics for one year is not going to kill anyone, but increasing risks to COVID might. Why would you risk having athletics with other schools when you are working so hard to keep the students in the cohort model? And, you are not allowing visitors into the building, why would you bring an entire visiting team here or go there? If we had outdoor courts I might be more in favor. I know baseball and softball played all summer, but those sports are outdoors. Our teachers are making sacrifices to not have substitutes come into the building-- why would we invite more people? Also, the school is already managing so much, why would you add MORE to your plates? Our primary goal should be the school day-- athletics and afterschool program should be secondary to the regular school day. Furthermore, do we really want to play homeschool or the private schools only? are they even following covid guidelines? Aren't they going to be all the "anti-maskers"?

We need to do what's best for the kids education. While spots can be a wonderful addition they are by no means a priority in the middle of a pandemic, putting all kids at GGS at risk for the select few to play sports feels very irresponsible.

Kids /parents Expose themselves daily whether at work, gyms, or social outings. As much as people think we are not in protected "bubbles" and gateway students/parents are in clubs and are friendly with other districts children. If club athletics can take place with travel then school

athletics have no reason to not. Do not deprive the children of their childhood! Athletes and parents could sign waivers if its a liability issue but to not give the option to participate will be crushing to many students mental health.

You guys are amazing! Much, much appreciation for you all working your asses off trying to maket his year look somewhat normal for our kids!!!-

Can you just add more PE time? I know physical activity is important, but it does not seem like a good idea to mix the students.

Thank you for all you are doing for our kids! We are so blessed to have GGS staff!

Thankyou for always listening and considering our input 😊

I feel bad for the kids. They need physical activity and they have already missed out on so much already, but having athletics is not a good idea right now. One step at a time , it's just not time yet.

I understand the risks of the athletic program, but I believe that if we follow the MHSA and the CDC guidelines, the kids will get the outlet that their minds and bodies are craving. I don't want to give up on our kids during this pandemic!

I think one parent of each player should be able to watch if wearing masks and hands washed. Especially for away games.

Not at this time

Not at this point

Could our school run an intramural program for at least some sports so that all the teams would be made up of students from GGS? Teams could be mixed grade levels or experience levels. At least the kids could play and learn the sports and not totally miss out.

We are all taking a risk starting with in-person instruction-- it is too early to tell how the entire valley returning to school is going to affect the infection rates. I think Volleyball should not happen when we are just now starting the year-- seems too risky with too many unknowns. Please consider not doing volleyball this year and at the minimum consider each season based on infection rates, but I would be in favor of cancelling all indoor athletic events. Track would be the only sport would be in favor of this year since it can be held outdoors and hopefully we will have more research by Spring.

Nobe

Perhaps some intramural type sports can be set up to keep the kids active and learning about sports. We would be particularly interested in basketball but would really consider anything for our two boys.

Sports are so important! It is no different if the kids parents go to the gym, etc. -they're already exposed! Let's normalize this year as much as possible! For my son, this is such an important outlet-emotionally and physically!!!!