

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 37

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 22, 2026

Call to Order

At 6:02 PM, the meeting of the Gavin School Board of Education was called to order on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, by President Miller

Roll Call

Present

Mr. James Miller, III - President
Mrs. Amber Sederstrom - Vice President
Mrs. Sarah Brezinski - Secretary
Mrs. Brandy Barth
Mrs. Kristin Bloniarczyk
Mrs. Bridgett Payseur

Absent

Ms. Jenny Meyer

Also Present - Dr. Scott Schwartz, Mrs. Diana Miletich Wester, Dr. Meagan Dwyer, Mr. Jason Jurgaitis, Mrs. Carol Bennett, and Mrs. Deanna Kelly

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board and audience stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens Wishing to Address the Board

No citizens requested to address the Board at this time.

Approval, To Appoint Bridgett Payseur as a Member of the Gavin 37 School Board of Education to Fill a 1 Year Vacancy Due to a Resignation

The Board considered the appointment of Bridgett Payseur to fill the vacancy left by a previous resignation for a one-year term.

Motion to approve the appointment of Bridget Payseur as a member of the Gavin 37 School Board of Education.

Mrs. Sederstrom made a motion to approve and Mrs. Bloniarczyk seconded approval of the consent agenda

Roll Call Vote:

- Aye: Miller, Sederstrom, Brezinski, Barth, Bloniarczyk
- Nays: None
- Absent: Meyer

Motion carried

Administer Oath of Office to Newly Appointed Board Member, Bridgett Payseur

Bridgett Payseur was sworn in, reciting the official oath to faithfully discharge duties in accordance with the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions.

Academic Spotlight

Recognition of Central Leaders of the Month and South Students of the Month.

Teacher Presentation - Special Education Team - Mobility Trip

The Special Education team presented a recent mobility trip, highlighting how it helped students develop practical life skills like using public transportation and navigating social interactions. Board members celebrated long-term educational impact, and staff reported increased confidence among participants.

Committee Reports

Finance and Facilities Committee: The administration and Board of Education are engaged in conversations around two funding options for Board consideration: a life safety bond OR a tax limiting rate increase. **A life safety bond** would provide dedicated funding for major facility upgrades such as fire panels, bathroom renovations, and boilers without impacting the operating budget. For a median home valued at \$231,000, the recommended \$4 million bond would cost \$132 per year on a ten-year loan or \$244 per year on a five-year loan. **The tax limiting rate** increase would allow us to offer more competitive wages compared to neighboring districts, which is important as we work to attract and retain high quality staff for our students during an ongoing staffing shortage.

The district would not pursue both of these options simultaneously. The district will receive information about the potential tax impact on homeowners for the tax limiting rate increase option in early June. A Committee of the Whole meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 10th to review that data before the Board of Education makes any decisions.

Policy Committee: The Policy Committee met and reviewed new PRESS policy updates.

Discussion, SEL Update

Dr. Dwyer presented an update on the Gavin South SEL plans for 2026-2027 and beyond. A committee of teachers and staff reviewed a few programs/resources, visited schools to make observations, and chose to pursue the Franklin Covey Leader in Me program. A committee of teachers will now make recommendations about training, professional development, and overall preparedness to implement in 2027-2028.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Schwartz provided updates on district operations, enrollment, and upcoming end-of-year events.

Board President's Report

President Miller discussed that he, Dr. Schwartz, Dr. Dwyer, and a few Board members attended the Lake Division meeting on April 7th.

Citizens Wishing to Address the Board

No citizens requested to address the Board at this time.

Approval, Consent Agenda

- Open/Closed session Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on March 18, 2026
- Open/Closed session Minutes of the Special Board Meeting on April 6, 2026
- Board Bills of March 2026
- Imprest Bills for Payment
- Summary of Bills over \$2,500
- Financial Reports

Mrs. Blonarczyk made a motion to approve and Mrs. Sederstrom seconded approval of the consent agenda

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Miller, Sederstrom, Brezinski, Barth, Blonarczyk
- Nays: None
- Abstained: Payseur
- Absent: Meyer

Motion carried

Approval, Personnel Report of 04/20/2026

Mr. Miller made a motion to approve and Mrs. Barth seconded approval of personnel report of April 20, 2026.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Miller, Sederstrom, Brezinski, Barth, Bloniarczyk
- Nays: None
- Abstained: Payseur
- Absent: Meyer

Motion carried

Approval, Intergovernmental Agreement for Instructional Placement Services

Mrs. Bloniarczyk made a motion to approve and Mrs. Sederstrom seconded approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Miller, Sederstrom, Brezinski, Barth, Bloniarczyk
- Nays: None
- Abstained: Payseur
- Absent: Meyer

Motion carried

Approval, Resolution regarding retailers' occupation tax and service occupation tax

Mrs. Sederstrom made a motion to approve and Mrs. Bloniarczyk seconded approval of the Resolution for the general election on November 3, 2026.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Miller, Sederstrom, Brezinski, Barth, Bloniarczyk
- Nays: None
- Abstained: Payseur
- Absent: Meyer

Motion carried

Approval, South Cafeteria Furniture

Mrs. Bloniarczyk made a motion to approve and Mrs. Barth seconded approval for the purchase of South cafeteria furniture.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Miller, Sederstrom, Brezinski, Barth, Bloniarczyk
- Nays: None
- Abstained: Payseur
- Absent: Meyer

Motion carried

Approval, Audit - 3 Year Contract

Mrs. Sederstrom made a motion to approve and Mrs. Barth seconded approval of the 3-Year Audit Contract.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Miller, Sederstrom, Brezinski, Barth, Bloniarczyk
- Nays: None

- Abstained: Payseur
- Absent: Meyer

Motion carried

Approval, Consolidated District Plan

Mrs. Sederstrom made a motion to approve and Mrs. Barth seconded approval of the Consolidated District Plan.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Miller, Sederstrom, Brezinski, Barth, Bloniarczyk
- Nays: None
- Abstained: Payseur
- Absent: Meyer

Motion carried

Approval, First Reading of PRESS ISSUE 121

Mrs. Bloniarczyk made a motion to approve and Mrs. Barth seconded approval of First Reading of PRESS ISSUE 121.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes: Miller, Sederstrom, Brezinski, Barth, Bloniarczyk
- Nays: None
- Abstained: Payseur
- Absent: Meyer

Motion carried

Freedom of Information Requests Status

We received seven (7) Freedom of Information Requests since the last Board of Education meeting.

From: Sheri Reid, Data SmartProcure
 Received on: March 15, 2026
 Request: Purchasing Records
 Response Sent: March 18, 2026

From: CT Mills, Public Info Access LLC
 Received on: March 18, 2026
 Request: Employee Records
 Response Sent: March 26, 2026

From: Justin Wenig, starbridgefoiahub.com
 Received on: March 31, 2026
 Request: Purchase Orders and Payment Records
 Response Sent: March 31, 2026

From: Carla Carlos, Employee Research Data LLC
 Received on: April 3, 2026
 Request: Information for District Employees
 Response Sent: April 6, 2026

From: Jules Goonewardena, Lake County Gazette
 Received on: April 9, 2026
 Request: Emails sent or received that reference "Steve Lefko"
 Response Sent: April 10, 2026

From: Michael Henry, live.com
Received on: April 13, 2026
Request: Information about law firms providing legal services
Response Sent: April 17, 2026

From: Owen Wang, Lake County Gazette
Received on: April 17, 2026
Request: Religious accommodations and records
Response Sent: April 20, 2026

Board Calendar Upcoming Events

Upcoming events on the Board calendar were reviewed.

Items for Future Agendas

None

Approval, To enter closed session

Mrs. Sederstrom made a motion to approve and Mrs. Barth seconded approval to enter closed session pursuant to [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)] at 7:37 PM.

Approval to re-enter open session

Mrs. Barth made a motion to approve and Mrs. Sederstrom seconded approval to re-enter open session at 8:45 PM.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 8:46 PM

Mrs. Sederstrom made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mrs. Barth seconded approval to adjourn at 8:46 PM

Respectfully submitted by:

Deanna Kelly
Recording Secretary

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Board President

Board Secretary