

**GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2015**

**Room 214/216 Jr. High  
7:30 P.M.**

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

**I. OPENING OF MEETING**

BLANDFORD  
Michele Crane  
Terri Garfield

CHESTER  
Shirley Winer  
Martha Otterbeck

HUNTINGTON  
Ron Damon  
William Hathaway  
Jeff Wyand

MIDDLEFIELD  
Sarah Foley  
Noreen Suriner

MONTGOMERY  
Anne Marie Buikus

RUSSELL  
Ruth Kennedy  
Tara Balboni

WORTHINGTON  
Sue Levreault

SECRETARY  
Stacy Stewart

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL  
Megan Coburn, Chs,Lit,Ms Principal  
Alice Taverna, Pupil Services Director

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: \_\_\_\_\_

**7:35 p.m. II. PUBLIC INPUT FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA (3 Minute Limit)**

- Mrs. Crane opened the meeting.
- Mrs. Buikus is recording the meeting.
- Mrs. Kennedy introduced the new member from Russell, Tara Balboni. School committee members introduced themselves.
- Mrs. Crane reminded everyone of the three minute limit given there is a large agenda.
- Tony Vanworkoven, of Blandford finance, commented on statements made in the community. Blandford finance and board of selectmen does not believe the gateway budget was passed at the annual town meeting. Asking the community publish corrections to statements made with regards to that.

**III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT**

- Brennan Foley said started AP testing; English today and world history tomorrow. MCAS has started. The prom is May 29 at Log Cabin. The senior’s last day is June 1 and Graduation is June 5. The group is teaching about healthy relationships and being bystanders. They are fundraising for spring fling by penny wars. Concert and Jazz bands went to Washington DC and performed in the “Music in the Parks Competition”. They earned first place and the award of excellence. Chester on Track is May 16. Grades 7-12 will be marching. The band will be in Blandford and Russell for Memorial Day parades this year. Best buddies had a fashion show and their own prom. The Costa Rica trip was a success. Red Cross club cooked a meal for the homeless shelter. NHS inductions will take place April 29. Anne of Green Gables was this past weekend. The Shipman concert is Friday night. Money raised helps fund the scholarship. The Spring Fling is May 21. Jenna Margarites, and Brennan Foley were elected to represent Gateway at the regional student advisory council. David Britland and Christian Lessard are going to boys’ state and Ursula

Barth is going to girls' state. The annual Bodies trip is next week. The Best buddies group is going to the Lupa Zoo. The seniors are going on a cruise.

- Casey Pease said this is the first year someone has gone to girls' state. Coalition to establish a presidential youth joint resolution passed in the MA legislature all led by students. Brennan asked about AP testing and the fact that you don't get credit if you don't pay for the exam. Jim Duggan thinks it's a College Board rule.

#### **IV. CONSENT ITEMS** 3/11/15, 3/18/15, 3/25/15 (Enc.'s)

*Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy to accept the minutes of March 11, 2015.*

- Ms. Suriner said there were several conversations missing that she mentioned to Mrs. Stewart and she is disappointed the minutes were not updated.

*Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy to accept the minutes of March 11, 2015.*

*Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 7 Nays 3 Abstain 3 Absent*

- Mrs. Buikus would request to have meetings taped or videotaped.
- Mrs. Garfield thought there might be some permission issues; minutes are supposed to be broad, not word for word.
- Mrs. Winer said some school committees broadcast their meetings.
- Ms. Suriner said for the record they should be recorded and archived.
- Mrs. Otterbeck said we get those packets about newspaper interviews and the permission slips if parents don't want their kids pictures take.
- Mrs. Kennedy said videotaping is allowed. We are all being taped right now.
- Mrs. Levreault said we want to make sure we have everything. Every year, we go to write the blurb for the town annual report for the school committee. When she first started the meeting minutes they were taped.
- Dr. Hopson said the issue was how you have to archive; it is official. We should ask the lawyer, we should know all sides of the issue before we make a decision.
- Mrs. Kennedy said she did get permission to look into recording the meeting. She would like to follow through on that next year.
- Mrs. Buikus said the city of Westfield video tapes all their meetings and the children do presentations.
- Leave under new business and ask the attorney to come.

*Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to accept the minutes of March 18, 2015.*

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

*Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to accept the minutes of March 25, 2015.*

*Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays Abstain 3 Absent Nays 3*

- Mrs. Levreault asked to have the meeting minutes of 11/17/14 brought back. It was the meeting we had the vote to support the lawsuit where we came into executive session and returned to open session. There is a vote missing.

#### **V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS**

##### **A. Solar Presentation – Todd Bard**

- Todd Bard gave a brief presentation. Lake Street developing company is based out of Chicago. Other schools who have signed with them are Deerfield, Southampton, Easthampton and Central Berkshire. If we signed it would close out all the credits for this project. Credits will be transferred electronically, and will be credited when billed. It is a 20-year initial contract and land is a 30-year contract. It is a state and federal discount.
- Mrs. Garfield asked how many years till you can use them.
- Todd said it is always on your Eversource bill. If in 20 years there are still credits, they stay there until you use them. It is sort of like roll over minutes. You want to use them to pay the bill.

- Mrs. Kennedy asked what percentage of our electric bill we would have to sign up for. Is it our whole electric bill or part of the bill?
- Todd said it is always less than 100%. Once you sign up for credits you have to use them. If you don't need the credits, you can sell them to someone else. It is a portion of the bill 60 to 80 of your total use/consumption.
- Ms. Suriner asked what the original cost to get involved is.
- Todd said the cost of one lawyer you can share with the other off-takers. It is roughly \$300 or \$400.
- Mrs. Buikus asked if it is only just Eversource.
- Todd said net metering credits can only go on a utility bill. The supplier has to put it on the Eversource bill.
- Ms. Suriner said she didn't hear the initial presentations.
- Dr. Hopson said originally Hampshire council of governments was to put them on the roof, Todd's
- Todd it is because of the tax credits. Worcester state gets theirs from Orange MA.
- Mrs. Kennedy said the other company was going to connect it to the school, so the students could learn from it and get involved. Is that something they can do as well?
- Todd has approached the developer and he is in favor of it. He has also done presentations.
- Mrs. Winer asked what is involved politically in expanding net metering.
- Todd, it is too expensive, the utilities are capped at 5%. This was part of the green community act.
- Mrs. Crane asked about our timeframe for voting on this.
- Dr. Hopson thinks that the committee has already voted to move forward. We can either vote tonight vote at the next meeting.

***Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to suspend the two-meeting rule to vote on it tonight.***

- Mrs. Levreault asked if we wait two weeks is it a problem.
- Todd said from his standpoint it is not going to be a problem.
- Mrs. Kennedy is torn between moving it forward and suspending the rules. She would like to call a couple of these people.
- Mr. Damon suggested we waste a lot of time when we go back again and start over. He is in favor of voting.

***Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to suspend the two-meeting rule to vote on it tonight.***

***Motion Failed (VOTE) Yeas 8 Nays 5 Abstain Absent***

- A man in the audience asked what the projected savings is; \$21,000 for 20 years. Based on utilizing 100 million kilowatts. Current rate is 13 cents; the savings is the difference.
- Todd would rather give a lower number instead of a larger number.
- Man in audience asked is it going to be a problem if we continue to decline in size and we are not using as much.
- Todd said potentially it could, but they are so valuable anyone will want to take those credits. They are offering 20years because it is on a brown field. His job is to help schools save as much money is possible.
- Man in audience asked when the legislature allows us to make our own energy, what do we do.
- Todd said you would have to pay for those credits to the 20%.
- Man in audience said it is only free if you are using it.
- Todd said they will always protect cities, towns and schools, so they will grandfather them. The likelihood of creating your own energy is difficult. You will have to bond it.
- Mrs. Kennedy said our school district is in a flux right and we get stuck in a 20 year contract. There are some contracts you can opt out of; is this an option.
- Todd said there are none that he has ever heard of. You have to pay for the credits or they will sue you. The only way to get the financing is to get the 20 year contract. (Schedule Z shows transfer of credits)
- Ms. Suriner asked if we have to vote to say no to HCOG.
- Dr. Hopson said no, you can't carry it forward.

## **B. Chester/Littleville/Middle School Update**

- Mrs. Coburn brought three kids to explain some of the projects they have been working on.
- Parker Atkinson picked a book named "The Westing Game" written by Ellen Raskin a book nominated for the Newbery award— all 6<sup>th</sup> graders read a Newbery book. 1978 Westing Game.
- Students also selected a biography.

- Nina Bowler told the story of Anne Frank.
- Brian Fogue played the character Ben Franklin told the story of his life.
- Mrs. Coburn said these are staples in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. Every kid gets totally into character. You are welcome to join us.

### C. Technology Update

- Dr. Hopson shared this in the central office update. We are looking at three different chrome books to decide which one to purchase. Does anyone have any questions on the update?
- Mrs. Winer asked if it would it be nice to have a technology director or are we doing alright without.
- Dr. Hopson said we are doing alright without. A huge part if doing alright is based on the technology staff. Erate is now outsourced instead of being done in-house. It is more about getting bigger broadband into the district. The access if fiber. We had a T-line first.
- Mr. Wyand said we have 1 gig coming in we only pay for 400 on our box. Could we increase it temporarily for PARCC.
- Dr. Hopson said no it is yearly contract.
- Mrs. Kennedy would like an update on the Mass 1 to 1 program.
- Mrs. Winer asked what is going to happen.
- Dr. Hopson said the board has decided that the corporation will fold. The non-profit leases computers to families. In the past a lot of the leases were Gateway families and other schools. In the last couple of years, the leasing by Gateway families has shrunk and we have been dealing more with Hampshire. In the last lease 5 were by Gateway and 100 were from Hampshire. The money that is left will remain with Gateway.
- Mr. Wyand said a year ago, we took \$100,000 and replaced it from revolving fund. We moved money from the director's salary to school choice.
- Dr. Hopson said you have to use choice money, so we took that amount out of the budget. At this point the money was able to offset the purchase of new equipment.
- Mr. Wyand asked if it is the same \$100,000.00
- Dr. Hopson said no.
- Mr. Damon said there is a need for additional technology support as stated in the report.
- Dr. Hopson said we could we have more help, absolutely.
- Mr. Damon asked can we afford not to do it.
- Mr. Wyand said we do we have an internship program for that. Is it being promoted effectively is there anyone lined up. He doesn't know how well we are promoting that.
- Dr. Hopson said our intern is a senior right now and it is probably not promoted effectively.
- Mr. Wyand thinks it is a huge cost savings to the district.
- Dr. Hopson said there are two internships, one is for credit, and one is a paid portion, afterschool and over the summer.
- Mrs. Winer liked Angela because she was aware of how much the teachers needed.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked if we can we push this program in the high school.
- Dr. Hopson said you want to find someone early on and pay them part time, and get them revved up.

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## VI. COMMUNICATIONS

### A. School Committee

- Mrs. Garfield went to the elementary school and was able to visit. It was wonderful. Littleville is a beautiful school.
- Mrs. Coburn invited more of school committee you to come visit.
- Mrs. McVeigh said the Huntington historical society voted the money from their funds to support a gateway student to go to girls' state.
- Mrs. Crane thanked the historical society on behalf of the committee.
- Mrs. Foley said she and Mrs. Crane chaperoned a trip to Washington DC she was very impressed with the teachers, it was very well organized.
- Mrs. Kennedy went to the Middlefield town meeting, the Blandford Town meeting and her Russell town meeting. She wonders why Dr. Hopson saw the need to say she spoke out to the budget.
- Dr. Hopson said just that she did; reporting that evening.
- Mrs. Kennedy did some research according to state law Blandford didn't pass the budget. School committee voted that if the money came in, it was going to be sent to the towns. They were confused why Mrs. Crane stood up to change the amount. The budget didn't pass and the only thing that can change the figures to the towns would be for school committee to vote on it. The towns have the right to lower the figures. We voted 1.7, Blandford put on 1.5, and it was brought up by Mrs. Crane for 1.6. School

committee didn't authorize that. We already voted where it is going to go. Because it was a lower amount then it doesn't pass. This is covered by MGL 71 16 B. She has called MASS, MASC, to find out what happened. We should leave it at what was assessed to the towns.

- Dr. Hopson said technically they did not pass the budget. They would have to pass the entire amount. What was on their town warrant was less and not a certified amount. What Mrs. Crane did was make the amount what it would be if we got \$630,000. If we get \$630,000 the select board then has the option to let it stand (passing the budget) or vote on a new amount. School committee voted to give \$630,000 back to the towns. It is up to the select board if they want to re-vote. Russell's warrant always says a lesser amount. Technically they didn't pass the budget.
- Mrs. Kennedy would like to let the towns know that technically the budget didn't pass. She wears two hats towns person and school committee member. We are still a 7 town district until July 1 and we still need 5 of the 7 towns.
- Dr. Hopson disagrees. If we get an injunction, we will have a 7-town budget and we will have to go back.
- Mrs. McVeigh said there needs to be clarification in the towns. The regional agreement says 5 of the 7 towns. If it says a percentage, then you have to consider that. There should be a legal clarification.
- Mrs. Kennedy thanked Mrs. Stewart for her help. There was confidential information on the website. It was taken down. She had been getting phone calls on it. Town officials can receive the information, but it is not public information. She just wants to remind everyone that information can get out there no matter how you are protected. We can get sued. It was a federal offense.
- Mr. Wyand said the matter of 4 or 6 towns passing the budget; this is a matter that is beyond the towns. If DESE is not supposed to be making these laws we should have clarification.

#### **B. Chairperson**

- Mrs. Crane said before the next meeting is the retirement function; we have five retirees, 3 recipients of the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award and Wendy McCaul for Food director of the year. Mrs. Crane needs volunteers, to bring, food, punch, plates, etc. Please let her know after tonight's meeting.
- Mrs. Crane said Amy Fouracre, Assistant Principal has resigned and sent an email addressed to the committee. Michele read the email.
- Mrs. Winer said they received three sets of minutes, this discord that she is talking about showed up in the minutes. She doesn't know who many people who have this discord, have met with Dr. Hopson or Ms. Fisk to ask questions and maybe get an answer you like. She has gone in many times. This is just something for people to think about.

#### **C. Superintendent**

- Everything is on agenda or in central office update.

#### **D. Business Manager**

- Ms. Fisk is at MASBO

#### **E. Administration**

- Ms. Taverna agrees with Amy's email. If you sit in the cheap seats, you can see and feel the discord lack of harmony. It's disheartening. She said despite the school committee, the schools are prospering.
- Mrs. Kennedy doesn't think as members we aren't representing our kids. We have fantastic kids and teachers. What irritates her is that she is not a yes person and if we all fall in line that is not the way we should operate. One persons discord is another's discussion. A lot of us that do research have opinions. She had PARCC come out; if she didn't it wouldn't have taken place. If voices are raised, that is okay. Other people argue more than we do. We should not be a yes committee. We have a right to voice our opinions.
- Mr. Damon said we have twenty-four minutes left and an agenda to cover let's get to it.

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## **VII. COMMITTEE REPORTING**

### **A. Superintendent's Evaluation**

- Mrs. Crane said they met tonight and you will be getting evidence document in a few days to do the survey for Dr. Hopson. At next meeting there will be printed materials to help you complete the survey. We will open then.

### **B. Finance Subcommittee**

- Ms. Suriner said they met once. There are so many things going on; reviewed the quarterly report and the budget.

### C. Legislative Liaison

- Nothing new.

### D. Policy Subcommittee

- Have not met.

### E. Building Liaisons

- Mrs. Otterbeck spent time with Mrs. Blocker. She can see the importance of having a budget for her. Best buddies group has done a lot and it's impressive to see them participate and the hard work they are doing. They had a prom in Chicopee, a fashion show in Thornes and a Minute to Win It fundraiser.

### F. Community Curriculum Committee

- Southern Hilltown Adult Education committee adult education continues to do a marvelous job on community based education and they will continue to support SHAEC for the time being.

## 7:45 - VII. OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

### A. Worthington Withdrawal

Separation Agreement

- Mrs. Hague asked if we have we heard anything on the needs conference.
- Dr. Hopson said we should have it this week.
- Mrs. Hague asked if we can in a request in writing stating that we've been waiting for this and have them expedite the report from the needs conference.
- Mrs. Kennedy said Worthington has dropped their demand that here case be thrown out. So it is still active. She got questions from the attorney general.

### B. Bond Refinancing

- Dr. Hopson said we will have an update after we meet with the bank. Once the bond is sold we will need to approve it. Expect the vote on the 27<sup>th</sup>
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### C. Recommendation to award the special education transportation contract to Lecrenski Bros. Inc. for 2015-16 school year.

- Dr. Hopson said special education transportation is more of an ongoing process quote than a bid and it has gone up 5% for out of district transportation with a .4% CPI for in-district transportation.

*Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Ms. Suriner to approve the special education contract.*

- Mr. Wyand asked about the increases.
- Dr. Hopson gave the numbers as daily bus rates; 71 passenger has gone up \$88.83, 22 passenger 4x4 has gone up \$80.83, 35 passenger has gone up \$88.83, and 45 passenger \$88.83.

*Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Ms. Suriner to approve the special education contract.*

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

### D. Recommendation to award the regional transportation contract to Lecrenski Bros. Inc. for 2015-2018 school years.

- Dr. Hopson said twelve packets were taken and only one bid came in. This has a much bigger increase at 37%, but still not as bad as other schools. The biggest unknowns are the new federal health laws. Ms. Fisk will cover part of it by cutting one bus. We could go back out, but here is no guarantee there will be more bids, or that it won't go up more. If you want to accept this bid you have to vote tonight because it has to make the register on the 18th.
- Mr. Damon asked if we could vote for different years.

- Dr. Hopson said you could and maybe get better rates for 1 year and there would probably be a great increase.
- Mrs. Crane said it is three year contact, then option to renew for 1 year twice. You could look at it as spread out for 5 years.
- Mrs. Winer said what about the reduction in gas prices.

*Mrs. Levreault made a motion seconded by Kennedy to extend the meeting by 10 minutes to 10:10 p.m.*

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

- Mrs. McVeigh asked because this is regular transportation we can expect to get reimbursement back at the states reimbursement rate.
- Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Winer to approve the regular Education transportation bid.
- Ms. Suriner asked if we had any other options.
- Dr. Hopson said we can lock in or we re-bid, if we do re-bid they recommended a few changes, but no guarantees. If we re-bid and someone else bids, is first student going to beat the rate, probably not because they are higher in other schools.
- Mrs. Winer asked why no one else is bidding.
- Dr. Hopson said Duford does western mass, we are just small potatoes.
- Mrs. McVeigh said Lecresnski already houses their busses here, so they have an advantage.
- Dr. Hopson said Russell also get excise tax.

*Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Winer to approve the regular Education transportation bid.*

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

#### **E Recommendation to establish a Regional Transportation Fund.**

- Dr. Hopson said here is a slim possibility they will put some transportation money back. It could go into E & D.
- Mrs. Winer said we've had no luck funding the capital improvement fund, but this is from the state.
- Mrs. McVeigh understands it is like setting up another revolving account. She would ask the committee go to their town officials to explain why this needed. The towns will be thinking Gateway is just setting up another pot of money.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked if an explanation of this could be sent to us.
- Dr. Hopson will send the email from the executive board of MARS.

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

### **A. Parent Request to Waive Kindergarten Age Entrance**

- Keith Plant and his wife Heather are here to request a waiver for the cut-off date of September 1 for their son Shane who has a September 9<sup>th</sup> birthday. He has been in preschool for three years. He is more than ready. If he stays in preschool another year, it may hold him back. They live in Westfield and send their daughter to Gateway. They would like to send their son as well. He loves gateway.
- Ms. Suriner asked if that is something we can do.
- Dr. Hopson said yes you can do that, some have and some haven't in the past.
- Keith said his son has already been in preschool for two years, there is a kindergarten screening coming up. He knows you have to have a deadline.
- Mrs. Buikus asked if we could we get a letter, stating he has been in preschool and a recommendation from Mrs. Coburn.
- Mrs. Kennedy read from MGL CMR 603.8
- Dr. Hopson asked her to read the next.
- Keith said the state gives you the authority to set the state.
- Ms. Suriner is in favor of doing what we can to let him in.
- Mrs. Levreault doesn't remember ever waiving the September 1 deadline. If we approve this waiver, there is always going to be someone who is going come and ask for a waiver. A lot of times some kids are ready while some are others are not. It is the same for the vocational deadline. We need to be very careful about that.

- Keith said yes, it is 8 days and you set the date. If you do it for one, no one is going to want to come here for a month earlier. It is very intimidating to come here. It is a case by case basis.
- Mr. Wyand said it is a birth date and it is only a few days. The vocational deadline is a responsibility to the family. This student wants to come to Gateway. If they go somewhere else, they will stay get established and stay there.
- Mrs. Levreault understands it is hard, but every child who misses that deadline is going to feel the same.
- Mrs. Foley disagrees that everyone is going to come. Her son made the deadline and she didn't let him go because she didn't feel he was ready.
- Move this to old Business.
- Mrs. Coburn said in her time here, we had students who started in kindergarten who met the deadline who went a few days and we sent them home because they weren't ready.

#### **B. MASC Arbitration Request (Enc.)**

#### **C. Western Massachusetts Leaders Coalition Resolution – State Mandates**

- Casey Pease said education is under attack; both school districts and educational collaboratives. They are concerned with the following: 1) Amount, pace and cost of unfunded mandates, 2) validity, reliability and implementation of PARCC, 3) Amount frequency and cost of standardized testing, and 4) Agawam, collaborative, East Longmeadow Hadley Hampden Wilbraham, Longmeadow lower power Ludlow, monsoon, Southwick Westfield voting to accept the statement.
- Mrs. Otterbeck asked if we were joining what it means and who would be representing.
- Casey Pease said school committee we would accept and superintendents are involved.
- Mrs. Kennedy said MASC is doing the same thing are they involved.
- Casey Pease is not sure he has been reaching out to Teachers Association President and Senator Downing.
- Mrs. Kennedy thanked him for being a part of this; students are leading the way for the adults.
- Ms. Suriner would like to underscore the importance of this after having sat through the 2 hour PARCC presentation. It has no compelling vision, it talks about gaps, and gaps persist. Pretty much if you are white, urban and have internet you are going to do well.
- Casey Pease wanted to go to see it through the eyes of students. It has endorsed by Pittsfield's student council and Boston's student council. He graduates soon and he feels it is extremely important. He is impressed with Gateway and the students here.
- Mr. Wyand made a motion seconded by Mr. Damon to suspend the two- meeting rule to vote on this.
- Mr. Wyand said Casey has done a lot of work and we support what is in the letter. We've talked about it and joined other things that support this.
- Ms. Suriner doesn't like to suspend the rules, but thinks this is important and it is old business.

*Mr. Wyand made a motion seconded by Mr. Damon to suspend the two- meeting rule to vote on this.*

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

*Mrs. Kennedy made a motion seconded by Mr. Damon to accept the position statement of and joint the Western Mass Education Leaders coalition.*

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

- Mrs. Garfield congratulated Casey on his successes this year; Model UN being one of many.
- Casey Pease said this is a small school and we have our set of problems. We have been able to unite together and we have a strong relationship.
- Ms. Suriner commended the teachers that have done so much.
- Mr. Damon said accepting this is a step in becoming part of the group, does it take anything further from us.
- Casey Pease thanked everyone for voting in favor of this. He will be in touch with Dr. Gazda. He believes there needs to be a vote to accept Gateway.
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#### **D. FY '16 School Calendar (Enc.)**

- There were three sent to the teachers. They did a survey and the teachers choice is the first one; standard choice. The first Calendar is their choice.

*Ms. Suriner made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to suspend the two-meeting rule to vote on this.*

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

*Ms. Suriner made a motion seconded by Mrs. Winer to accept FY '16 Calendar one as chosen by the teachers' association.*

- Mr. Wyand said last year we had to vote to change the calendar to move a vacation. Are we all set for this year.
- Dr. Hopson said yes.

*Ms. Suriner made a motion seconded by Mrs. Winer to accept FY '16 Calendar one as chosen by the teachers' association.*

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

**E. FY '16 School Committee Schedule (Enc.)**

**F. Approval for Superintendent to Attend the ASBO Conference**

**G. Wired West (Enc.)**

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

### **Future Agenda Items**

## **XI. INFORMATION**

### **Information**

Gateway Foundation receives \$5,000 from United Bank

NHS Induction April 29

Preschool Screening reminder

Wellness Center moving to spring schedule

'Minute to Win It' at Gateway

Local teacher receives national recognition

Superintendent's Corner-Guest Column April 14, 2015

Student-athletes earn Citizenship Awards

Gateway Spring Concert is May 7

Save the date for 'Anne of Green Gables' at Gateway

Superintendent's Corner April 27, 2015

Shipman Memorial Concert set for May 15

'Autism: a face behind the name' assemblies at Gateway

Gator Grins returns to the Gateway Complex

Third term honor roll for high school

'Anne of Green Gables' at Gateway this weekend

JRHS Term 3 'Effort Awards'

Middle School third term 'Effort Awards'

Superintendent's Corner May 1, 2015

### **Warrant**

AP#1076 \$271,548.88 PR# 21 \$391,349.42

AP#1081 \$73,484.18 PR# 22 \$343,495.83

## **9:00-10 p.m. XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**or earlier**

**A.** Union Negotiations

**B.** Litigation

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT *Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy to adjourn at 10:09 p.m.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Stewart

School Committee Secretary