

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 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

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

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

- Brennan Foley said they did not get to elections this year. They will hold them as soon as they get back in September. Ms. Lavigueur will take care of it.

IV. CONSENT ITEMS 6/11/14 (Enc.)

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Ms. Suriner to approve the minutes of 6/11/14.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays Abstain 3 Absent 2

V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS

A. Refinancing – Lori Lombard

- Lori Lombard would like the district to be in the position to be able to call back bonds that have high rates to a lower rate. Bonds are issued with a provision that you can call them back after the 10th year of maturity. There are no costs that the district incurs to do that. It is incorporated in the bond. Lori, Ms. Kuhn and Ms. Fisk they have been watching the rates. Rates are at historic lows. Right now they are between 4% and 5 %. This would most likely be a 2 to 3 percent a saving or about \$30,000 annually. That is about \$300,000 over 10 years. The vote refers to the 9 million, but we are at about 5 million. We will just watch the interest rate environment. It could take 30 to 60 days from start to finish. The 2nd piece regarding the treasurer applying to the municipal oversight. There are letter grades that go from A, AA, to AAA. The school district is rated the

highest in the single A rating. You used to be able to buy insurance to improve and enhance the districts ratings. It doesn't cost the district anything. We've just upgraded from an A to an A+.

- Ms. Suriner asked if there is a cost for refinancing
- Lori said it is included in the resized bond amount, rating, printing, marketing, bond council fee, etc. The fee for the 5 million would be about 1%.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked if the towns have to vote on this.
- Mrs. Eliason asked about refinancing 5.6 million, we are not required to calculate the interest payments on that and include it as part of the principal amount.
- Lori said we are just responsible for the principal only - 5.2 million
- Mr. Mason asked if it would change the repayment schedule.
- Lori said they try to keep it consistent with the current timeline.
- John McVeigh said it is about \$30,000 in savings so it would take us a year and a half to pay for it.
- Mr. Damon asked if there is an element of time, we have a two meeting rule. In other words is there any urgency.
- Lori said we've been reviewing the rates. The maturity point is February 2015, so we are just laying it out now to be ready for that time.
- Mrs. Eliason said we are not quite eligible for refinancing yet.
- Mrs. Winer asked if there is any reason not to do it.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Ms. Suriner to suspend the two meeting rule.

- Ms. Fisk said a question came up with the wording.
- Lori we are always very careful about the votes. This was drafted by the district's legal counsel. They don't want to overlook anything. Legal Bond Council (not our council)
- Mrs. Kennedy is not comfortable voting on this. She would like to run it by our counsel. She would like more information before she votes.
- Ms. Suriner asked if Ms. Fisk and Dr. Hopson have any concerns with this.
- Ms. Fisk said we have been looking at these rates for a while, and we are almost at the tipping point and want to be ready.
- Mrs. Levreault said the closer we get to February it will be better. We shouldn't get into a habit of suspending the rules.
- Mrs. Eliason has a question about the 9 million versus 6 million.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Ms. Suriner to suspend the two meeting rule.

Motion Failed (VOTE) Yeas 2 Nays 10 Abstain Absent 2

- Mr. Wyand said the change in the rating through the state that should be done prior to get a better borrowing rate.
- Lori said you would authorize the treasurer to make an application, they will look at budget information, rating information, outstanding debt and Lori and a representative from the district go to a hearing. Then we would carry an AA rating in advance.
- Mr. Wyand asked how long it takes.
- Lori said it would take about a month or so for a hearing. They will look for a vote from the district.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked how we can vote on this without getting more information.
- Mrs. Eliason said we would have enough time to if we voted in July. We are not eligible until February.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Student Representative

- Brennan Foley said they have two more days of school.
- John Wyand said graduation went well. He recorded it and will be putting it on a disc.

B. School Committee

- Mrs. Crane went to the event where the 4th grade visits the 5th grade. Mr. White does such a good job making the 4th graders feel special.
- Mrs. Foley went to the undergrad awards today and it was nicely done.

C. Chairperson

- Mrs. Eliason shared a status report on school committee goals via email. Hopefully you had a chance to review. A few still have to take the ethics and sign up for charting the course. If you do so before the next meeting Mrs. Eliason will update the report. The school year is ending, she thanked the staff and administration and the students for a great year.

D. Superintendent – Central Office Update (Enc.)

- We had an issue with water sampling in August 2013. DEP required our water reporter to write a letter. It is on the website. There is miscommunication because we don't have an issue with the water.
- The Teachers' association voted on a motion of DDM's for next year.

E. Business Manager

- The maintenance staff is gearing up to start their team cleaning. It is a pretty short summer.

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

- Mrs. Levreault said we are one step closer to being perfect. This is the highest participation percent yet. One of our goals was to create a guide to our subcommittee. We all received an email with a guide to the superintendent's evaluation. Please let Mrs. Levreault know if you have any comments or suggestions.
- Mrs. Winer asked if this is for new members.
- Mrs. Levreault said yes. Community members may also want to know what we do on the superintendent's evaluation committee. This will help them too.
- Ms. Suriner asked if this is a standard form or has it been created by the subcommittee.
- Mrs. Levreault said the standard form was from the state, but the committee has some leeway. They still have management meetings. The subcommittee agreed it would be better if done on a quarterly basis.
- Dr. Hopson said the 33 items are state mandated.
- Mrs. Eliason said there are a few pages of original content and then at the end. It is very well done. She thanked Mrs. Levreault.
- Ms. Suriner said it is well done. She thanked them for the information.
- Ms. Suriner asked if the school committee gets evaluated also.
- Mrs. Eliason said this is the first year we have goals for the school committee
- Ms. Suriner said the goals were met based on Mrs. Eliason's opinion
- Dr. Hopson said there are protocols in place in the state for a self evaluation.
- Ms. Suriner said the focus should be shared.
- Mrs. Foley asked what the format looks like.
- Dr. Hopson said there are several different types that talk about some of the same things. If the school committee is interested he can pull off a few for you to look at.
- Mrs. Levreault said at the last superintendent's evaluation subcommittee meeting look at the calendar the process itself – we talked about doing a school committee survey – before the budget process we would take a budget data survey – fact gathering in the community – that way it will help with the budget process. And at the end of the year they will try to find out how they did.
- Mrs. Foley asked if it targets the school committee or the superintendent.
- Mrs. Levreault said it is a fact gathering survey. The school committee would send out the survey. It would not be used in an evaluative way.
- Mrs. Winer said we don't have a way to evaluate how the school committee is doing or working together. It is not an evaluation of the school committee by the school committee. There is a need.
- Mr. Wyand said we should put this on our agenda to talk about in the future so we can move on.

B. Finance Subcommittee

- Finance – no meeting tonight. Mrs. Kennedy thought it was more important to hold the meeting on July 9.
- Mrs. Eliason sent the finance documents (primer, etc.) to the new members.

C. Legislative Liaison

- None right now

D. Policy Subcommittee

- None right now.

E. School Committee Goals Subcommittee - None

F. Community Curriculum Committee

- Mr. Mason said since he last reported, they have been doing outreach – sending emails, focusing on networking in the community to maximize feedback from students, parents, community, expanded etc.
- He had an interview with the Country Journal today so there should be an article shortly GEDEX Gateway educational expansion. He anticipates being busy during the summer months and will need help from administration. Hopefully Dr. Hopson, Ms. Fisk and others will be available. The goal is to get programs running for the fall. Everyone here should spread the word. Mr. Mason asked if the administrators check emails during the summer.
- Dr. Hopson said yes, administrators work in the summer.
- Mr. Mason asked what Ms. Fisk has been doing.
- Ms. Fisk said she has been collecting instructor course forms she read a list of the things being offered.
- Mrs. Winer asked if there is coordination between Mr. Mason and Ms. Fisk. It seems like there would be a lot of overlap.
- Mr. Mason said these are things that will have to be worked out over the summer.
- Ms. Fisk said there is flexibility in the cost and timing. She said they are hoping to start in October. If there is a woodworking or welding offered, it would be taught by our staff.

7:45 - VIII. OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Line Item Transfers

- Ms. Fisk has a new sheet. Final school choice assessment came out three days ago. We had to get one more delivery of heating oil. These will close out the year for accounting. Charter assessments haven't been finalized.

Mrs. Crane made a motion seconded by Mr. Damon to approve line items transfers.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain 2 Absent

B. Superintendent's Evaluation (Enc.)

- Everyone received a document online. It is a compilation of our evaluations for the file. This will go in the superintendent's file.
- Mrs. Winer said there was a requirement to make a comment if you had a negative point of view. There were some who did not comment. It makes it difficult for us to use it in the evaluation. All comments are very helpful.
- Mrs. Eliason said the DESE guide says that any score that is not proficient requires a comment. Constructive feedback is helpful.
- Mrs. Winer said frank comments are good too.
- Dr. Hopson said the process went very well. There are a few areas of improvement. This one went better than the first one. He put things that he and the committee need to look at to work together as a team to improve the district. We are pretty tight with the budget. Administrators submit their budget then the budget goes to school committee in January. The committee might want to look at general spending. Lots of comments both positive and negative with communicating to the towns. We need to come up with a joint effort. Dr. Hopson likes Sandy's suggestion to meet with senior citizens. It should be him and school committee. Lots of discussion about student achievement. Do we focus on just data or the whole child? We need to give direction. School choice and home school is part of what Mr. Mason is starting. Yes the administration would be happy to work with him. Maybe we should look at calibrating the responses. If you have 5 proficient, and 1 needs improvement, the score is needs improvement. Is that okay, the idea to do this was so we have a better understanding of what we ask of the teachers and administrators. Capital maintenance was a 10 year plan and it was a combination of both.
- Mrs. Eliason said although we did work on maintenance, we didn't have a plan to raise the capital.
- Dr. Hopson thinks the committee should come up with the plan. He gave some suggestions.
- A lot of discussion on the educational plan and space. We still have room in this wing. We could still fit every student on this campus. It is a matter of re-organizing.
- Mrs. Winer said we are at about a 1,000 students.
- Dr. Hopson said when we did the building project we didn't have the programs we have now.

- Another comment is we didn't show the cost saving from closing Worthington. Ms. Fisk showed many. There was unsatisfactory rating was to only use legal from mass laws, rather than legal advice. Mrs. Eliason has taken the roll of contacting legal counsel. Dr. Hopson the committee needs to make that decision. Some issues that were brought up about the way he addresses parents, he hopes that if people hear something in the future they should bring it up as we go through and not at the end of the year. Not following bullying policy. As a school committee if there is bullying a member is obligated to fill out a form and report it.
- Dr. Hopson thanked everyone for the work and input. He learned a lot of information. The teachers moved forward despite a negative opinion of the GTA rep.
- Mrs. Eliason thanked Mrs. Levreault for putting everything together.
- Dr. Hopson said one thing they are looking at is we are working with the union giving them the choice to do it electronically or not. It allows people to add evidence for each standard.

C. Worthington Withdrawal

Gateway Educational Plan (Enc.)

- Mrs. Eliason said the plan is to review it tonight and vote in July.
- Dr. Hopson said Worthington will have to do something similar.
- Mrs. Winer said we are going to sail on the same course and the only problem is if we don't get something from the state to offset the cost.
- Mrs. Foley asked which legislator put the language in the document and what the feasibility of contacting that legislator is.
- Dr. Hopson said they pretty much left it in the hands of the DESE.
- Mrs. Hague would like to have copies of the educational plan sent to the towns.
- Dr. Hopson will put it on the website.
- Mrs. Levreault is concerned about the section about possibly closing Chester. She is concerned that we would look at consolidating and closing another school. Yes all students can fit on the Gateway campus, but it doesn't allow for future growth.
- Dr. Hopson said it doesn't make sense to close Chester because it is a building that we own. There is not a lot more we can cut from the district. It doesn't make sense to have combined classes in one school and classes of 22 and 23 in another school.
- Mrs. Crane asked if is this the way the state is going to get us to change one man one vote.
- Dr. Hopson doesn't think so. The DESE said that not amending your regional agreement wouldn't stop the withdrawal.
- Mr. Wyand said as far as closing Chester we are not planning to do it. It is not desired. It just says this is where we are and this is the worst case.
- Dr. Hopson said if they can't do it for existing schools they can't do it for us.
- Mrs. Kennedy said we are in compliance with the law. Mass General Law Chapter 40 says what offices you will vote for in your town. We've been threatened, but not substantially. Closing down the school we have the cost of repaying the loan back, but we also have to pay for the upkeep the school. It is going to hurt Chester the way it is hurting Russell. She wants closing Chester wiped out.
- Dr. Hopson the town won't have that cost, the school owns the building.
- Mrs. Eliason said she had concerns about closing Chester. Mrs. Coburn said she needed two classrooms. There does seem to be an impediment on OT services for our kids because there is not enough room. There is another wing in this building not being used, but this plan doesn't call for reorganizing. She is not comfortable with that under the current configuration. If we are not serious about closing Chester, she sees no need to worry parents.
- Mr. Wyand disagrees. It is a major issue and a reality of the Worthington withdrawal. We have a shortage and if we can't deal with it, this is a worst case option.
- Mrs. Eliason feels it is alarming for parents if we are not serious. We just got a bond rating; we have to turn money back to the towns. We can reduce the excess money collected. She thinks we are inflating the budget for E & D. She would rather keep her money rather than get a rebate.
- Mrs. Winer it is a lot easier to do that than ask the towns for more money if we are short.
- Mrs. McVeigh said your historical spending has been between 94% and 95% except for one year. You are asking the tax payers to prepay your next year's budget. Now you're returning the money and you have the towns expecting to get their assessments reduced. She agrees with the chair.
- Dr. Hopson said Ms. Fisk budgets according to what she thinks she is going to need. It is not any different than what each town. Why is it bad for the school to plan accordingly and not the towns?

- Mrs. McVeigh said our free cash in Huntington by what was received back from the towns. The only difference is our revenues, not our revenues come in higher. They are more concerned about the revenue, not the expenditure. The budget here is expenditures. And only the general fund.
- Ms. Fisk said our budget has to be balanced by both. We go over this line by line with the finance committee. We budget for the exact amount of staff at the time; it can vary by \$30,000. We budget by a teacher average. We don't over budget.
- Mrs. McVeigh said she does it for a living.
- Ms. Fisk said our biggest savings came from special education we try to keep students here and save money. We are being very frugal with our money.
- Mrs. Eliason said Ms. Fisk does a difficult job and she does it very well, no one could doubt that.
- Ms. Fisk said saying she inflates her budget is offensive.
- Mrs. Eliason said Exhibit C the \$600,000 is what we are turning back to the towns.
- Mrs. Winer said the district is very complex budgeting.
- Mrs. Kennedy said it is chapter 41 not 40; election of town officers – offices to be elected 3 or more school committee of terms of not more than 3 years. Shall and may mean
- Dr. Hopson said there are five ways to elect school committee.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked has anyone on this committee sought legal clarification. Do we have an effective date?
- Mrs. McVeigh asked if there is another date to make that effective in the town of Worthington.
- Mrs. Eliason said we have to have a plan in by August 6.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked if this committee intends to challenge the legislation. She cannot believe that this committee has not discussed challenging this legislation. This committee has more to do. This legislation is a dog's dinner and is not even a law. They have taken pieces from MASS General law. It calls for a needs conference and then an education plan.
- Mrs. Kennedy agrees with what Mrs. McVeigh is saying. She has been asking questions. There is nothing clear. The only thing that is clear is that Worthington had to send a letter saying they want to leave. We are so backwards on this. We don't have timelines, the proper procedures, financials, or formal letters. Different legislators have different opinions.
- Mrs. Eliason said we had Attorney Dupere here at a meeting and we did question him on timelines. We did take a vote on a timeline, establishing this timeline, coming up with an educational plan. According to Attorney Dupere we are doing what we should do.
- Mrs. Kennedy said Attorney Dupere has not looked into this as to how everything is going to affect us.
- Dr. Hopson read the letter from the commissioner. Dr. Hopson will send the letter to the committee.
- Mrs. McVeigh said when Worthington voted there wasn't a law in effect for them the vote on. It is not effective until Worthington holds a special meeting to vote to accept the law.
- Mrs. Eliason said whether Worthington votes or not has nothing to do with the school committee. We are doing what the attorney has recommended. If it has nothing to do with the school committee he isn't going to contact our legal counsel.
- Mr. Wyand the law was handed to this committee with timelines and we are doing what we need to. He doesn't think the school committee should challenge, it should be up to the GTAC and the towns.
- John McVeigh asked have we heard anything about the needs conference.
- Dr. Hopson said it doesn't sound like they are going to do that before the commissioner signs.
- Mrs. Winer said Mrs. McVeigh is saying we should challenge the law and it sounds expensive.
- Mrs. Kennedy said the town of Worthington applies for this. It is not our law, Worthington started this.
- Dr. Hopson asked if Mrs. McVeigh is asking the school committee to file an injunction in court.
- Mrs. McVeigh is asking the school committee to investigate all options. The school committee should be asking more questions.
- Educational Plan is what we are talking about.
- Mr. Damon the one valuable plan is that we want to maintain the school pretty much as it is. We don't want to lose programs. There is nothing to determine that anyone is proposing closing Chester. There is nothing that needs to be changed.
- Mrs. Eliason said if we have suggestions for changes, vote now. Otherwise it will look like this.

D. FY 15 Budget (Enc.)

- We don't have to vote tonight.
- Ms. Fisk said when we receive the letter from the commissioner with the 1/12 budget. There will be confusion again this year. She has to send the assessment letters out that way.
- Mrs. Eliason asked why isn't it just 1/12 of last year?
- Dr. Hopson said the commissioner has the right to change it.

- Dr. Hopson said Ms. Fisk adjusted all the line items, added in the preschool and the ½ time foreign language position. It isn't anymore than what was originally sent to the towns.
- Ms. Fisk said we will not be eligible for academic support grants this year, because they will go to level 4 districts. We have added the money to an academic support line. We have increased oil.
- Mr. Mason asked if she could give us an accurate timeline for when you expect to have a budget to the towns.
- Mrs. Eliason said we are hoping to vote at the next meeting.
- Mr. Damon asked about the total district salary now \$49,000, why is it down.
- Dr. Hopson said Ms. Fisk has taken the money and put it into individual line items.
- Mr. Damon asked about the paraprofessional salaries.
- Ms. Fisk said final list of paraprofessional column shift for needs of students, but junior high has decreased. The paraprofessionals move with their students.
- Mr. Damon said the Chester adjustment salary was \$38,000 and now it \$62,000.
- Ms. Fisk said it is just the time spent in that school.
- Mrs. Foley asked if the 1/12 budget will take into consideration the needs of the preschool.
- Ms. Fisk said probably not.
- Mr. Wyand said the increases for salaries are based on what we approve. He can only get one of these numbers to match.
- Ms. Fisk if you are looking at the line item, the salary and the longevity are different.
- Mr. Wyand asked about the superintendent's salary and Ms. Fisk's salary.
- Ms. Fisk,

E. PARCC/MCAS

- Dr. Hopson said we can choose MCAS or PARCC grades 3-8 or 9th and 11th. We can choose either. If we don't choose PARCC now we can by October, but it won't be a guarantee. Dr. Hopson gave background on states using common core. If go to PARCC we won't lose any student growth. Chris Parker, one of the people in our tech department would like to take the PARCC. Students and staff will have an opportunity to have more experience and train.
- Mrs. Winer asked how the scores compare.
- Dr. Hopson said they are doing a comparison now. We are already doing common core curriculum. They are changing some of the tools in PARCC.
- Mr. Wyand said if we take PARCC we can't go down but we can go up.
- Dr. Hopson said if our students do well on PARCC it could improve us. If they do worse, the state is going to keep you the same.
- Mrs. Kennedy said this is still in the development stage. We don't have to vote to do this now. She would like to see the test group come here. Why are there more schools not doing PARCC. It is a cost to the district of \$39.00 per student to take PARCC
- Dr. Hopson said DESE says that PARCC is.
- Ms. Suriner asked what will be the cost to us. The differential cost, equipment, etc.
- Dr. Hopson said there is no cost we are already working on a 1 to 1 basis for computers to do this. The real question is do we get the experience and practice. If they vote this then we need to figure it out.
- Mrs. Kennedy said if the school committee says if the state approves then the school committee votes.
- Mr. Damon, Mrs. Crane approves the superintendent's evaluation.
- Mrs. Levreault said last year we did in grade 7. If we do this it will be in every grout 3-8, not 9 and 11. When does this happen.
- Dr. Hopson said they are both in the spring. One is in March and one is in May; student knowledge, and then open response. Originally it was 4 times a year.
- Mrs. Levreault asked if they will we all be doing it at the same time.
- Dr. Hopson said it will be staggered.
- Mrs. McVeigh said in the March 14 and April 11 superintendent's corner Dr. Hopson wrote about how much of an inconvenience the PARCC test was. What has changed? Aren't we putting more of a burden on our administrators? Shouldn't we continue on with MACAS and wait to see the growth. She looked at an article of from Boston.com about ranking. Why are we in such a hurry?
- Dr. Hopson said because we are probably going to change a year from now. Why not pilot it now when we have nothing to lose. We have worked out some of the bugs.
- John Wyand said we went through figuring out how we were going to do this. We have already started to streamline. It isn't a lot of work once you figure it out. If we get more chrome books, there will be no more

imaging. 1/3 of our laptops are capable of taking PARCC. We do look good in terms of being able to run it on inventory. The network is being upgraded as well.

- John McVeigh asked what happens if we get these and the state doesn't pass the PARCC.
- Dr. Hopson said you have to pay for proctoring PARCC or MCAS.

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

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 11 Nays 3 Abstain Absent

- Mrs. Eliason said we do lose one more year of MCAS.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Crane to approve to take PARCC in Grades 3-8 next year.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays 5 Abstain Absent

G. Superintendent's Contract Extension

- Mrs. Eliason said we had been giving a 6-year contract which is the maximum. She said if the school committee does not renew the contract in any year, you cannot extend until it expires. The school committee could choose to waive it. Dr. Hopson has 3-years left on his contract.
- Mrs. Kennedy handed out a document from Attorney Dupere and read it. We voted it down twice. It was signed by Beth Brett.
- Dr. Hopson said he would like to extend only for fourteen months; four years and two months.
- Mrs. Buikus said if we decided to table this until next year, they could renew it then.
- Dr. Hopson said yes, but this is his 20th year.

Mrs. Crane made a motion seconded by Mr. Damon to extend the contract by 14 months.

- Mrs. Crane said there are members of this board that wouldn't touch paperwork from our attorney, but are using it for this purpose.
- Mrs. Kennedy said that was uncalled for.
- Mrs. Buikus also feels that was inappropriate.
- Mrs. Eliason said the business of granting the six year term is excessive. She doesn't see anything wrong in letting a contract come to its full term. Teachers are committed to a 1 year contract. They wanted to be flexible. It wouldn't go over well to give a contract extension when there are three years left. The contract does allow the superintendent to leave with 90 day notice.
- Mrs. Winer said the reason for a multi-year contract is a vote of confidence, one of the affects seems like we are not giving him a vote of confidence.
- Dr. Hopson said it provides the committee time to do a search and get someone in to replace.
- Mr. Damon said if he were in Dr. Hopson's shoes, he would see a non-extension as an insult. He has confidence in him. If he leaves we are going to go through one heck of a mess and expense in replacing him.
- Mrs. Crane would think this vote is supposed to relate back to the evaluation. When you look at the pie chart the majority rated him exemplary or proficient.
- Mrs. Levreault said currently Dr. Hopson has three years on his contract, the teaching staff agreed on a one year contract. We are saying that are we are not sure what is going to happen. He should too.
- Dr. Hopson said you can't compare teachers to administrators. They still have tenure, even if they don't have a contract. If he did the same with every administrator, we wouldn't have many left. He doesn't have to stay he is trying to do what is best for the district.
- Mrs. McVeigh said you have a 1 year contract as a teacher. If you lay them off you don't have to give a reason.
- Dr. Hopson said you can lay off any administrators for many reasons.
- John McVeigh said we have highway, police chief's who go till the end of their contract. To say you may leave if you don't reappoint me. Mr. McVeigh said he was leaving.
- Dr. Hopson is sorry he took it that way; he just wanted to lay out for the school committee what his intentions are so there are no surprises.
- Mrs. Winer said no one else other than herself and Mr. Damon have been through the process of finding a new superintendent. The ones in the market are there for a reason.

- Mrs. Eliason feels it is the wrong time to make such a lengthy commitment.
- Ms. Fisk said she thinks we are going to go through some serious changes; there is a lot on our plate. She has worked for them of the superintendent's. You have someone who is vested in the district and cares about the children. She thinks it is the right time to make that commitment.

Mrs. Crane made a motion seconded by Mr. Damon to extend the contract by 14 months. (One year and 4 months August 31, 2018)

Motion Passes (VOTE) Yeas 7 Nays 6 Abstain 1 Absent

H. Negotiations Update

- None

IX. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Refinancing

Recommendation that in order to reduce interest costs on outstanding debt, the District is authorized to issue bonds or notes for the purposes of refunding all or any portion of its \$9,000,000 General Obligation Bonds, dated February 1, 2005 including, if any, the payment of any premium and accrued interest associated therewith, and all other costs incidental and related thereto, under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 21A of the Massachusetts General Laws, or any other enabling authority.

Recommendation that the District Treasurer, or any other officer of the district, is authorized to file an application with the appropriate officials of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts (the "Commonwealth") to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all refunding bonds of the District authorized pursuant to this vote, and to provide such information and execute such documents as such officials of the Commonwealth may require in connection therewith.

- Move to Old Business for next meeting.

B. School Committee Annual Report

- Move to Old Business for next meeting

Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Damon left at 10:22 p.m.

X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

Change time of meeting -next meeting.

Casey Pease wants to hold a Model UN conference at Gateway

Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Damon left at 10:22 p.m.

XI. INFORMATION

Information

Fourth graders 'Step-Up' to Middle School

Superintendent's Corner June 16, 2014

Local Storyteller wows Gateway Students

Paradis-Burnett, Barrett and Wyand take top honors at Gateway

Superintendent's Corner June 6, 2014

Last day of school

Graduation concludes Gateway 50th Celebration!

Warrants

AP# 1105 \$124,595.58

PR# 26 \$

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

or earlier

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT *Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault to adjourn at 10:24 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy L. Stewart,
School Committee Secretary