

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2014

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

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

I. OPENING OF MEETING

BLANDFORD
Michele Crane

CHESTER
Martha Otterbeck

HUNTINGTON
Ron Damon
William Hathaway
Jeff Wyand

MIDDLEFIELD
Sarah Foley
Noreen Suriner

MONTGOMERY
Anne Marie Buikus
Sandra Haas

RUSSELL
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

- Mrs. McVeigh is concerned about the PARCC/MCAS Assessment. She read an article written by Mr. Gazda. She wasn't able to get the agenda off the website. She has questions, what is Gateway's plan, will there be a public meeting to take input, what are the pros and cons and reasons .
- Dr. Hopson said we did very well on the test run and were able to get the computers set up. Two grades successfully completed the PARCC. He would hate to have to try for the first time a year from now. He is also on the committee of superintendent's looking into what would be best.

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

Brennan Foley said elections for next year will hopefully be done by the end of this year. The student store is having a buy one get one free sale.

IV. CONSENT ITEMS 5/28/14 (Enc.)

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault to approve the minutes of 5/28/14.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 10 Nays Abstain 2 Absent

V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS

A. Intervention Data – Building Principals

- Mrs. Coburn gave a PowerPoint Presentation

- Mrs. Eliason asked Mrs. Coburn to take us through the process.
- Mrs. Coburn said LLI looks at the data, usually every time a benchmark test is given. They rank order the kids and fill the slots, usually right after assessments are done
- Mrs. Eliason said, so if they don't make progress then the RtI team meets and figures out how to service the kids.
- Mrs. Coburn said yes. It is not just RtI, sometimes it is OT/PT too.
- Mrs. Eliason said RIT includes Dr. Fouracre and the teachers.
- Mrs. Coburn said yes and it may also include OT and PT as well.
- Mrs. Eliason asked what the typical process looks like. At what point do evaluations happen.
- Mrs. Coburn said the classroom teacher makes the referral when they are not making an impact. They make the referral to RtI, they put down all the data, everything they have tried, and if there are any trends. Then they set goals and meet again in 6 weeks.
- Mrs. Eliason asked when we were setting goals, the figure we had last year was 25% of the kids that needed an intervention didn't get an intervention. Also about 84% of the interventions were successful. Are we tracking those numbers? Do we have kids that need RTI or LLI that we don't have the time or resources to meet?
- Mrs. Coburn said the problem is always staffing. There are always going to be a few kids we can't get to. Reading specialists are invaluable and buildings are sharing them.
- Mrs. Eliason asked if we have enough room.
- Mrs. Coburn said Littleville is packed, they have the two reading specialists in the same room and they have tables at the opposite side of the room.
- Mrs. Foley asked if there is differentiation for kids on the other end of the spectrum, those testing high.
- Mrs. Coburn said they had that up until last year. She was picking up accelerated reading groups in 3 and 4. She doesn't have one at the moment. A couple of kindergarten students go into grade 1 for reading. In Chester the special education teacher is working one on one with kids who need tiered support. We really try our best to have our staff do whatever they can to meet the needs of the kids. She is applying for a grant for one of our reading specialists going to reading recovery training.
- Ms. Crane asked what the plan is for Math intervention.
- Mrs. Coburn said we don't have a plan but we don't have anyone to deliver it either. We also have a student support room at all three buildings if students are struggling with a class.
- Ms. Laurie asked if we are writing our own grant.
- Mrs. Coburn said it is the educational collaborative writing the grant.
- Mr. Wyand asked what percentage of students in that part of the program are getting interventions.
- Mrs. Coburn thinks it is like 15% in K-4
- Ms. Suriner asked about the older kids having difficulty. Are they kids that you've been following or are they moving in.
- Mrs. Coburn said it is a combination of both. There are a handful of kids that are in flux.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked if this 15% of students excludes special education.
- Mrs. Coburn said yes.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked if we are saying that 25-30% of our children are in need of some kind of help.
- Mrs. Coburn said yes.
- Mrs. Eliason asked what might be alternatives, could we put people directly in the classroom.
- Mrs. Coburn said it is hard having your room be a revolving door. It is hard having multiple people coming in and out of your classroom.
- Mrs. Coburn will email the presentation to the committee.
- Mrs. Levreault asked how much more space she needs. How many more rooms do you need?
- Mrs. Coburn said our needs are changing, we have a substantially separate classroom, autistic children that need ABA, and they all need their own space.
- Mrs. Levreault again asked how many rooms.
- Mrs. Coburn said two rooms would be helpful. The staff is great and they try to create a way for it to work.

High/Junior High

- Mr. Finnie gave an intervention presentation.
- Mrs. Foley asked what is going on in grade 7 if there are so many kids in need.
- Mr. Finnie said this group has a large number on the spectrum, and students on IEP's
- Ms. Laurie asked if the students that go into the learning lab will they continue to have math and reading, etc.
- Mr. Finnie said they can. Mr. Andrews keeps in touch with classroom teacher and hopefully they will transition back to the regular classroom.

- Mr. McVeigh asked if we are servicing regular and special education. Is this tied to detention and internal suspension?
- Mr. Finnie said no, they have a different internal suspension room.
- Mrs. Foley said in the 7th and 8th grade 4 students were serviced. How many was it offered to?
- Mr. Finnie said any student that was targeted as needs improvement.
- Mrs. Foley asked how many of those who tutoring was offered to, actually participated.
- Mr. Finnie said there were only 20-30 on the list.
- Ms. Laurie asked if the tutoring money was the \$10,000 that we set aside.
- Mr. Finnie said no.
- Mr. Wyand said we pay a teacher to tutor.
- Mr. Finnie said yes.
- Mrs. Eliason asked if we received any indication from parents or students why few of them signed up. Was it transportation or that they wanted their own time after school.
- Mr. Finnie said it was a combination of both. It is supposed to engage students with Math while having fun. Cooking, and using woodshop got students interested.
- Mrs. Coburn said at Littleville they targeted 16 for ELA and 13 for the Math tutoring.
- Mrs. Eliason asked if the tutoring took place before the spring MCAS test.
- Mr. Finnie said yes.
- Mr. Wyand said Edwin Analytics sounds like a for sale type of program.
- Mr. Finnie said no, it is free and run by the state. It helps target students at risk for any reason. It is done by the state, it is mandated. It is just all the information that the state collects that is collected with the SASID number and teacher ID numbers.
- Mr. Wyand asked if you have a student coming from another district, is their information readily available.
- Mr. Finnie said yes
- Mrs. McVeigh asked if every student is tracked with an ID number and all their information goes to the state.
- Dr. Hopson said yes. Staff information is sent too, and they will eventually in two years be able to look into our system and we won't have to submit.

B. Guidance/Schedule Update – Mr. Finnie

- Mr. Finnie gave a scheduling presentation and handout.
- There will be a skills period and two periods of specials. The 7th and 8th is also focusing on skills.
- Mr. Damon asked if you have a student in 7th or 8th grade that was advanced would it be possible for them to take a high school class instead.
- Mr. Finnie said you could do that in Math or core electives because of the rotation in the 7th and 8th but not in the high school.
- Mr. Damon asked if your 8th grade math class wasn't accelerated can the 7th grade student skip and be challenged in the high school.
- Mr. Finnie said it happens more in the high school, with the rigor of the new content he believes it would be a disservice to skip over a level.
- Mr. Wyand sees we are exploring wood technology III, it looks like it requires more tooling etc.
- Mr. Finnie said we are, and you might be able to incorporate those students into the wood III class.
- The graduation requirements will start with the freshman.
- Mr. Wyand said one of the benefits of changing the schedule was so students could take concert band etc., does changing to 70 credits put more pressure on students.
- Mr. Finnie said all it says is that you have to take a full class load.
- Brennan Foley asked how many advisory periods there will be next year.
- Mr. Finnie said they are looking at one a week on Wednesday's.
- Brennan Foley asked if it goes down to one how will we fit all the other activities in.
- Mr. Finnie said there will need to be better collaboration and communication. Some of what guidance is doing will have to be done in the classroom as part of the curriculum.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Student Representative - None

B. School Committee

- Ms. Suriner said at the last meeting we left and it was dark. This is the second time we have left in the dark, and it is huge liability. She is very concerned. She brought a flashlight.
- Dr. Hopson said because our custodians leave at 10 o'clock and the lights go off at 10:15. The clocks are on a timer.
- Ms. Suriner suggested getting a motion light.
- Ms. Laurie said the flashlight is a good idea or we could end on time.
- Ms. Suriner came to the play, when they left it was dark out. She couldn't see a thing.
- Mr. Damon asked if we could keep the lights on later.
- Dr. Hopson said it is more than that.

C. Chairperson - None

D. Superintendent – Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Mrs. Long's mom passed away, that is why she isn't here tonight.
- Mrs. Otterbeck said we should honor her in some way.

E. Business Manager - None

F. Administration

- Mr. Finnie said presentations that are on the book cases were done by the AP history class. They are all local places and or historical events.

VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee

- Mrs. Levreault said everyone has received the email and a packet in the mail of the superintendent's evaluation. The deadline for filling out the survey is Friday the 13th. Do people feel comfortable and on track.
- Mr. Wyand would like to extend the deadline. He would really appreciate it.
- Mrs. Eliason said at the subcommittee meeting they talked about getting everyone a compilation of the survey so we have it before we decide to extend the superintendent's contract or not.
- Mrs. Levreault said if you want to finish it online that is fine, if not email Mrs. Levreault or Mrs. Eliason and they will be here at the school to pick it up at 12:00 p.m.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Crane to go into executive session for the purposes of union and non-union negotiations at 9:50 p.m. or earlier not to return to open session.

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

Yeas: Noreen, Jeff, Ron, Martha, Anne-Marie, Sarah, Michele, Mary Ann, Sue, Sandy, Bill, Gretchen.

B. Finance Subcommittee - None

C. Legislative Liaison - None

D. Policy Subcommittee - None

E. School Committee Goals Subcommittee - None

F. Community Curriculum Committee - None

7:45 - VIII. OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommendation to Participate in the National School Lunch Program.

Mrs. Crane made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault to participate in the National School Lunch Program for 2014-2015.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain Absent

B. 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.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Crane to approve: 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.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 10 Nays Abstain 2 Absent

- Mrs. McVeigh asked who the assistant treasurer is.
- Ms. Fisk said Linda Coffey, who is also the accounts payable person.

C. Superintendent's Evaluation

D. Worthington Withdrawal

- This is still old business we had an education plan timeline due by the next meeting.

E. FY 15 Budget

- Mrs. Eliason said Huntington, Montgomery and Russell did not approve the budget. We have 30 days from Monday to send out a new budget to the towns. If we send a budget that is the same or less the towns who have already voted don't have to vote again.
- Mr. Wyand asked if it is a calendar problem.
- Mrs. Eliason said 30 days from tonight is July 9th. So we could wait to that point to approve one, we could also vote one tonight or at next meeting.
- Ms. Fisk said one of the confusions last year was when we put out assessments and the state figures shifted so much. The June 30 mark should allow us to put any updated chapter 70 and cherry sheet information in the budget. She would recommend this to avoid confusion.
- Mrs. Buikus would like to think about sending the same budget, but the committee will send back any excess transportation money.
- Ms. Fisk said you want to base it on the cherry sheet, because you won't get transportation till next June.
- Dr. Hopson would ask to split the motion into two. Mrs. McVeigh had a point, there will be changes to the expenditure pages. It changes the line items, not necessarily the budget bottom line. Mr. Finnie and Mrs. Coburn would like a part time person to cover Spanish and multi culture in the middle and junior high. We will put together an expenditure budget that shows the changes in preschool and Spanish and any changes we know like the settled teaches contract.
- Mrs. Laurie asked if there is a need to rush this.
- Mrs. Buikus told the town she would put forth a vote, they don't have a problem with the budget, they just would like the state numbers.
- We could take a vote the committee as a whole, to return any transportation overage to the towns.
- Ms. Laure said we may actually already reflect that.
- Ms. Fisk said you want to use the cherry sheet figures to make your vote. If we file our state reports on time we get half of our transportation in December and the other half in June.
- Mrs. Eliason said there were multiple parties in multiple towns that expressed that they would like any money in excess in transportation reimbursement to be returned to the towns. She supports Dr. Hopson's recommendation. We could take a vote to whether we would give back 100 % any excess transportation reimbursement. Even if the bottom line was the same the line items might be different.

Mrs. Buikus made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault any transportation funds from the cherry sheet in excess of the currently budgeted amount be returned to the towns.

- Mr. Damon asked why we wouldn't give all excess state money back.
- Dr. Hopson said you can't do that, Chapter 70 automatically goes back, but some grants have to go back to the state.

Mrs. Buikus made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault any transportation funds from the cherry sheet in excess of the currently budgeted amount be returned to the towns.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain Absent

Mrs. Buikus made a motion seconded by Mr. Wyand to develop a new expenditure budget based on the new education needs.

- Mrs. McVeigh asked if you don't wait till July 9th will the finance subcommittee have a chance to review it as well as take public input.
- Mrs. McVeigh said there is a multi-town meeting in Huntington on June 25 and she will not be able to make the school committee meeting.
- Suggestion would be to have finance meetings on the 25th and July 9th.
- Mr. Wyand asked if we vote at the July 9th, can we make sure the towns are aware of the numbers.
- Ms. Fisk said that is why we are waiting until July 9th. Last year the 28th was the deadline, and the state figures came out on July 3.

Mrs. Buikus made a motion seconded by Mr. Wyand to develop a new expenditure budget based on the new education needs.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 11 Nays Abstain 1 Absent

F. Negotiations Update

- The first session with paraprofessional went well. They are scheduled to meet on Friday June 27th. They will continue to meet over the summer. Ms. Jacques was there.

IX. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Line Item Transfers

- Ms. Fisk said most are sub accounts. There has been a lot of sick time and family leave time. She broke out homeless transportation this year now that we are getting reimbursement. They need more supplies for Spanish. There is a new line item for the state for separation pay. Finance will review this on the June 25.
- Ms. Laurie thought we approved the guidance maternity leave because there was no additional cost.
- Ms. Fisk explained where it balanced out.
- Mrs. Otterbeck asked for an explanation of homeless transportation.
- Ms. Taverna said McKinney Vento. If a child falls under one of the categories that says they are homeless and that student is placed out of the district but wants to continue to come here we have to pay for the transportation. This year has been much less than in the past.

B. PARCC/MCAS

- Dr. Hopson said this is a hot topic. He has been appointed to a superintendent's committee to look into this. Mr. Gazda is one of only two superintendents who are going public. Dr. Hopson is still undecided. Everyone had agreed we shouldn't do it at the high school. You can't do it at the 10th grade, but some are trying it at the elementary.
- Dr. Hopson said the only incentive is the schools that do it are held harmless. He thinks there is a pretty good chance that Mass will go to the PARCC so any opportunity we can have to get students and tech practicing would be good. He would put out information and have a parent night if school committee wants. He will be going to a meeting next week and will bring back more information.
- Mrs. Levreault thinks she read PARCC was given twice a year. Once at the beginning and once at the end of the year.
- Dr. Hopson said originally it was 4 times a year. Now it is in the spring and then another one later in the year. We'll see what happens, the new president of the teacher's association is asking for a moratorium for the next 3 years. MCAS is not aligned to the new common core. At this point, it seems like the state has made it very conducive to do it.
- Mr. Damon asked if PARCC is given twice a year will the tests from the first test be back to help with the second test.
- Dr. Hopson said yes.
- Mrs. Levreault confirmed that for the districts that are underperforming who take the test, they will be held where they are.

- Dr. Hopson said there is only room to move up not down.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked what accommodations are going to be given for students since this is online. It may be easy or it may be difficult. Her concern is why we would rush into it. Why don't we sit back for a year and see the failures or successes.
- Dr. Hopson said the argument she is making is actually for PARCC. By starting now you are actually giving students the opportunity to practice. Alternative students will still take the MCAS. For accommodations, that is part of what this process is going to find out. PARCC may actually be easier for accommodations. Accommodations can be done on paper. We were successful for the first trail, so he would like us to see.
- Mrs. McVeigh said so you are saying it is all or nothing in grades 3-8.
- Dr. Hopson said yes, it is all or nothing in grades 3-8
- Mr. McVeigh said it has already incurred a cost by having Dr. Hopson on the board. We don't need to do it. He can't imagine regular education can take the test on this computer. A parent group is going to say it is discriminatory. One on a computer and one on paper. We are talking technology. We don't need to do something nice for the state. He said Hopson should stop being afraid of the state.
- Dr. Hopson said if this was just for the state he wouldn't do it. Dr. Hopson is not afraid of the DESE.
- Mr. McVeigh has never seen him stand out against the DESE.
- Mrs. Eliason said the ultimate goal is to make sure students are learning what they need. We need to decide if we have the money to move ahead. If the MCAS is not going to be aligned to the common core, there may be a misalignment and perhaps it would be better for students to the PARCC.
- Dr. Hopson said they are updating certain parts of the MCAS, but they are banking on PARCC. 20% of the MCAS.
- Mrs. Blocker said our curriculum documents cover both.
- Mrs. McVeigh said 35 out of the 50 states have said they are not going to adopt the common core and PARCC. These facts need to be on the table. There is pushback against this.
- Dr. Hopson said there are 40 something states who are adopting the common core. PARCC is only one of two they are looking at.
- Dr. Hopson said you are guaranteed to be able to take PARCC if you make a decision by the June 30th deadline.

C. Superintendent's Contract Extension

- Mrs. Eliason is hoping to get the evaluations in and the compilation out to school committee for discussion at the next meeting.

X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

June 25 -Refinancing -Lori Lombard

XI. INFORMATION

Information

Internships help guide career plans
 Golden Achievement Finalists announced
 Graduation, senior awards coming up
 Superintendent's Corner May 23, 2014
 GatorRoo Music Festival June 7th
 Concert funds auditorium Improvements
 Superintendent's Corner May 30, 2014
 Middle School, Jr. High Spring Concert & Art Show
 Fourth graders to visit Middle School
 FoodPlay delights young Gateway audience!
 June School Committee Meetings

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 - *Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault to adjourn at 10:08 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy L. Stewart,
School Committee Secretary