

*Georgia Board of School Directors
May 5, 2009 at 6pm
Georgia School Library
Regular Meeting*

Agenda

- I. *Call to Order*
- II. *Public Comment*
- III. *Consent Agenda*
 - *Minutes: 3/3/09 (Special Mtg), 4/7/09 (Regular Mtg)*
 - *Reports: Principal, Financial*
 - *Correspondence*
- IV. *Board Business*
- V. *Policy Review*
 - *Staffing & Job Descriptions Policy – **Action***
 - *Personnel Files Policy – **Action***
 - *Volunteers & Work Study Students Policy – **Action***
 - *Limited English Proficiency Policy – *1st Reading**
- VI. *Other*
- VII. *Executive Session (Personnel)*
- VIII. *Upcoming Meetings*
 - A. **Regular Meeting:** June 2nd at 6pm at Georgia School Library
 - B. **No Regular Meeting in July**
 - C. **FWSU Board Quarterly Meeting:** May 27th at 7pm at Fairfax Community Library
 - D. **Annual Board Retreat:** TBD
- IX. *Adjourn*

Georgia Elementary/Middle School Goals

- *To create a committee structure that actively supports the priorities and objectives of the School Board.*
- *To continue to a budgeting process that provides for educational programs and supports the School Action Plan.*
- *To encourage and facilitate communication with Georgia Town Committees and Town Offices.*

**2009 GEORGIA ANNUAL TOWN & TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
MARCH 3, 2009**

Moderator Carolyn Branagan officially opened and welcomed everyone to the 2009 Annual Town and School Meeting. Pastor Henry James from the Georgia Methodist Church gave the invocation. Presentation of the flag and Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Georgia Wolf Scouts and Boy Scouts.

The following people/groups made announcements:

1. Ken Minck announced that the Town of Georgia website now has a calendar feature that allows people to see upcoming events and meetings. Secondly, the Conservation Commission is publishing a newsletter that people can receive. Sign up is available at the Conservation Commission table.
2. The Moderator announced that Ken Minck and Jeff Gratton would be making cordless mikes available to anyone wishing to speak.
3. The Moderator mentioned the organizations that have set up tables at Town Meeting, which include Harrison Wind Farm, Georgia Historical Society (promoting the new book being written on Georgia Military Veterans), Success by Six, Georgia Plains Baptist Youth Center, Georgia Fire Department, Georgia Conservation Committee. Several handouts are available to pick up, including the Doyle poll, updates from the Georgia Representatives, information on the burn clean program, Georgia Industrial Development Corporation and Northwest Solid Waste Management District.

The Moderator reviewed procedures and laws for Town Meeting and Australian balloting and read the Town Meeting Warning.

Article 1. To elect all town officers as required by Australian Ballot.

No discussion – Australian Ballot

Article 2. To act on the reports submitted by several town officers.

The Moderator listed the following reports for action; Selectboard Reports on pages 37 – 39, Auditor report page 4 and Treasurer’s reports pages 7 – 26.

Carl Rosenquist made the motion to approve all three sets of reports as submitted, seconded by Patrick Warn.

Hearing no discussion, the vote was called. The yes votes were unanimous, the motion carried.

Article 3. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of taxes for the ensuing year for their current expenses.

Patrick Warn moved the question, seconded by Casey Hager.

Ken Minck asked approximately how much money has been borrowed in past years.

Kirk Waite answered historically the Board has borrowed up to \$500,000. Last year the Town did not have to borrow and the Board doesn't anticipate borrowing money this year.

Ken Minck asked if the town can borrow from itself using reserve funds and then pay them back.

Kirk stated yes, that is an option the Selectboard has and they have done that in the past and anticipate doing it again this year.

Everest Aiken asked, if the tax rate is effectively set for the year to cover expenses, why does the town have to borrow money.

Kirk Waite explained that the town is on a fiscal year (January to December) and taxes collected in October have to cover the fiscal year. Taxes collected this year in October will have to cover budgets from January 1st of this year through December 31st.

Gilles Messier asked why the town doesn't collect taxes on a quarterly basis.

Kirk Waite stated this issue has been discussed by the Selectboard and Treasurer. What was discovered at these meeting is that it would cost more money (administratively) to bill several times a year as opposed to borrowing money from reserve funds to cover town expenses until the October taxes are collected.

The vote was called, it was a vote in the affirmative, the article was passed.

Article 4. To see if the Town will set October 15, 2009 (Thursday) as the date for the payment of taxes.

Dian Duranleau moved the question, seconded by Shirley Aiken.

Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and the article was passed unanimously.

**Article 5. To vote a budget to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town, and authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide same.
By Ballot**

Kirk Waite made the motion to approve a Town Budget of \$1,866,412.00, seconded by Patrick Warn.

Ken Minck asked if amendments to the motion have to be voted on paper ballots.

The Moderator stated they can be voted by ballot upon the request of seven voters. Otherwise, they are voted by voice.

Patrick Warn asked if the Selectboard could give a brief overview of their budget.

Kirk Waite referred people to the budget located on pages 27 through 35 in the Town Report. He stated that the Board worked very diligently to come up with essentially a flat line budget. The Board worked with each department in order to accomplish this goal.

Carl Rosenquist commended the Selectboard on their hard work in coming up with a budget that is actually slightly lower than last year's budget. The assembly agreed with a round of applause.

Suzanna Brown made a motion to amend the Library budget on page 28 by \$1000. The Library did not get the grant they anticipated for 2009 but it is still listed in the budget and she asked to have it removed.

Kirk Waite explained that there was a grant anticipated on the income side and an expenditure on the expense side, so it is actually a wash and does not affect the bottom line of the budget.

Suzanna withdrew her motion.

Ken Minck stated that he had reviewed the town's blacktop budget and it has been decreased from last year by approximately \$14,000.00. He made the motion to increase the blacktop budget by \$14,000.00. He also made the motion to increase the drainage maintenance budget by \$20,000.00, as there is a culvert on Mill River Road that needs major work.

The Moderator asked Ken to make only one motion at a time.

Ken moved to raise the paving/blacktop budget located on page 33 by \$16,373.00, seconded by Dian Duranleau. This would bring the budget line up to \$196,373.00.

Kirk Waite appreciated the thought behind this motion but the Selectboard worked extensively with the Road Commissioner and Road Foreman to put together a budget that would meet the needs of the Highway Department for 2009. They also had to look at the reduction of state aid to highways and with all things considered they felt the \$180,000.00 blacktop budget can meet the town's needs for paving in 2009.

Alice Sturgeon asked if the late repair of some roads in town last year had to do with scheduling or funds available.

The Moderator stated that an amendment to the paving budget is now on the floor and only questions regarding paving should be discussed at this time.

Alice Sturgeon stated that this question has to do with both paving and maintenance. Specifically she spoke about a portion of Middle Road and Cline Road.

Kirk Waite stated that the town replaced a culvert on Middle Road and did not patch over the repair as the road was scheduled for repaving. The Selectboard did have a problem with getting the paving company scheduled to do the work. He could not speak to the problem on Cline Road but the Selectboard could look into it.

Norm Gosselin stated that the area he believes Alice Sturgeon is speaking about is just south of Kirker Drive. There is a culvert that is coming through the road and some patchwork has been done but more extensive work needs to be done.

The Moderator stated that right now discussion should be only on paving. She asked Norm to bring up his issue after this amendment is voted on.

Dian Duranleau asked if the website could list the paving schedule so people could see what roads are being done at what time.

The Moderator thanked Dian for the suggestion.

Carl Rosenquist felt this amendment should not be voted for the reasons stated by Kirk Waite. The Selectboard was very diligent in creating their budget and in these economic times he felt that the budget should stay as it is.

Ann Marie Lowe asked if the portion of Georgia Shore Road that is not paved is scheduled to be paved this year and if so, when.

Kirk Waite stated that the town has started the process of addressing this portion of Georgia Shore. Some culverts needed to be replaced before paving can be done and that work has been completed. This project is high on the Selectboard's priority list. However, they do not have any specific dates. This is a class 2 road and the Selectboard is hoping to get a class 2 paving grant to help with the project.

Dian Duranleau felt this is the perfect time to discuss all road issues as they have already heard from two people who each have specific issues they want to discuss.

A vote on the amendment to increase the paving line item budget to \$196,373.00 was called. The amendment was defeated.

The Moderator opened the floor for discussion on road drainage issues to coincide with Ken Minck's second amendment to the culvert line item in the budget.

Norm Gosselin asked if the Selectboard was waiting for stimulus money to help cover repair of the culvert on Cline Road.

Kirk Waite stated no, the grant he was speaking of is a Class 2 Paving grant from the State to address Georgia Shore Road. In terms of the Cline Road culvert, the Road Foreman is aware of the situation and it cannot be repaired until the ground thaws. Cline Road is not scheduled for repaving in 2009.

Ken Minck stated that on the Georgia Shore Road where Mill River intersects, there is a bank area that went into the Mill River. He felt that the town should put some specific money into repairing this damage and he made the motion to increase the highway department drainage maintenance line located on page 33 of the Town Report by \$25,000.00 and he would like to see this money go specifically into fixing this problem.

The Moderator stated that State law allows the Selectboard quite a bit of leeway into how they spend money in their budget. A voter can suggest that they spend the money on a specific thing but they cannot be directed to do so.

The Moderator stated that with the increase moved by Ken Minck, the total budget would be (if the motion passes) \$31,000.00.

Dian Duranleau seconded Ken Minck's motion to amend the budget.

Kirk Waite stated that the Selectboard is aware of this situation and that \$25,000.00 would not be enough to correct the problem. The Board does not have a firm estimate of the repair costs but the gross estimate is around \$50,000.00. It is going to require special work that the town doesn't have equipment for and the bank will need to be stabilized correctly. The Board has put some money into the budget and is hopeful that they can acquire a hazardous mitigation matching grant. He reiterated that the Selectboard is aware that this problem needs to be addressed.

The motion to amend the budget was called. The motion failed, the amendment was defeated.

The motion to approve a town budget of \$1,866,412.00 was stated again by the Moderator and she asked if there were any other comments, questions or suggestions.

Irene Bonin asked for clarification of how the Selectboard comes up with their total budget listed on page 35 of the Town Report.

Kirk Waite reported that cash on hand is what is left over in the budget at the end of the calendar year. Taxes are one way the town collects revenue. The town also collects other revenues (listed on page 27 & 28). If those are added up along with the cash on hand and the amount raised by taxes it comes up to the total budget.

Irene Bonin suggested showing that line in the report in future years.

Kirk Waite thanked Irene for her suggestion.

Suzanna Brown made the motion to amend the budget to add \$300.00 for Green Up Vermont to appear under appropriations.

Kirk Waite reported that appropriation is in the budget already on page 31 under solid waste management.

Suzanna Brown asked if there is a reason why it can't be listed under Green Up Vermont. She stated that she has checked with Green Up Vermont and they do not always receive their money.

Treasurer Amber Baker stated that Green Up Vermont has been paid already for 2009. Traditionally they get paid in October (last year's was paid as well). She told Suzanna she would email her proof of the checks being written and being cashed.

Suzanna Brown requested again that the Selectboard put Green Up Vermont in the budget so it can be easily be spotted by people looking for it.

Kirk Waite stated they would take a look at the issue and see what the best way is to handle it.

Ballot Results:

Voters checked in to vote by paper ballot:	126
Paper ballots actually voted:	111
Votes needed for choice	56
Yes votes	104
No Votes	7

The budget was approved.

Article 6. To elect one Director to the Georgia Industrial Development Corporation, for a period of three years.

Carl Rosenquist nominated Chris Mitiguy for a three year term, seconded by Doug Bergstrom. Hearing no other nominations, the clerk cast one ballot to elect Chris Mitiguy to the Georgia Industrial Development Corporation for a three year term.

Article 7. Shall the Town of Georgia vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$2,500.00 for the support of the St. Albans Watershed Association 2009 Annual Weed Harvesting Program for Lake Champlain to provide services to residents of the Town.

Dan Harvey made the motion to approve this article, seconded by Suzanna Brown.

Peter Rath, a St. Albans Town resident, was allowed to speak on behalf of this article. Mr. Rath spoke about the continuing problem with weeds in Lake Champlain. He stated that last year the St. Albans Watershed Association purchased a weed

harvester and the hope is that a commitment from the Town of Georgia by way of this appropriation would help in the effort to control the weed population in Lake Champlain. He would be available to anyone who has further questions regarding the program.

Karen Brigham asked if the Association would do weed harvesting in Georgia as well as St. Albans Town this year if the article is passed.

Peter Rath stated that the intent is to extend the weed harvesting operation if the article is approved.

Dian Duranleau felt the town should support this article.

George Bilodeau stated he was in favor of this article and asked the town to support it.

Carl Rosenquest asked if this money is included in the budget.

Kirk Waite stated this is not included in the current budget. The Association submitted a petition with signatures of 5% of the legal voters in town. The Selectboard's policy is that if a petition is submitted with the required number of signatures and it is so voted at town meeting, the appropriation is put into the budget for future years.

The vote was called, it was voted in the affirmative, the article passed.

Article 8. Shall the Town of Georgia vote to approve an increase of the Veteran's Property Tax Exemption amount from \$10,000 to \$40,000 of appraised value, as provided in 32 V.S.A.

Joan Bates made the motion to approve this article, seconded by Irene Bonin.

Joan Bates asked for an explanation of this article.

The Moderator briefly explained that if this article passes it will allow veterans to get an increase in the amount of exemption they can claim on their property. State law already allows an exemption of \$10,000 but this would increase to \$40,000. This gives veterans a small break on their property taxes.

Colin Conger explained that to qualify for this exemption the veterans need to be at least 50% or more disabled. Currently there are only 15 veterans in the Town of Georgia that qualify for this exemption. If you owned a property in Georgia that is appraised at \$250,000, this would cost you \$2.84 in taxes. He felt that \$2.84 is a small price to pay in support of our disabled veterans for their service to our country and he strongly suggested that people support this article. He made the motion to add the word "disabled" to the article for clarification.

Carl Rosenquist seconded the amendment.

Joan Bates asked to amend Colin's amendment to state "50% disabled" veterans.

The Moderator stated that was discussed prior to this meeting and it is not needed, as State law only allows veterans who are 50% disabled or more to qualify for the exemption.

Suzanna Brown did not feel the amendment now on the floor was necessary.

Colin Conger agreed with Suzanna, but wanted the wording changed anyway to make it clearer.

The vote was taken on the amendment and it was voted in the affirmative.

Suzanna Brown stated that on page 40 of the Town Report a veteran who was listed to receive the exception is listed as a non-resident and she asked how he could qualify.

Colin Conger was unsure but stated that the Selectboard would research the issue.

The amended article was passed unanimously.

Article 9. To do any other non-binding business that may come before said meeting.

1. Colin Conger updated the assembly on the progress of the Georgia Youth Center being built in Georgia Plains. They broke ground on the project in August of 2008 and they are hoping to open in April of this year. They have raised approximately \$130,000 to build this and are hoping to raise the additional \$20,000 required for completion.
2. Colin Conger brought to the assembly's attention the sketches put together for facilities upgrades for the Town of Georgia. In 2005, a committee called the MEC met to look at all the future needs of the Town of Georgia. A couple of years later, the Selectboard requested a grant to do a follow up study. The grant money was spent to do that study and the sketches and plans were created. The Board was considering having informational meetings and perhaps asking for a bond vote to start construction on new facilities. However, because of the economic times, the Board decided to wait until sometime in the future. He briefly explained what the sketches and plans entailed and he suggested people take a look. He stated that the Selectboard will be having upcoming meetings asking for input from the public.
3. Kirk Waite took the opportunity on behalf of the Selectboard to thank all town employees, elected officials, appointed officials and volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the Town of Georgia.
4. Kirk Waite stated that he had a discussion with Doug Bergstrom, Chair of the School Board, regarding the format of Town Meeting. Based on a change in state law, school budgets can now be discussed at Town Meeting. Because of this both the Selectboard and School Board wanted to ask the voters if they were in favor of changing the order of Town Meeting every other year. One year the town

would go first and the next year the school would go first. He asked the voters present how they felt about this idea.

The Moderator asked, by a show of hands, how many people would be in favor of changing the order of Town Meeting from year to year.

The vote was split.

5. The Moderator announced that Lt. Evans from the Vermont State Police was present earlier to answer questions but has since left. The Moderator suggested that if anyone had questions for Lt. Evans they could call the St. Albans Barracks.
6. A group of students from BFA Fairfax were present to observe Town Meeting and were acknowledged by the assembly.
7. The Moderator stated that she has been coming to Town Meetings since the middle 1960's and she could not remember a Town Meeting when Peter and Frances Mallett were not present. They were not present today because of health issues and she encouraged people to send them well wishes.
8. Carl Rosenquist reminded people that the annual Memorial Day Parade is coming up on May 30th. Anyone wanting to participate in the parade can contact Olive Gilmond.
9. Ken Minck wanted to know what the procedure would be to change Town Meeting to a Saturday. He was in favor of this idea.

The Moderator stated that a petition would need to be submitted to the Selectboard with 5% of the legal voters. The Selectboard would then put the question on the Town Meeting Warning for a vote. Any article to be included on the Town Warning requires 5% of the legal voters and is submitted to the Selectboard by mid January.

10. Everest Aiken stated that he did not like the quality of this year's town report.
11. Gilles Messier asked how many signatures would 5% of the legal voters entail. Kirk Waite answered approximately 130.
12. George Bilodeau and Gail Wolff stated that this year's Fall Fest will be held on September 12 at the Georgia Beach. Gail also stated that the Recreation Committee needs members and she encouraged people to become active on the committee. She thanked all volunteers for their continued help.
13. Chris Gonyeau announced the winner of the Fire Department's 50-50 raffle. The winner was Irene Bonin.
14. Tim Maple spoke about the public transportation now coming into Georgia that is provided by CCTA. He asked what it would take to get the bus to stop at Georgia in the morning.

The Moderator stated that the town has no control over the bus service. The Selectboard would talk with CCTA to try to assist with the request if Mr. Maple wanted to coordinate that.

Article 10. To adjourn Town Meeting and enter into Town School District Meeting.

Casey Hager made the motion to pass this article, seconded by Shirley Aiken. It was so voted, the time was 12:05pm.

In between the Town and School meeting Representative Gary Gilbert gave a brief legislative report.

2009 ANNUAL TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

Article I. To elect a moderator for the School District Annual Meeting.
By Australian Ballot

Article 2. To elect from the legal voters of said school district the following School Directors:

School Director for three year term

By Australian Ballot

School Director for one year term

By Australian Ballot

School Director for one year term

By Australian Ballot

Article 3. Shall the voters of said School District appropriate \$11,947,568 necessary for the support of its schools for the year beginning July 1, 2009?

Don Anderson spoke, stating that he has been a teacher in Vermont schools for over 18 years and he encouraged the voters to pass the budget as submitted.

Alice Sturgeon asked if this year's budget includes going to a single bus runs.

Doug Bergstrom stated yes, single bus runs are included in this year's budget. The reason for this change is to reduce the amount of money spent on gas and to help prevent wear on town roads. Other schools in the area are going to longer school days and by changing to a single bus run Georgia will have this option as well.

Alice Sturgeon asked if this budget includes full time kindergarten.

Doug Bergstrom answered yes. There will still be one session that will be part of a day for parents who do not want their children to do the full day.

Ken Minck commended the School Board for going to the single bus system and he supported this change.

Article 4. Shall the voters of said school district authorize the school directors to borrow money for school expenses in anticipation of revenue for the ensuing year?

Dan Harvey made the motion to approve this article, seconded by Christine Orellana.

Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken. It was so voted unanimously, the article was passed.

Article 5. To approve reports of School Directors from the previous year.

Dan Harvey made the motion to approve this article, seconded by Alice Sturgeon.

The School reports are on pages 66-107, the Superintendents reports are on pages 108-110.

Hearing no comments or questions, it was so voted in the affirmative.

Bruce Chapman, the new Superintendent, was introduced and spoke briefly to the assembly.

Article 6. To conduct any other legal business to come before said meeting.

Irene Bonin announced that there would be a community forum Thursday, March 12 and it will be open to all community members. She briefly spoke about subjects that would be discussed and she encouraged people to attend.

Article 9. To adjourn.

Dan Harvey made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:26pm, seconded by Amber Baker. It was so voted, the meeting was adjourned.

Total Voters signed in for Australian Ballots (Town Meeting)

Results of Australian Balloting Total Voters signed in/ballots counted 629

For Town Moderator (1 position open)

Carolyn Branagan 582

For Selectperson for 3 Years (1 position open)

Kirk Waite 519

For Selectperson for 1 Year (2 positions open)

Colin Conger 531

Tara Wright 509

For First Constable (1 position open)

Kevin Webster 560

For Second Constable (1 position open)

Michael R. McCarthy 551

For Auditor for 3 Years (1 position open)

Natalie Duffy 546

For Lister for 3 Years (1 position open)

Blank Votes 597

No one received the required number of write in
Votes to be elected, leaving the position vacant

For Lister for 2 Year (1 position open)

Blank Votes 616

No one received the required number of write in
Votes to be elected, leaving the position vacant

For Lister for 1 Year (1 position open)

Blank Votes 615

No one received the required number of write in
Votes to be elected, leaving the position vacant

For Library Trustee for 3 Years (1 position open)

Maddalena Michetti 530

For Library Trustee for 1 Year (2 positions open)

Kate Barnes 522

Judy Welna 552

For Grand Juror for 1 Year (1 position open)

Ryan L. McCarthy 541

For Town Agent for 1 Year (1 position open)

Ryan L. McCarthy 534

For Planning Commissioner for 4 Years (2 positions open)

Paul Jansen 526

Becky White 522

For School Moderator for 1 Year (1 position open)

Carolyn Branagan 571

For School Director for 3 Years (1 position open)

Irene Bonin 541

For School Director for 1 Year (2 positions open)

Matt Crepeau 333

Heather Grimm	263
Casey M. Hager	155
Carl Laroe	311

Article 3 (School Budget)

Yes	326
No	288

Respectfully Submitted, Laurie K. Broe, Town Clerk	Carolyn Branagan, Moderator	Kirk Waite, Selectboard Chair
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Georgia Board of School Directors
April 7, 2009 at Georgia School Library
Regular Meeting at 6:00 PM
MINUTES

Board Present: Jennifer Petrie, Carl Laroe, Matt Crepeau, Irene Bonin

Administrators: Bruce Chattman, Frank Calano, Flora Hurteau

Others: Mary Lynn Riggs

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM

II. Recognition of Past Board Member - Jennifer Petrie presented Casey Hager with a token of appreciation for serving on the School Board.

III. Public Comment - None

IV. Consent Agenda

- **Minutes: 3/3/09 (Special Meeting), 3/10/09 (Regular Meeting)**
- **Reports: Principal, Superintendent**
- **Correspondence**

***ACTION:** Motion by Matt Crepeau to approve the 8th Grade Field Trip to Montreal on June 9, 2009, seconded by Irene Bonin, approved unanimously.*

***ACTION:** Motion by Irene Bonin to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Matt Crepeau, approved unanimously.*

V. Board Business

- **Community Forum Recap** – Irene Bonin reported about the Community Forum. There have been follow up meetings. The committee is working on a tight schedule and will present to the Board an outline to work from in forming a plan. Irene is hoping that the Strategic Committee will present to the Board in June.
- **Authorize Payment of BFA St. Albans Tuition Bill** – Doug and Bruce met with the Board at BFA St. Albans to discuss the tuition bill. They discussed the potential of losing students because of the cost and busing issues.
***ACTION:** Motion by Irene Bonin to authorize payment to BFA St. Albans of the Tuition Bill, seconded by Matt Crepeau, approved unanimously.*
- **NECAP/AYP Presentation** – Mary Lynn Riggs was present to discuss the NECAP/AYP (adequate yearly progress) results. The results for Georgia are impressive. There are a number of students that exceed the standards in reading, math and writing. In most cases, Georgia has exceeded state averages. There are additional subgroups, students with disabilities/students who receive reduce/free lunches, and they have fallen below the state averages. Overall, Georgia exceeds the standards.

VI. Policy Review

- **Role of Policy**
- **Policy Development & Adoption**
- **Policy Dissemination, Administration & Review**

ACTION: Motion by Irene Bonin to approve the Role of Policy; Policy Development and Adoption; and Dissemination, Administration and Review Policy policies, seconded by Carl Laroe, approved unanimously.

- **Staffing & Job Descriptions – 1st Reading** – Bruce discussed recommended changes.
- **Personnel Files Policy – 1st Reading** – Bruce discussed the changes.
- **Volunteers & Work Study Students Policy – 1st Reading** – Bruce presented a model policy regarding a new law as a result of the death of Brooke Bennett. This policy requires volunteers and work study students to be subjected to a record check.

VII. Other – Frank would like 8th grade graduation to be held on June 12. The last day of school for all other students would be June 15, half day. Through a parent and staff survey, the new school day will be 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM.

VIII. Executive Session (Personnel) -

Entered Executive Session at 7:20PM

Action: Motion by Carl Laroe to approve two leaves without pay as discussed in Executive Session and direct the Principal/Superintendent to bring more information on the third request to the next GEMS Board meeting and it will be considered at that time; seconded by Matt Crepeau, approve unanimously.

Exited Executive Session at 7:28PM

IX. Upcoming Meetings

- **Regular Meeting:** May 7th at 6PM at Georgia School Library