

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016

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

All those attending the school committee meeting should sign in at the security booth.

(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
Ron Damon
Jeff Wyand

MIDDLEFIELD
Sarah Foley

MONTGOMERY
Anne-Marie Buikus
Madelyn Austin

RUSSELL
Tara Balboni
Heather Morgan
Lyndsey Papillon

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: _____

7:35 p.m. II. PUBLIC INPUT (3 Minute Limit)

- Mrs. Crane opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- Mrs. Austin and Mrs. Buikus and the reporter are recording the meeting.
- Mrs. Crane introduced Pat Corriera from MASC and Lyndsey Papillon our new representative from Russell to the committee. All members introduced themselves.

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

- Brennan Foley said Friday, 8 seniors are going to Disney. The Friday they get back is spring fling. They held Penny Wars to raise money for Spring Fling. They made over \$300. Senior exams are the May 24-27, the last full week in May. Tomorrow is the Brennan’s last band concert. The band will be marching in the Memorial Day Parade’s for Chester, Blandford, and Huntington this year. The video is ready. Brennan Foley, Davis Britland, Kenneth Bourdon, Christian Tweed, and Jenna Margarites were nominated for the Golden Achievement Award. Senior awards will be June 1, and Graduation is June 3. Tickets are available for the sports banquet and the Prom is being held at the Ranch in Southwick.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS

A. Special Education/Autism Presentation – Sean O’Neill

- Sean O’Neil, Autism specialist gave a brief presentation about Autism. He explained what autism is and explained some of the many symptoms and characteristics. Mr. O’Neil introduced Rebecca Austin, one of his students who has Autism. Rebecca spoke about herself, what she is sensitive to, her interests, friendships and what motivates her.

B. MASC School Committee Self-Evaluation Overview

- Self Evaluation overview with Pat Corriera from MASC. Pat complimented Rebecca.
- Pat said seven were turned in. She handed out a review. School committee should have a strategic plan, a living plan. She asked if we have goals and are the goals measurable. There is a school committee training in Lee on September 10. She recommended school committee go as a group. It doesn’t have to be posted since there is no business.
- Mrs. Buikus said a couple of years ago we set goals: some of them were student performance, legal updates, attending charting the course, review a five year plan for facilities, outgoing school choice Surveys, Safety plan, community relations etc.
- Pat said you should know where they are and how you track them. You could ask the superintendent for a report once a month. The Safety plan would be reviewed with police, etc., and then report would come to school committee for review for you to vote your approval. Sometimes you just need to see it.
- Mrs. Buikus said they also said each member would meet with their select board each year.
- Pat said you should all go with the same message. Maybe once a year have an informal get together.
- Mrs. Winer said between now and the beginning of the year would be a good time for that.
- Pat said to write your goals then take a week and then decide what is important.
- Mrs. Austin said when you say measure your goals, what do you mean, since some of them, when it is done it’s done.
- Pat said if you give a date for a goal, you review how far you’ve come in that time. When it’s done it’s done, but some of them may take five or even ten years. She said to have your chair, administrative assistant and superintendent keep track of goals. You can communicate with the superintendent as well.
- Mrs. Winer talked about when a town left the district there were a couple people that were very difficult and only time has changed it, we didn’t solve it anything.
- Pat said all you can do is let it go and move on. She would have relied heavily on the superintendent and legal counsel.
- Mrs. Crane said when the committee votes, the group is supposed to represent the vote of the committee even if you voted no or against something.
- Pat said you work as a committee. It’s almost like a marriage. Fourteen members is a lot. Once a vote is taken and you are not on the prevailing side, you accept it because you are professionals and you have to move on. Kids are your number one priority. To make sure they have enough money, the correct courses, and they all graduate and succeed.
- Mr. Damon thanked Pat for coming.
- Pat said we can set some goals and set up a workshop.

7:45 V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM

A. FY ’17 School Calendar

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve the 2016-2017 school calendar.

- Mr. Damon asked if vacations were in alignment with other districts.
- Dr. Hopson said yes.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve the 2016-2017 school calendar

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain 1 Absent (Roll Call Vote)

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

8:15 - VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommendation to Award Special Education Transportation Contract to Lecrenski for 2016-2017.

- Ms. Fisk said Lecrenski put in for a 0% increase in special education transportation. They follow what is going on. There are 7 outgoing and 7 internal busses. We have started the cost savings analysis with

Massachusetts Association of Pupil Transportation. We are going to focus on having our own vans. They are not focusing on just special education transportation. Busses could also be used for the alpine ski team or work study.

- Mrs. Buikus asked if they are going to help with hiring drivers and insurance.
- Ms. Fisk said the grant is just to study it. There could be cost sharing with other districts.
- Mr. Damon said if we end up with a special needs kid mid-year, we could have the parent transport the child. He is only suggesting we keep that possibility in mind with parents.
- Ms. Taverna said she has had that conversation with parent before.

B. FY '17 School Committee Schedule

- Mrs. McVeigh said she knows we meet at the school for Huntington, but she would like school committee to consider meeting at Stanton Hall in Huntington.
- Mrs. Crane said to think about what Mrs. McVeigh said whether we want to continue to travel.
- Mrs. Buikus asked if we could change the Montgomery meeting to October 12, switching with Chester. She also mentioned the start time was 7:00.
- Dr. Hopson said yes, it seemed to work during budget, and we need to consider that the building will be closing at 9:00 p.m. next year.
- Move to unfinished business.
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VII. CONSENT ITEMS 4/27/16

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve the minutes of 4/27/16.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays Abstain 4 Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Heather, Martha, Michele

Abstain: Anne-Marie, Lyndsey, Shirley, Jeff

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mrs. Balboni has a sign-up sheet for the retirement recognition which she will pass around.
- Mrs. Otterbeck said the hypno fundraiser for the yearbook Friday night was great and the Drive 4 your School event was a ton of fun.
- Mrs. Foley said Middlefield had its town meeting on Saturday and everything passed almost unanimously.

B. Chairperson

- Mrs. Crane said we now have three towns that passed the budget; Blandford, Middlefield, and Russell.
- Mrs. Dunn and Mrs. Austin will sit on the Richard Carmel Scholarship Committee on May 23, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

C. Superintendent

Central Office Update

- Superintendent Tomorrow they start interviews for pupil services director. Teachers' ratified the contract on Monday. All three contracts will go to DESE now. This week the secretaries asked to start meeting. He asked if someone wants to sit on the negotiations committee. Mrs. Austin will if she can.

D. Business Manager - None

E. Administration

- Mrs. Long said the foundation has had a wonderful 10 days. They held a 50/50 raffle at the Chester musical. The total raised was \$180 and the person who won, gave the money back to the foundation. Valley Gives Day rased over \$6,000. The first matching grant was from Dr. Hopson's daughters to send a girl to girls' state and was met by 8a.m. The board put up a grant that was met and the class of 2015 put up a matching grant that was also met. The drive 4 your school on Saturday with was fun. Almost the entire board was there. We had about 125 there that day and the dealership took forms and we have additional form the can be filled out through Friday. It essentially is marking research for Ford. We are just about at the \$4,000 mark. Mrs. Long thanked everyone who came out.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation - Evaluation Survey

- Mrs. Crane said it is time for us to do our survey of Dr. Hopson. A lot of what you received in your packet has to do with your survey and can be used as backup. She handed out a paper copy of the survey. The link will go out tomorrow morning. Everyone will need to do the responses in one sitting and she believes it is within 1 hour. You have two weeks to do it. It is due back by the next meeting. Our goal is to get 100 % participation.
- Mrs. Winer made sure everyone understands the handouts are proof of what has been done.
- Mrs. Crane said you can use your own experiences with Dr. Hopson as well. The supporting documents are to help jog your memory.
- Mrs. Morgan said Rubric looks like it is chopped off. Mrs. Stewart will send it out again.
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B. Legislative Liaison - None

C. Policy Subcommittee - None

D. Building Liaisons

- Mrs. Balboni said the kids are taking PARCC right now. The kids seem pretty happy; it doesn't feel as grueling as MCAS.
- Ms. Fisk asked for another volunteer for the warrant signing committee,
- Dr. Hopson said in the packet was a letter from the Salvation Army requesting a drop box be put at Gateway. We would it where there are cameras, if there is a problem we can have it removed. We were thinking behind by the cafeteria where there are a lot of cameras.
- There was no opposition

X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

National School Lunch – May 25

XI. INFORMATION

Information

Experts guide Gateway student musicians
 NHS Inductions April 27
 Gateway's Wasiak wins regional and state awards
 Gateway's Kindergarten Screening
 Jammies and books featured in Littleville's "Half-Sleepover"
 Superintendent's Corner April 11, 2016
 April School Committee meeting
 Hundreds of drivers needed on May 7!
 Chester Elementary School presents "Let's Eat" musical
 New (and returning!) donors sought for Valley Gives Day
 Enjoy the foods of the world at Gateway Fundraiser
 Superintendent's Corner April 15, 2016
 School safety explained
 TWO ways to support Gateway's Education Foundation next week!
 "Hypno Lorenzo" at Gateway on May 6
 Sports Banquet tickets now available
 Six Gateway athletes honored at MIAA "Citizenship Day"
 Third term honor roll for high school
 Superintendent's Corner April 25, 2016
 Spaghetti Supper, HUGE Raffle at Chester ES
 Drivers needed to make history on May 7
 12 Inducted to National Honors Society at Gateway
 Jr. High third term effort awards
 May School Committee Meetings
 Middle School third term effort awards

Superintendent's Corner May 2, 2016

Warrant

AP#1074 \$151,342.01

PR# 021 \$363,679.67

AP#1078 \$202,914.19

PR# 022 \$336,443.94

AP#1082 \$30,473.55

AP#1083 \$53.88

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

or earlier

A. Litigation: Kennedy, et al. v. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, et al. - No.:HSCV2014-00210

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to adjourn at 9:11 p.m.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 13 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Anne-Marie, Ron, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Heather, Lyndsey, Martha, Shirley, Jeff, Michele

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy L Stewart
School Committee Secretary