

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2014

**Library
7:30 P.M.**

(A PORTION OF THIS MEETING MAY BE HELD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION)

I. OPENING OF MEETING

BLANDFORD
Michele Crane
Jim Kronholm

CHESTER
Shirley Winer
Martha Otterbeck

HUNTINGTON
William Hathaway
Jeff Wyand

MIDDLEFIELD
Sarah Foley

MONTGOMERY
Anne Marie Buikus
Sandra Haas

RUSSELL
Ellen Hirtle
Ruth Kennedy

WORTHINGTON
Sue Levreault

SECRETARY
Stacy Stewart

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION
Dr. David B. Hopson, Superintendent
Stephanie Fisk, Business & Finance

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Amy Fouracre, Chs, Lit, MS Assistant Principal
Joanne Blocker, Director of Academics
Megan Coburn, Chs, Lit, MS Principal
Jason Finnie, High, Jr. High School Principal
Wendy Long, District Grant Writer
Alice Taverna, Pupil Services Director

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: _____

7:35 p.m. II. PUBLIC INPUT FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

- Mrs. Buikus opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m. She will be chairing the meeting tonight.
- Peter Francis from the Republican will be recording the meeting.
- Tony Vanworkhoven from Blandford just came from the meeting in Stanton Hall to discuss issues related to the potential withdrawal of Worthington. This committee has not taken a position, and you are the representatives representing the interest of the towns and the school district and it seems important from both perspectives as individuals and the committee as a whole to take a stand.
- Mrs. Buikus said it has been addressed and will be on the agenda.
- Mr. Langmore said it was passed off to the towns to vote on. School committee should take a vote to suspend the rules and take a stand yes or no, it is important to the towns. It is his understanding that the Worthington withdrawal was put on and then taken off the agenda by the chair.
- Mrs. Buikus said the committee members should all talk to their towns and discuss things. If we take a vote tonight, you won't be discussing it properly.
- Mr. Langmore asked why the subject has not been discussed properly.
- Mrs. Buikus said it will be addressed on January, 22 under old business.
- Mrs. Crane thanked them for coming. In September we voted to suspend the rules to to take a stand and the vote came down to 7 yeas, 4 nays, and 2 abstentions only to be voted down. We failed to do it as a group. She wanted the board to take a stand. It is really late, although she thinks we should still try for it. She doesn't understand how there could be members who abstained. It was abysmal on behalf of this committee.
- Mrs. Kennedy said we voted once to send it to the towns. Any further discussion should wait till January 22 meeting.
- Mr. Kronholm said it doesn't really make much difference if it is on this meeting or January 22.

- Mr. Langmore said the towns have already voted against it. You as a committee have not voted for or against it. There were very important issues brought up. It might be too late. Something has to be done. How many of you have called your legislators. He recommends people call and speak with their legislators. He has a list of all of them.
- Mrs. Buikus asked if Mr. Langmore would give us the list.
- Mrs. Winer asked what difference does it make if we take a stance.
- Dr. Hopson said the reason he asked for it to be put on the agenda is because if the school committee won't take a stand neither MASC nor MASS will take a stand. We have limited our support.
- Mrs. Buikus said if something is forced, rash decisions are made.
- Mrs. Kennedy said this is also a legislative matter and we have no authority. We cannot make law. It is a home rule going through the legislature.
- Tony Vanworkhoven said Dr. Hopson cannot comment to anyone for or against and he cannot say where the school committee stands. The cost of Worthington to leave is a significant impact to the other towns. Blandford cannot afford to have them leave. Each town voted no and they need you to speak up.

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

IV. CONSENT ITEMS 12/11/13 (Enc.)

Mrs. Kennedy made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault to approve the minutes of 12/11/13.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 10 Nays Abstain 2 Absent

V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS

A. Second Semester Out of State Field Trips

- Bronx Zoo-field trip integrating mathematics, science, architectural design and eco systems.
- Philadelphia and DC – looking at both options right now – it was brought up at the open house and parents strongly wanted the trip to happen. April 15-17.
- 8th grade class to high meadows – annual class trip June 17th.
- Move to old business for a vote at the next meeting.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Student Representative - None

B. School Committee - None

C. Chairperson

- We will not be taking a picture tonight. Two people still owe money. Picture will be taken on the 22.

D. Superintendent – Central Office Update – On agenda

E. Business Manager - On agenda

F. Administration –

- Mrs. Long reminded everyone that Mrs. Winer is the president of the foundation. We received a check for \$1,200 because we won one of the valley gives drawings. Our total in donations is \$6,200 for the second Valley Gives Day.

VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee

- Met tonight and set questions for the town officials' survey.

B. Finance Subcommittee

- Met in December and received an education from Ms. Fisk. It was very helpful and answered a lot of questions. Mrs. Kennedy when they can get the budget.
- Mrs. Fisk said as soon as it is ready.

C. Policy Subcommittee

- Privacy of information change. No field trips would occur if personal information is requested.
- This will be included in the next school committee packet.

D. School Committee Goals Subcommittee - has not met, and no meeting is scheduled

- Student Performance Goals

7:45 - VIII. OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Supervision/Evaluation Update (Enc.) - None take off the agenda

B. School Committee Goals – Tabled until January meeting:

- Goal # 2 the school committee will function as a unit with the superintendent to implement educational policies.

Mr. Kronholm made a motion seconded by Mrs. Crane to approve Goal # 2 the school committee will function as a unit with the superintendent to implement educational policies.

- Mrs. Kennedy agrees with the premise of working together, but when she was elected she didn't give up her constitutional rights.
- Mrs. Winer said it is not a matter of your rights. It is a matter of policy. If you say anything Is it a wise idea to vote against something school committee has voted for.
- Mrs. Levreault thought it was about educational policies and working with the superintendent to implement something.
- Mrs. Buikus said we are aiming for something that is measureable.
- Mrs. Winer doesn't think all our goals need to be measureable. There are plenty of valuable goals that aren't measurable.
- Dr. Hopson said the only way to measure this would be to do a self- evaluation of what you have done at the end of the year, but there are many other questions that you should ask yourself.
- Mrs. Kennedy said Policy under MASC step 5 under policy process. If we vote this through she doesn't want to take away anyone's opinions.
- Mrs. Otterbeck said if someone asked her how she voted, she would share how she voted but she would advocate for the school committee decision.
- Mrs. Hirtle said just to reassure you the key word is implement. We can't implement anything until we vote. We should take a vote on things and then work together collaboratively. Once the vote is taken we have to work together.
- Mrs. Winer said what would be out of turn is if we voted on something and then you wrote something completely different in a letter to the editor. Although, there is still no punishment.
- Mrs. Kennedy said she represents the kids and her town.
- Need to come up with another meeting date.

Mr. Kronholm made a motion seconded by Mrs. Crane to approve Goal # 2 the school committee will function as a unit with the superintendent to implement educational policies.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 6 Nays 5 Abstain 1 Absent

IX. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. School Committee Goals-Student Goals – Need to come up with another meeting date. Leave on agenda for next time.

B. Negotiations – In Executive Session

X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

XI. INFORMATION

Information

Alumni Band Reminder

Gateway 50th Anniversary Celebration Continues

January School Committee Meetings

School collects 159 PJ's

Superintendent's Corner December 27, 2013
 Foundation raises \$5,000 on Valley Gives Day
 Superintendent's Corner December 20, 2013
 Students and community bring 100 of items to Soldiers Home
 High School Sports Schedule
 Superintendent's Corner December 13, 2013
 Schools close for holiday break
 Five Gateway musicians headed to District Festivals
 Next up for Gateway 50th: Alumni Band!
 Are seniors attend concert, brunch
 Gateway Middle School Effort Awards
 Gateway Junior High School Effort Awards
 Superintendent's Corner December 6, 2013
 Early Release Day December 17
 Local artists create mural for students
 Anniversary buttons make great gifts!
 9 Gateway seniors instantly admitted to college at Annual Fair

Warrants

AP# 1045	\$66,949.68	PR# 12	\$365,268.83
AP# 1050	\$260,743.71	PR# 13	\$354,849.44

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Levreault made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy to go into executive session at 8:18 for the purpose of negotiations not to return to open session.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Jeff, Ruth, Jim, Sandra, Sue, Shirley, Michele, Ellen, Sarah, Martha, Bill, Anne-Marie

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Kennedy made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault to adjourn at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Stacy L Stewart
 School Committee Secretary