

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016

Room 214/216 Jr. High

7:00 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
Diane Dunn

HUNTINGTON

William Hathaway
Jeff Wyand

MIDDLEFIELD

Sarah Foley

MONTGOMERY

Anne-Marie Buikus
Madelyn Austin

RUSSELL

Heather Morgan

SECRETARY

Stacy Stewart

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Joanne Blocker, Director of Academics
Megan Coburn, Chs,Lit,Ms Principal
Jason Finnie, High/Jr. High Principal
Sara Laing, Chs,Lit, Ms Assistant Principal
Wendy Long, District Grant Writer
Anthony Sabonis, High/Jr. High Assistant Principal
Alice Taverna, Pupil Services Director

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: _____

7:05 p.m. II. PUBLIC INPUT (3 Minute Limit)

- Mrs. Crane opened the meeting at 7:06 p.m.
- Mrs. Buikus and Mrs. Austin are recording the meeting.
- James Duggan read a statement on behalf of teachers association with regards to the budget and negotiations.
- Cheryl Wright read a statement supporting the teachers and what a great school we have.
- Susan Rhoads read statement comparing teacher salaries.
- Rod Kleber talked about his history at Gateway and working together.

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

- Brennan Foley said the seniors started a Yankee Candle fundraiser today. They collected class dues of \$75. They are in the process of choosing a commencement speaker and looking into a senior trip. Dr. Seuss events will be happening in March. Six students went to honor band. It was phenomenal. They had a master class for each instrument and sectional. The cost was \$40 and the band boosters paid for half. The healthy relationships group continues. Model UN is selling carnations. Friday is spirit day and students are wearing pink and red. Skiing finished yesterday. The following skiers are going to states: Johnathan Rooney, Nick Herman, Jess Garriepy, Alison Garriepy and Shannon Burke.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS

- A. FY '15 Audit Report – Stan Kulas (Enc.'s) – moved to next meeting.

V. BUDGET

A. FY '17 Budget

- Administrator Presentations
- Dr. Hopson said the court ruled we didn't have standing in anything we put forward in the lawsuit. Attorney's Dupere and Lampke are reviewing it now. Attorney Russell Dupere will be here at the next meeting for potential next steps.
- Mrs. Winer asked if the judge said why.
- Mrs. McVeigh said the legislature has the right to make general law. Education is the purview of the state so they have the right to pass general law. A lot of the issues are related to the breaking of a contract not necessarily education.
- Mrs. Crane said our attorney will be here for the next meeting to help us go over everything.
- Mrs. McVeigh would ask that Attorney Russell Dupere be prepared to discuss the cost of an appeal, plus the litigation. We will have to think about suing Worthington for their costs.
- Mrs. Buikus asked for a copy of the ruling.
- Dr. Hopson said he will share what we have. We only have information from the lawyer.
- Dr. Hopson said we have been carrying additional payments for those issues in the budget. How are we going to address that? For FY '17 we have included \$84,000 as revenue that Worthington has no intention of paying. It is for the Hampshire county retirement and the pay as you go insurance. We didn't get anything this year and they are not planning on paying next year. Only capital costs are included in the agreement. We have to adjust the budget.
- Dr. Hopson gave a brief PowerPoint presentation.
- Mr. Crochiere asked what is the benefit of getting rid of junior high?
- Dr. Hopson said when we split middle school and junior high we lost administrators. As population decreases we can fit 5th back in the elementary schools. There were concerns in the middle school there wasn't a teaming effort and they are happy to go back to the middle school model 6-8. We will have a principal in each building and will be able to eliminate a middle school office.
- Mrs. Coburn gave a presentation on the Prek-5 model of the budget.
- Mrs. Buikus asked if band and Chorus for 5th grade will be available for Chester.
- Mrs. Coburn said yes. Anything offered at one building will be offered at another.
- Susan Roads asked if we know how many students choice out of Littleville.
- Dr. Hopson doesn't know off the top of his head.
- Mr. Finnie gave a presentation for middle and high schools.
- Mrs. Winer asked if Mr. Finnie thinks he can make a good program with that grade configuration.
- Mr. Finnie thinks we can, we are stretched thin in some areas, but the other options don't support our students.
- Mrs. Winer asked about online courses.
- Mr. Finnie said we are more flexible with online courses, but they are mostly offered to juniors and seniors. We use a particular vendor and we offer students online courses for those courses we don't offer.
- Mrs. Austin asked if there is a state requirement for health.
- Mr. Finnie said there has to be PE, but health is not required.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked if a student participates in after school sports, do they have to take P.E.
- Mr. Finnie said we have looked into potential waivers for that, but at this point they are still required to take PE.
- Mrs. Buikus asked if there are any courses we have had to think about cutting with the budget.
- Mr. Finnie said a 2nd level of health potentially. There are electives related to PE (bodies and brains, sports management). It also depends on what students sign up for. Wood shop may have fewer sections.
- Mrs. Buikus asked about AP courses.
- Mr. Finnie said right now we are trying not to touch those.
- Mrs. Winer asked how we are going to get along with fewer days for the sped administrator.
- Dr. Hopson said it won't be easy, but the new administrator will only be working a few less days. Their vacation time won't be the same and if you recall we are redistributed tasks.
- Mrs. Winer asked about the academic director.
- Dr. Hopson said it seems simple but as we continue to meet to go over tasks it becomes overwhelming.
- Mrs. Winer said we had two people doing that before.
- Dr. Hopson said we had a Math and ELA coach under Mrs. Blocker. A lot of decisions made have been made around keeping student services. We have a lower budget now than in 2003. When you cut administrators you have to rearrange. We try to avoid laying off staff, so you avoid paying unemployment.

Mrs. Coburn and Mr. Finnie indicated there is a lot of work to do, but we are still trying to move forward for the next few years. You have the budget and both Mrs. Coburn and Mr. Finnie will be available for questions at the next meeting.

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to go into executive session at or before 9:15 p.m. for the purpose of union negotiations not to return to open session.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 11 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Anne-Marie, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Bill, Heather, Martha, Shirley, Jeff, Michele

7:45 VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM

A. Towns' Unfunded Mandates Request

- Resource Officer – Hold till next meeting when Mrs. Kennedy is here.
- Mitigation Money - Dr. Hopson has spoken with Attorney Dupere and he thinks we shouldn't take any action right now. Attorney Lampke is still not sure how to move forward with that. He may ask the attorney general's office.

B. Regional Agreement Amendment

- Dates for Billing/Percentages for Assessments - Mrs. Foley said Joe Kearns has it on the next agenda for their finance committee meeting.
- One Man One Vote - we will be bringing forward many changes. Dates, one man one vote, rolling population, etc.
- Mike Crochiere said typically in business you use a 3-5 average, it kind of smoothes it out transition wise.
- Mrs. Buikus said we have some decisions to make if we are going to get this to the towns. It will have to go around the same time as the budget.

VII. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Policies – Overview

JH: Student Absence
JIC: Student Discipline
JK: Student Conduct

- Policies will be moved to the next agenda for approval. This was the first reading.

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS 1/20/16

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve the minutes of 1/20/16.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 10 Nays Abstain 1 Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Anne-Marie, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Bill, Heather, Martha, Shirley, Michele
Abstain: Jeff

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mrs. Foley met with the select board and talked about the budget
- Mrs. Otterbeck said 2025 was a very uplifting inspiring event. The teachers, students and parents had a lot to say.
- Mrs. Crane said it was nice to hear parents of younger children want to get more involved.

B. Chairperson – Survey Update

- Mrs. Crane reminded everyone to turn in their surveys. She will contact Pat Corriera..
- Mrs. Dunn would like to be added to warrant signing subcommittee. There were no objections.

C. Superintendent

Central Office Update (Enc.)
RFP (link in central office update)

- Dr. Hopson is still working on 2025. There were about 290 individual ideas that came out of the meeting.
- Dr. Hopson said the RFP was included in the central office update as a link.
- Mrs. Buikus said the dates need to be changed under qualifying proposals on page 8. There is a due date of proposals of March 15. Then it says consultants will be contacted no later than March 9.
- Dr. Hopson will make the changes.
- Mrs. Buikus asked who is going to be on the committee. She and Mrs. Crane have volunteered to be on the committee.

D. Business Manager

- Ms. Fisk said she and maintenance have already been discussing the summer schedule of cleaning with the new configurations. The well was flushed this weekend and the tests came out fine and we are awaiting DEP approval to go online with the well.
- The quarterly report was in the packet and covers through the end of December. DESE has a copy of this as well.

E. Administration

- Mrs. Long will have five grants that need school committee acceptance approval on new business for the next agenda.
- Coordinated Program Review – Alice Taverna (Enc.)
- Ms. Taverna said every 6 years DESE completes a coordinated program review. It is a paper compliance for civil rights, special education, ELL, etc. Title I and II is coming soon too.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation

- They met tonight and will meet prior to the March 9 meeting.

B. Legislative Liaison - None

C. Policy Subcommittee - None

D. Building Liaisons

- Mrs. Crane had a meeting with Mr. Wing last week, regarding maintenance.
- Mrs. Winer asked about solar.
- Dr. Hopson said he hasn't heard much from Todd Bard, but we have signed a contract.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

XII. INFORMATION

Information

Please RSVP for "Gateway 2025" by January 26

Superintendent's Corner January 4, 2016

Winter sports underway

February School Committee meetings

Huge response in district-wide service project

Superintendent's Corner January 22

Gateway undergoing Coordinated Program Review

Education Foundation funds 7 new projects at Gateway

Portable planetarium brings lessons to Littleville

Superintendent's Corner January 29, 2016

Vocational school application deadline March 1

Schools, offices to close for winter vacation

Warrant

AP#1053 \$145,886.77

PR# 015 \$381,310.36

AP#1056 \$79,975.96

PR# 016 \$364,369.36

AP#1059 \$50.84

**9:00-10 p.m. XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
or earlier**

- A. Union Negotiations
- B. Litigation

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to go into executive session at or before 9:15 p.m. for the purpose of union negotiations not to return to open session.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 11 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Anne-Marie, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Bill, Heather, Martha, Shirley, Jeff, Michele

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Garfield to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 11 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Anne-Marie, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Bill, Heather, Martha, Shirley, Jeff, Michele

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy L Stewart,
School Committee Secretary