

**GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2014**

**Library  
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  
Sandra Haas

RUSSELL  
Ruth Kennedy  
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  
Joanne Blocker, Director of Academics  
Megan Coburn, Chs, Lit, MS 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

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

**7:35 p.m. II. PUBLIC INPUT FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA - None**

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**III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT**

- Brennan Foley said Friday is spring fling from 12-2. Each class has their own booth. Student council is hosting a water balloon toss. They are also working on elections for next year.

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**IV. CONSENT ITEMS 5/14/14 (Enc.)**

*Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault to approve the minutes of 5/14/14*

*Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain 3 Absent*

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**V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS**

**A. National School Lunch Program Update**

- Wendy McCaul said it is that time of year where we have to vote to participate in the National school Lunch Program. It is now a wonderful entitlement program. Last year they were supposed to get \$ 25,000 and actually received \$45,000. Mrs. McCaul orders it and they deliver. Our wild blueberries came from ME. Our enrollment has gone down but our reimbursement has gone up. Our participation has gone up. Our free and reduced rates have gone up, so we are now offering breakfast. She said Mrs. Long is going to apply for a grant. Breakfast participation at Gateway has gone from 8% last this year it is 13 % this year. Chester went from 2% to 17% this year. The district has gone from 33 to 38 % free and reduced lunch. The major changes going on are retirements and one battle lost to cancer. Some staff is moving and there will be one manager posting. With the upcoming changes she is coming up with new advertisements.

- With the some of the money she won for the Bronze award she is bringing Food Play in tomorrow. They are a national touring theatre group for nutrition. We are still involved with HEC cooperative bidding and getting good prices. We are still included in farm to school program. Just ran out of our local apples.
- Mrs. Foley said when you talked about the rise in free and reduced lunch does it have to do with the fact that parents don't have to fill out a form anymore.
- Mrs. McCaul said we used to get a list from the snap program. It was based on the previous April. The state portal is connected to the department of families and children so we get real time information. Three times a year she uploads our enrollment. We were just in a pilot program where they are now picking up Medicaid which looks at grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. In March we picked up 30 additional children.
- Mrs. Winer said the new type of food that is being served, are the kids buying into it.
- Brennan Foley said they like the food, but we could always use more lunch.
- Mrs. McCaul said we are a lunch program not an afterschool program or a pre-dinner program. The next big step in the school lunch program is the going to be the sodium level. Gateway lunch soups have 39 grams of sodium. They are already preparing or the next steps.
- Mrs. Kennedy said Michelle Obama's regulations were more mandatory suggestions. The governor has sent some down new regulations which seem to be stricter.

## **B. Technology Update**

- Dr. Hopson said the last update was in October. The technology department has made progress towards its goals; upgraded wireless, you can now reach tech people anywhere in the district, Mass broadband, upgrade video recording – added cameras, increased radios, Baseline edge – input staff and training starts next week for both student assessment and staff evaluation, completed PARCC test pilot successfully. Piloting alternatives: Mr. Rotenberg's class is using Chrome books, 6<sup>th</sup> grade pilot. They love it. The kids are really into writing.
- Ms. Laurie asked if a chrome book is an apple product.
- Dr. Hopson said no and you can buy two chrome books for the price of an iPad. We are evaluating options for replacing existing smart boards, Apple TV or Chrome cast so students can put up on a screen what is on their tablets. We will continue to evaluate tablets to see what works best. The technology department members have attended several tech conferences. We have been asked to be a pilot for Google classroom. ETfile is an electronic filing system central office will start in July. Training starts this week.
- Mrs. Winer asked about ETfile.
- Dr. Hopson said one of problems we are having is searching for old retirement information. We will start with current stuff and eventually put the old stuff in. ETfile does medical records as well so they are safe.
- Mrs. Levreault asked about the tech support in auditorium.
- Dr. Hopson said there are a couple teachers and Mr. Wyand. We have had some difficulty developing internships for students in technology. Hopefully the 7 period day will help. We are also working on professional development in technology.
- Dr. Hopson said one of the most trying parts of was doing the e-filing for e-rate and we have put that out to bid. We have great tech staff. Tammy is managing tech data, Stacy does a lot of staff reporting, Chris parker is doing a great job, help desk, etc.
- Ms. Laurie asked how much we paid for e-filing?
- Ms. Fisk said \$5,000
- Dr. Hopson said the \$5,000 is worth it.
- Mrs. Foley asked for a copy of what Dr. Hopson reported tonight.

## **C. Mass 1 to 1 Update**

- Mass 1 to 1 is a non-profit 509A2 corporation founded in August 2007. Current officers are Dr. Hopson, Ms. Fisk, Mrs. Stewart, and Mrs. Blocker. Dr. Hopson went over it's purpose. Revenue is \$80,000 and total expenses were just over \$80,000. Assets are \$214,000 and public support is 99.7%
- Mrs. Winer asked what other schools are involved.
- Dr. Hopson said Gateway, Hampshire Regional and Ashburnham. We have moved from just leasing laptops, to laptops and iPads. We are also looking at other platforms like chrome books. How do we continue to have iPads and Mac's for students when they are five times the cost of chrome books?
- Mrs. Winer asked about the limitations of chrome books?
- Dr. Hopson said there is no actual hard drive. They are cloud based. You can save things on a flash drive. The next thing that just came out is they have touch screen as well as a keyboard. Apple is including free keypads, if you order 200 or more iPads.

- Mrs. Kennedy asked if there is an opportunity for a school committee member to be on the Mass 1 to 1 Board.
- Dr. Hopson said there is a slot for school committee. If someone wishes to be appointed, we'd be pleased to have them.
- Mrs. Buikus asked for a copy of this presentation.
- Dr. Hopson said if you go to the state website, you can find it along with all the filings. You also can go to the Mass 1 to 1 website. It is still there.
- Mrs. Levreault asked if it doesn't have a hard drive, can kids do a video project.
- Dr. Hopson said you can use a flash drive.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked if there are any salaries, electricity costs, computers, etc.
- Dr. Hopson said the donated hours are part of the in-kind matching used to offset.
- Mrs. Eliason asked if the school district actually prepares an invoice.
- Dr. Hopson said, yes when we do our tax filing – it gives us the tax offset in in-kind donations for federal filing.
- Mrs. Winer asked if he thinks Mass 1 to 1 will become obsolete?
- Dr. Hopson said yes as more schools move to a 1 to 1 device and can bring in their own. We do have a fairly decent amount of money. We had enough money for the last lease so we didn't have to borrow to fund it. We do donate to the education foundation. Since inception we have leased 631 and sold 670 machines which is a direct savings to the district - less we have to put in the budget.
- Mr. Wyand asked if they are used in the school but available for lease or purchase.
- Dr. Hopson said yes, if families lease then they must buy insurance.
- Mr. Wyand asked if it will be available on the Chrome books?
- Dr. Hopson said we are looking into it, but he doesn't know if we will go in that direction. If you lease, you can take the iBook home. We are looking at allowing students to take home Chrome books, which may eliminate the need for the lease program.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked what we do with the lease when they end.
- Dr. Hopson said at the end of a lease, they can buy it for one dollar. If you stop paying the lease it comes back to Mass 1 to 1, it may be leased again.
- Dr. Hopson said we've never had a lease turned in at the end. We've never had a lease not be bought out.
- Mrs. Levreault asked what the track record of the chrome books is, and if students can't use their own chrome books for PARCC, will we have to buy them for every student anyway?
- Dr. Hopson said that is a question that needs to be answered. We have a visit scheduled next week with a school who has been using chrome books for a couple of years.
- Dr. Hopson said we currently take the administrator ones and pass them down. If you can keep an apple going for 6 years and a chrome book for 3 years you are still ahead of the game. Managing a school of chrome books is a lot easier than a school of iPads.

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## **VI. COMMUNICATIONS**

### **A. Student Representative - None**

### **B. School Committee**

- Mr. Wyand said he was elected for a 3-year term, he was sworn in this afternoon.
- Mrs. Foley introduced Noreen Suriner, the new member from Middlefield.
- School committee introduced themselves.

### **C. Chairperson**

- She is overdue starting the goals overview. She will be working on that for June.

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

- Dr. Hopson said Montgomery moved their meeting because there was no quorum. Chester has moved their meeting a week later to June 14 at 1:00 pm.
- Transportation money – We may need to add a part-time preschool in addition to what we have budgeted now. We would have to find the money for it if the budget passes, if it doesn't pass, we would have the opportunity to add the cost to the budget.
- Ms. Taverna said it is an integrated preschool. There are 15 students per session at 2 ½ hours. Seven of those slots are for children who have education plans, and 8 are peer model slots. The need is due to number of students coming to us potentially who are 3 and 4 years old who are referrals. We just had

screening last week. She has been watching the numbers, looking at who is currently in and who will be staying. As of last Tuesday potential referrals turning 3 from now till next June and what disabilities they have, out of the possible 28 slots, 14 at Littleville and 14 at Chester, we have 27 filled so far. The challenge is do we need an extra paraprofessional, etc. They could come, but they might not. In addition to 27 including returning students, having only 1 slot open leaves no room for students who may move into the district during the year.

- Mrs. Winer asked if this means there will be some more role model spaces.
- Ms. Taverna said yes, but parents have to provide their own transportation.
- Mr. Damon said out of the 27 students, is there a chance that enough improvement will take place that could they could be role model.
- Ms. Taverna said it is highly unlikely. Most of the kids are on IEP's and have a delay in more than one area, such as cognitive and speech.
- Ms. Laurie asked is it possible to kick it up to 17 and do we have to provide services
- Ms. Taverna said no, and yes the state requires us to provide services.
- Mrs. Suriner asked what the cost would be.
- Ms. Taverna said the cost of a teacher and one or two paraprofessionals depending on the needs of the kids.
- Dr. Hopson said the low end is \$70,000 the high end is over \$100,000.
- Ms. Laurie asked if we could consider 3 classes a day utilizing the same staff.
- Ms. Taverna said we did look into it at Lee, they felt it was disruptive.
- Dr. Hopson said you can't have that because of the teachers' contract. There are 6 ½ hours in a day and 6 hours in class. You have to allow for prep-time.
- Mrs. Otterbeck asked how you determine which children have transportation.
- Ms. Taverna said any child on and IEP receives transportation. This year we are packed next year we might not need it.
- Mrs. Foley said these kids are going to need the early intervention a lot. They need to consistency.
- Ms. Taverna said one of the ideas, was to have a full day leaving a morning and afternoon session in Chester. We have no set answers yet. She doesn't want to have to do this for a lot of reasons. Financially, she doesn't want to open for a year and then have to close.
- Mr. Wyand asked what we would do if we had no shows.
- Ms. Taverna said we don't usually have no shows. Usually, families just move away.
- Mr. Wyand asked how soon do we know before the program starts.
- Ms. Taverna said some before school starts, but some in December and February. As soon as they turn three she has to have a place for them. Littleville is full.
- Mrs. Levreault said if Littleville is full and a student came from Montgomer do we look at things geographically so we don't have students bypassing a school.
- Ms. Taverna said we do, but we aren't going to take a child that has been in Littleville and move them to Chester. We don't have the physical space in Littleville.
- Ms. Laurie asked when we have to know by.
- Ms. Taverna said we have to have everything ready before school starts. Finding a certified half-time preschool teacher will be tough.
- Dr. Hopson said we received the signed contract from DEP and we have a quote for a well company. The thought is to put in the same kind of well.
- Mrs. Winer asked what kind of well it is called.
- Dr. Hopson wasn't sure off the top of his head.
- Ms. Fisk said the state is looking at fully funding circuit breaker which would be 75%, we use it to offset the following school year.
- Ms. Taverna said that Jay Sullivan said 65 to 70 percent if a child is on an IEP and they were homeless.
- Ms. Fisk said our reports won't come in till September. It is a bill in the house which she is hoping will come through.

#### **E. Business Manager - None**

#### **F. Administration**

- Mrs. Long thanked everyone who baked for the staff recognition ceremony. It was one of our nicest. Mrs. Levreault's flowers were beautiful, it was a nice touch. Tomorrow night is the sports banquet at Tekoa. Friday at 7:00 p.m. is the Shipman memorial concert. The Shipman memorial fund has funded improvements to the auditorium. A lot of which has been chosen by our John Wyand. Recently it paid for a

pair of lapel microphones. Next week is the finals. Senior awards ceremony will be Wednesday in the GPAC and Friday is Graduation at 6 pm on booster field weather permitting.

- Mr. Sabonis said junior high step ceremony also includes an orientation. They are physically staying in the same place, but it is nice for them to hear about the changes. The highlight is the student ambassador program; they talk to the incoming 9th graders. We talk about scheduling attendance, etc. Middle school to junior high is the topic that created the most confusion and excitement. Fundamentally the new absence policy will change nothing; fourteen absences are allowed for a full year and seven for a half year course, four unexcused for an A/B course. What does change is the schools obligation to effectively communicate to parents. It is a igher level of communicating. He is responsible to contact parents/guardians if students have missed 5 blocks and parents will have to come in for a meeting. You may be able to email, or phone conference. The state uses the term “a good faith effort” – he believes it is to document. The focus is on 9-12, but they will do the same for the 7th and 8th grade level. The reason for this is parents have an obligation to get them to school and they have an obligation to let parents know where the student stands.

## **VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTING**

### **A. Superintendent’s Evaluation Subcommittee**

- Mrs. Levreault said we are now at the end of the school year and it is time for the end of year evaluation. It will be posted on line on Friday. Because she had a lot of people express they liked a hard copy, so everyone will get a yellow folder this year. It is one of our most important jobs. It is the same survey as last time. There will be some additional information. Your job is to take any evidence that you feel will help the improvement process. Goals will be updated by Friday. You can’t sit and work on it and walk away. You can work on comments and then paste them in. Comments are appreciated and important. The survey will be open on May 30th and close on Friday June 13th.
- Mrs. Eliason said one way it might be different is in that in past year there was a focus group. They surveyed town officials this year. Traditionally the chair and vice interviewed the administrators. They spoke to legal counsel and his advice was to not use anonymous surveys for input. An anonymous survey could be considered unreliable. The information that comes from Dr. Hopson and the school committee surveys will be used for the final evaluation report.
- Mrs. Kennedy though they were going to be able to go back and edit.
- Mrs. Eliason would advise to not count on that working, you should cut and paste.

### **B. Finance Subcommittee**

- Not much to discuss until we get information back from towns. Tentative date would be June 25th.

### **C. Legislative Liaison - None**

### **D. Policy Subcommittee**

- The committee thinks they have come up with a fair solution. You can see changes we made before and the new working. Mrs. Kennedy read the changes.
- Dr. Hopson said he ran it by legal counsel and it is okay as it is.
- Mrs. Crane said she likes it better and asked if Dr. Hopson feel it is the middle ground.
- Dr. Hopson said you still may have the same issue. If the parent elects not too fill out the information then the student won’t be able to go on the trip. It does not apply to most field trips.

### **E. School Committee Goals Subcommittee - None**

### **F. Community Curriculum Committee**

- Mr. Sabonis said they met the one time and he is not sure when they will meet again. Mr. Mason is meeting with someone who purchased some radio stations. The plan was to meet one more time before school got out.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Worthington Withdrawal**

- Mrs. Eliason said we spoke about this quite a bit. One of the questions was when the legislation takes effect. According to Attorney Dupere special legislation takes effect 30 days after the day the governor signed it. She thought it should be June 5, but DESE says it’s effective June 6. Which means the district and Worthington have 60 days to submit their educational plans. That deadline is August 5 or 6<sup>th</sup>. One of the requests from Darlene McVeigh was that the school committee adopts a schedule and Mrs. Eliason feels

that is a good recommendation. We also need to give some direction to Dr. Hopson and our administrators. She was at a GTAC meeting and one of the finance committee members has asked to see an educational plan that cuts \$650,000. School committee may decide to make cuts, to have a level services budget, or do nothing. There is also a reorganizational needs conference to get input from the community, parents, and town officials.

- Dr. Hopson said it doesn't have any deadline, but it will have to be done in order for Worthington to withdraw.
- Ms. Fisk said DESE said the educational plan comes first and then the needs conference where the financial stuff will happen. The needs conference is where they define the whole plan, the impacts on vocational, transportation, etc. The educational plan is what we have in place that is going to educate our kids.
- Mrs. Eliason said we need to decide if there needs to be structural changes in how we deliver education to the students, or to continue doing what we are doing.
- Mrs. Winer said for her to decide that she would need input from the administration.
- Dr. Hopson said Ms. Fisk has pointed out in the past we have lost more students and not changed anything in our education structure. It is more in following with Mrs. Eliason's thought, if you are going to absorb the costs, you might change, but the state says they are going to hold us harmless. You as a committee need to decide if you are going to change the structure of the district.
- Mrs. Levreault said for the best outcome of Gateway we need to do what is going to give us the best leg to stand on. We need to set up a schedule. She would make a motion to set up a schedule to get our educational plan need to DESE or for us to look at by July 6<sup>th</sup>. She thinks we should do a level services budget. She feels that is going to get more because of the impact Worthington is going to make. If you set it up and say it is going to be the same, you are probably going to get more money that way. Level services with basically the same educational plan we have right now.
- Dr. Hopson suggested to have the plan by the second meeting in June.

***Mrs. Levreault made a motion seconded by Mr. Wyand to create an educational plan that calls for the current educational structure by the second meeting in June.***

- Mr. Damon said the educational plan should do nothing to lower the standards of education.
- Mrs. Kennedy said we have not gotten a formal withdrawal from Worthington yet. There needs to be a formal withdrawal.
- Mrs. Eliason disagrees. When the commissioner approves the withdrawal then Worthington will send the letter.
- Dr. Hopson said in the phone conversation with DESE they are going to ask Worthington to give the information from their annual town meeting. We only have 60 days no matter when Worthington sends their letter.
- Mrs. Buikus said no matter which date, we need to have an educational plan and then we can work it from there. Since we meet infrequently during the summer it is best to have it by the second meeting in June. It makes sense.
- Mr. Wyand supports the motion; it supports the students currently here. The state will hold the towns harmless. They should come up with the funding.
- Ms. Laurie asked how we will ensure that we will be held harmless.
- Dr. Hopson said the DESE doesn't know how the legislature is going to handle that. You are putting the plan together for fiscal 16. The plan might change, but you need to plan. You can't take care of the state.
- Mrs. Otterbeck asked if it means anything that Worthington has to have a plan too.
- Mrs. Eliason said the deadline is the same for Worthington to have a plan in. They are also figuring out how to select new school committee members.
- Mrs. Winer said if the state has a plan in mind to help make up the difference, it may not be for more than one year.

***Mrs. Levreault made a motion seconded by Mr. Wyand to create an educational plan that calls for the current educational structure by the second meeting in June.***

***Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 14 Nays Abstain 1 Absent***

- Dr. Hopson said one of the things DESE is requesting is a review of the regional agreement; they will look at the whole agreement. We will send it to DESE and they will come back to us with the areas of change. They said they may put some pressure on.
- One man one vote/regional agreement will be included in the next packet.

- Ms. Laurie said she thought the lawyer said we didn't have to change the regional agreement.
- Ms. Fisk said the commissioner approves the regional agreement not the legislature.
- Mr. Damon said this doesn't negate our current regional agreement.
- Mrs. Eliason said there seems to be some interest from the seven towns to update the regional agreement. There might be support out there right now.

## **B. Disc Golf Signage**

- Dr. Hopson said the Disc Golf Foundation put in a course, we can use it. They would like to get signage from local business. It will require us to waive two policies. Dr. Hopson's recommendation is not to allow them to do so.
- Ms. Laurie agrees with the recommendation.
- Mrs. Foley asked how we got this.
- Dr. Hopson said they are trying to expand disc golf so they are putting them in schools around the area. We can add it to our PE curriculum.

*Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy to pass over this item and take no action.*

- Mrs. Levreault asked if we take no action, can they come back.
- Dr. Hopson said not if we vote it.

*Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy to pass over this item and take no action.*

*Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 15 Nays Abstain Absent*

## **C. School Committee Reorganizational Policy**

- Mrs. Eliason said Mrs. Kennedy feels it is her constitutional right to have a secret ballot, our legal counsel says we need to have a ballot, just not a secret ballot.
- Mrs. Kennedy wants a legal opinion based on the law. Open meeting language pertains to policy. We are exempt. This comes under voting rights and she wants the local, state, and federal law.
- Mrs. Eliason said we were looking at the guidelines published by the AG's office. Based on the vote of the school committee in February or March and based on the current version of the policy, which says we shall vote by ballot, she would instruct the committee and Stacy as secretary to make votes by ballot by writing down your choice and your name. She understands Mrs. Kennedy's objections; other states have specific objections for things like that.
- Mrs. Kennedy said when we get into a bigger pickle that we were just in we'll see who is right.
- Ms. Laurie said the ballot is the appropriate term to use, it is ballot. That is your voting right.
- Dr. Hopson said in the dictionary a ballot is private and not shared – you don't have to have secret. It implies secret.
- Mrs. Eliason believes the open meeting law says secret. There is a conflict between open meeting law and the policy.
- Mr. Wyand made a motion to put it off until we have further clarification. There was no second.
- Mrs. Eliason said our attorney is quite clear in his advice. She doesn't think Russell is going to change his advice.
- Mrs. Winer asked why we need to have a secret ballot.
- Ms. Fisk read the open meeting law. "no vote taken in an open meeting shall be in secret ballot". There are no footnotes.
- Mrs. Eliason said there is no such exception in our open meeting law. On February 12 we voted not to use secret ballot to elect officers. If we revoke that we need to contact the Attorney General's Office.
- Dr. Hopson said he would follow Mrs. Eliason's lead. If you vote by ballot, not secret ballot, you will have met the vote, complaint, and law.

*Mrs. Levreault made a motion seconded by Ms. Laurie to extend the meeting by 20 minutes.*

*Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 14 Nays Abstain Absent (Ron left at 9:59)*

*Ms. Laurie made a motion seconded by Mrs. Buikus to take no action.*

*Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 14 Nays Abstain Absent 1 (Ron)*

#### **D. Field Trip Policy**

*Mrs. Kennedy made a motion seconded by Mrs. Winer to approve the policy as written.*

*Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 13 Nays Abstain 1 Absent 1 (Ron)*

#### **E. Remote Participation in School Committee Meetings**

- Mrs. Eliason said every vote must be a roll call vote even if the only vote the participant is taking is in executive session. Reasons are: Personal illness, disability, military service, and geographically limited. We would have to approve in advance to allow then each request would need to be done in advance. All participants need to be clearly audible, and we fail to meet that when we are in the gym in Russell. There is a technological challenge in meeting that need. We can vote to allow it or not allow. If we vote to allow it, we would have to honor the request whenever it is requested.
- Mrs. Winer asked what it is going to cost.
- Dr. Hopson said he doesn't know. It affects the next item on the agenda. Here it is not a problem, but in the towns it may be a problem.
- Mrs. Levreault asked if we are only looking at this because of Mr. Jacques.
- That is why it was brought up.

*Mrs. Levreault made a motion seconded by Ms. Laurie not to allow it at this time.*

- Mrs. Suriner would like to allow it. If we don't allow it, it could be a big do later. She would rather not vote but she would rather vote in favor.
- Mrs. Eliason said we still have to have a quorum at each meeting.
- Mrs. Foley said this came up because Mr. Jacques has an employment issue.
- Mrs. Levreault said if we don't approve it then they would have to find another member. By taking no action we would be taking him off the position.
- Mr. Wyand asked does this mandate that we have to provide this service every meeting if this person demands, because we might not be able to accommodate it.
- Ms. Laurie said one of the things Mr. Jacques said is he wanted to be a mouthpiece for the towns. In order to accomplish that it seems he would need to physically need to be here.
- Mrs. Kennedy said he is on for negotiations purposes. To find someone else would take time, and it would put a kink in negotiations.
- Mrs. Crane said we shouldn't talk about it specifically for Mr. Jacques. Her concerns are that we wouldn't have the ability to provide it, and in the past several years, the group has felt it is important to travel to the towns. She is also concerned about how frequently it might be made. This is a seven town district; there are enough officials to pick from to stand in that place. It is also important to be present.
- Dr. Hopson said over the last several years, you would have allowed Fran to make the request and Jim to make the request while they were on trips. They could have participated. Without this you have to physically be here.
- Mr. Wyand asked if we are mandated to provide this service if we are in a place where it can't be provided.

*Mrs. Levreault made a motion seconded by Ms. Laurie not to allow it at this time.*

*Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 6 Nays 4 Abstain 4 Absent 1 (Ron)*

*Mrs. Levreault made a motion seconded by Mrs. Buikus to extend the meeting to 10:30 p.m.*

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

#### **F. FY 15 School Committee Schedule**

*Mrs. Levreault made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy to approve the 2014-2015 School Committee Schedule.*

*Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 13 Nays 1 Abstain Absent 1 (Ron)*

#### **G. Recommendation to Approve the Second Option Year of Transportation Contract**

- Ms. Fisk said there is a 1.3 cpi increase for next year.

*Mrs. Winer made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy to accept the second year option of the transportation contract.*

- Ms. Laurie recused herself from this vote.

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

#### H. Negotiations Update - None

### IX. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Superintendent's Evaluation

- Evidence and survey will be mailed to you on Friday.

#### B. Recommendation to Participate in the National School Lunch Program

- Move to old business for a vote at the next meeting.

**C. Superintendent requests authorization for the District Treasurer or Assistant District Treasurer under provisions of M.G.L., Chapter 71 Section 16 (9) and with the approval of the Chairperson for the Gateway Regional Committee, to incur temporary debt (borrow from time to time) in anticipation of revenue to be received from any source for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014. This is for short-term borrowing in case assessments are not received in time, etc.**

- Move to Old Business for a vote at the next meeting.

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

#### Future Agenda Items

Refinancing Information - Lori Lombard – June 15

### XI. INFORMATION

#### Information

“It’s not speech therapy anymore”

Superintendent’s Corner May 9, 2014

Middle school, Junior High to offer ‘Outdoor Adventure’ camp this summer

Schools closed for Memorial Day

Crafters sought for 5<sup>th</sup> Annual GatorRoo Music Festival

Instructors sought for evening mini-courses

Superintendent’s Corner May 16, 2014

Baker, Green, and Rida recognized for teaching excellence

All Invited to Gateway staff reception

Shipman Memorial Concert set for May 30

Sports Banquet ticket reminder

First Grade Tea Party

#### Warrants

AP# 1093 \$94,996.68

PR# 23 \$394,508.52

AP# 1095 \$123,613.14

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

or earlier

12/11/13 (Enc. 5/14/14)

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT – Mrs. Kennedy made a motion seconded by Mrs. Winer to adjourn at 10:25 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stacy L. Stewart,  
School Committee Secretary

