

**GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 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

HUNTINGTON  
Ron Damon  
William Hathaway  
Jeff Wyand

MIDDLEFIELD  
Sarah Foley

MONTGOMERY  
Anne Marie Buikus  
Sandra Haas

RUSSELL  
Ellen Hirtle  
Mary Ann Laurie

WORTHINGTON  
Sue Levreault  
Gretchen Eliason

SECRETARY  
Stacy Stewart

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL  
Amy Fouracre, Chs, Lit, MS Assistant Principal  
Jason Finnie, High, Jr. High School Principal  
Wendy Long, District Grant Writer  
Anthony Sabonis, High/Jr. High Assistant Principal  
Alice Taverna, Pupil Services Director

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

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

- Mrs. Eliason opened the meeting and apologized for the late start.
- Mr. Mason of Russell read a letter requesting the formation of a Ad hoc committee to address Pre-Vocational Curriculum, Vocational Education, Adult Education and after-school program offerings.
- Mrs. Eliason thinks it is an interesting proposal.
- This will be added to the next agenda under new business.
- Mrs. Winer asked how much of this are we doing already.
- Mrs. Foley asked to have a copy sent school committee members.
- Peter Francis from the Westfield News is taping the meeting.

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**III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT**

- John Wyand said Joseph Fire Crow a Cheyenne Flute player is coming tomorrow to perform. Mr. Kleeber set this up. Last Friday had the chance to go talk to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders about high school and making the most of it. The School Climate group had white ribbon day on Tuesday. This represents ending violence against women.
- Mr. Eliason thanked him and congratulated him for winning the volunteer service award.
- Mr. Finnie said it is a nomination by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

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**IV. CONSENT ITEMS 2/12/14, 2/26/14 (Enc's)**

*Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Crane to approve the minutes of 2/12/14 and 2/26/14.*

*Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 10 Nays Abstain 3 Absent*

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**V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS - None**

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**VI. COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Student Representative - None****B. School Committee**

- Mr. Wyand said has been asked to join the finance subcommittee.
- Mrs. Crane went into the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms and was able to see the end of the unit celebration for the study of colonial times. There were presentations, food, and they were dressed up. They learned how to work together.

**C. Chairperson**

- Mrs. Kennedy's husband passed away.

**D. Superintendent – Central Office Update (Enc.)**

- Dr. Hopson requested to add superintendent's request to attend ASBO meeting on the next agenda.

**E. Business Manager - None****F. Administration - None****VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTING****A. Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee**

- Met tonight. Started management review, which is a series of questions they ask the superintendent and he provides answers to. It is still a work in progress. They are sending out all the questions and answers, as well as the ones that were asked by school committee in the first round. At the next meeting we will take time to answer questions as well.

**B. Finance Subcommittee**

- Next meeting on March 26, 5:30-7:30 p.m. meeting with town finance members for FY 15 Budget review.

**C. Legislative Liaison - None****D. Policy Subcommittee**

- Mr. Damon will try to set up a meeting between now and the next meeting.

**F. School Committee Goals Subcommittee - None****VIII. OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS****A. Model UN Field Trip Approval**

- Mrs. Laurie asked if there was a female chaperone attending the trip as requested.
- Mrs. Stewart said there was and she has a CORI.

*Mrs. Levreault made a motion seconded by Mr. Damon to approve the Model UN overnight field trip to Boston.*

*Motion Carried (VOTE Yeas 13 Nays Abstain Absent)*

**B. Town Representative to Negotiations**

- Mrs. Eliason said this is about having Mr. Jacques sit at the table committee.

Mrs. Levreault made a motion seconded by Mr. Wyand to have Mr. Jacques sit on the table team for teacher negotiations.

- Mrs. Crane asked if there is more to report from the teachers' group.
- Mrs. Buikus said the teachers want to leave it the same. She would recommend we leave it the same for this year.
- Mrs. Laurie said the towns felt they should have a representative.
- Mrs. Buikus said if we had done it in the beginning it would have been different.
- Mr. Jacques feels it might be more detrimental and he would ask to be on future negotiations.
- Dr. Hopson said he has already asked the paraprofessionals and they are meeting next week. He would suggest we vote Mr. Jacques in now.

- Mrs. Eliason said Mr. Jacques has a three year term, so it would make sense.

*Mr. Damon made an amendment seconded by Mr. Wyand t to have this start after the current teachers' negotiations are concluded.*

- Mr. Kronholm doesn't think we need an amendment

*Mr. Damon made an amendment seconded by Mr. Wyand t to have this start after the current teachers' negotiations are concluded.*

*Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays 1 Abstain Absent*

*Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Hirtle to move the question.*

*Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 11 Nays 2 Abstain Absent*

*Mrs. Levreault made a motion seconded by Mr. Wyand to have Mr. Jacques sit on the at the table team for all subsequent negotiations other than the current teachers' negotiations.*

*Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 11 Nays 2 Abstain Absent*

## **B. FY '15 Budget Adoption (5 Enc's)**

*Mrs. Crane made a motion seconded by Mrs. Hirtle to adopt the FY 15 Budget, Version 1.2*

- Mrs. Eliason said the finance committee did meet with Ms. Fisk and Dr. Hopson and they did go over line items.
- Dr. Hopson said if you don't vote tonight you will have to have a special meeting by next Wednesday.
- Mrs. Eliason feels this is a reasonable proposal with emphasis in the right places.
- Mr. Wyand asked about the increase in special education.
- Ms. Fisk said we will be contracting out with a person who will be working with a student.
- Ms. Taverna said we are trying to provide services here and at home. It is much cheaper than sending them out.
- Ms. Fisk said the other is we are responsible for a half student and one anticipated out of district placement.

*Mrs. Crane made a motion seconded by Mrs. Hirtle to adopt the FY 15 Budget, Version 1.2*

*Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays 1 Abstain Absent*

## **C. Negotiations**

*Mrs. Levreault made a motion seconded by Mrs. Hirtle to go into executive session at or before 8:20 p.m. for the purpose of negotiations of both union and non-union.*

*Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 13 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call vote)*

Yeas: Jim, Shirley Michele, Ellen, Sandra, Sue, Anne-Marie, Sarah, Ron, MaryAnn, Jeff, Bill, Gretchen

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Maintenance/Capital Improvement Plan**

- Dr. Hopson said this is just a draft overview with all the links included.
- Mr. Wyand asked about the middle school roof. It has been an issue for several years, and he had heard it was bad workmanship when it was installed.
- Mr. Wing said the roof was here prior to the building project. We don't have any problems with the roof. The only part is over the middle school office. Part of the problem had to do with roof drains. One has some loose clamps and we can't access them to tighten the clamps. This is just thinking forward.
- Mr. Wyand asked if the \$75,000 was to do the whole roof over.
- Mr. Wing said there should be a one in front of it. It should be \$175,000.

- Mr. Damon asked if we are being wise to wait till 2017.
- Dr. Hopson said the roof is still in good condition, but it is beyond its life.
- Mrs. Laurie asked about the well, replacing the main campus well to tie into town water. She doesn't remember hearing about that.
- Mr. Wing said [art of that is a recommendation by DEP. They don't want us to try and put another well next to it. They will have to drill at least 450 feet to put in a well on the upper well water.
- Mrs. Levreault said if we tie into the town, we will pay a fee for the rest of our life.
- Mr. Wing said they can supply us the water, but there is not enough pressure. Springfield water has a pipe that comes down Littleville road to supply water to our fire sprinklers.
- Mrs. Levreault asked what makes them think they will have to drill that far.
- Mr. Wing said it is due to the elevation and the rock.
- Move to agenda for old business.
- Mrs. Winer asked if we can use E & D to help fund this.
- Dr. Hopson said we will have to put money into extraordinary maintenance to.
- Mr. Wing has put a call into our water operators who put a call into DEP to set up a meeting to talk about their reasons.
- Mr. Wyand asked what the problem is.
- Mr. Wing said the main issue is the screen at the well.

## **X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

### **Future Agenda Items**

Field Trip Policy

School Committee Reorganization

## **XI. INFORMATION**

### **Information**

Wyand Receives "President's Volunteer Service Award"

Parent Teacher Conferences

Superintendent's Corner March 3, 2014

Second term honor roll for high school

Alumni chorus to form and perform

Superintendent's Corner February 24, 2014

Early Release Day March 11

Budget Hearing on March 5

March 5 School Committee Meetings

Gateway Skiing Finals

March Madness Mondays at Wellness Center

"Gator Grins" now serves over 400 students

Vocational School applications due March 3

Superintendent's Corner February 14, 2014

### **Warrants**

AP# 1069 \$162,602.16

PR# 17 \$354,268.41

PR# 18 \$341,514.42

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Mrs. Levreault made a motion seconded by Mrs. Hirtle to go into executive session at or before 8:20 p.m. for the purposed of negotiations of both union and non-union.*

*Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 13 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call vote)*

Yeas: Jim, Shirley Michele, Ellen, Sandra, Sue, Anne-Marie, Sarah, Ron, MaryAnn, Jeff, Bill, Gretchen

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT *Mrs. Levreault made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to adjourn at 8:44 p.m.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy L Stewart,

School Committee Secretary