

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2015

Russell Town Hall

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
Diane Dunn

HUNTINGTON
Ron Damon

MIDDLEFIELD
Sarah Foley

MONTGOMERY

RUSSELL
Ruth Kennedy
Mary Ann Laurie
Tara Balboni

SECRETARY
Stacy Stewart

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Joanne Blocker, Director of Academics
Wendy Long, District Grant Writer
Alice Taverna, Pupil Services Director

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: _____

II. PUBLIC INPUT FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA (3 Minute Limit)

- Mrs. McVeigh asked about OPEB; if and when the account was established and how much was put in.
- Ms. Fisk said it is a revolving account.
- Mrs. McVeigh said if you had not voted it into the trust fund, it would have gone to E & D. She questions the committee why it was in such a rush. We have no firm written notice we will get mitigation money; 4 towns have voted down the budget and 2 towns are beyond their levy limit. On a1/12 budget we are forced to pay beyond our levy limit.
- Ms. Fisk said last year Huntington voted a budget with \$150,000extra from transportation.
- Mrs. McVeigh said it was \$40,000.
- Mrs. McVeigh understands the theory and why it is important, but a \$106,000? At this point, \$20,000 would have been a nice gesture. If town officials had known, more town officials would have been there with questions.
- Dr. Hopson said because that money was unexpended in those accounts, it can be put into a revolving account. It is possible to apply it to insurance costs. Until the trust isn't completely set up. It can only be used for what it is set up for. Best scenario is we get mitigation, and we put the money towards OPEB. Should mitigation not come through, the school committee can take that money and offset insurance.
- Mrs. McVeigh said if the motion put the money into the trust fund; she understands you can't just take it out.
- Dr. Hopson said I can be taken out to offset insurance.
- Ms. Fisk said, yes you can use it to fund retiree health insurance. We are trying to get an establishment.
- Dr. Hopson said the money put in is the money not spent on insurance related items at the current time. If you didn't spend those funds this year, it would roll over into E & D account. The money was voted into the trust fund.

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

- Brennan Foley said the band will be playing on the green in Huntington on July 23rd.

IV. REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE

- Attorney Russell Dupere stated that Dr. Hopson should sit in as Chair during the nomination and vote.

A. Chairperson

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Winer to nominate Mrs. Crane as Chair.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Winer for the secretary to cast a vote for Mrs. Crane as Chair.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 8 Nays Abstain 2 Absent

B. Vice-Chairperson

Mrs. Garfield made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to nominate Mrs. Otterbeck as Vice Chair.

Mr. Damon made a motion Seconded by Mrs. Foley to have the secretary cast a vote for Mrs. Otterbeck as Vice Chair.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 8 Nays Abstain 2 Absent

C. Secretary (Stacy Stewart)

Mrs. Winer made a motion seconded by Mr. Damon to nominate Mrs. Stewart as Secretary.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to have the secretary cast a vote for Mrs. Stewart as Secretary.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays Abstain 1 Absent

REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE (Continued)

D. District Treasurer (Deborah Kuhn)

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mr. Damon to nominate Deb Kuhn as Treasurer.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to have the secretary cast a vote for Deb Kuhn as Treasurer.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 10 Nays Abstain Absent

E. Legislative Contact

Mrs. Winer made a motion seconded by Ms. Laurie to nominate Mrs. Kennedy as Legislative Contact.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to have the secretary cast a vote for Mrs. Kennedy as Legislative Contact.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays Abstain 1 Absent

F. Counsel for the Committee (Dupere Law Offices)

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield for Dupere Law Offices as Legal Counsel for the committee.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to have the secretary cast a vote for Dupere Law offices a Legal Counsel for the committee.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays Abstain 1 Absent

G. Negotiator for the Committee (Dupere Law Offices)

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to nominate Dupere Law Offices as negotiator for the committee.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to have the secretary cast a vote for Dupere Law Offices as negotiator for the committee.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 10 Nays Abstain Absent

H. Sick Bank Committee (2 members)- Ron, Sarah, Michele (Alt.)

I. Negotiations Committee - Ron, Shirley, Ruth

- Mrs. McVeigh asked when the committee votes to hold formal or informal negotiations.
- Dr. Hopson said the committee looks at what is recommended by administration and it's brought to executive session. The Union makes a decision if it will be collaborative or traditional. We already voted
- Mrs. McVeigh asked to have executive session minutes.

J. Superintendent's Evaluation Committee - Terri, Shirley, Tara

K. Policy Committee - Ruth, Diane

L. Warrant Signing Committee - Michele, Shirley, Ruth, Ron

M. Finance Committee - Ruth, Michele

- Mrs. Winer asked if we can go over the purpose of the finance committee at some point; to start off the new year with a better defined purpose. Put on agenda for next meeting.

V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS - None

7:45 - VI. OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. School Committee Professional Development/Team Building

- Mrs. Crane has not followed up with MASC's Glenn Koocher, but she will. We could talk about doing a survey of ourselves. It might be a good time to take stock and do the evaluation.
- Mrs. Otterbeck said people had some concerns with the structure of the survey.
- Mrs. Laurie remembers voting for it; the main objections were that the ranking wasn't even sided.
- Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to move forward with the MASC Evaluation survey.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked why we would do it if they have not changed the survey.
- Mrs. Otterbeck said we need to start somewhere; she was the one that brought this to the committee. It will give us a place to start. We need a tool.
- Mrs. Foley agreed it is a place to start.

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to move forward with the MASC Evaluation survey.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays 1 Abstain Absent

B. Furlough Day Action

- On June 6, 2015 the following vote was taken in executive session.

Mr. Wyand made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy to give back 1 day's pay to each non-teaching staff member who took furlough days.

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

Yeas: Ruth, Jeff, Terri, Sarah, Shirley, Martha, Ron, Sue, Anne-Marie, Michele

C. Worthington Withdrawal

- Mrs. Kennedy said there is nothing new; just waiting on the courts

D. FY '16 Budget

- Dr. Hopson said the budget went to governor today. They will be able to work on the supplemental budget soon. You still have two weeks to do something with the budget. You can do something tonight or hold a special meeting. The towns have rejected the budget. If you get mitigation money, 4 towns have appropriated enough money so they don't have to vote again. If mitigation doesn't come in then school committee has to send another budget. It gives us until July 28th. You can decide to send a different budget, or you could set a date for two weeks should you not get mitigation money. Failure to take action sends the old budget back to the towns. If we get news the injunction is in place we are back to 17 members, if there is no injunction we have 15 members. (10 people required to vote a budget)
- Mr. Damon said its better we take action tonight.
- Mrs. Kennedy said one of our fiduciary duties is we cannot send back a budget the towns cannot afford. The two weeks is going to make a big difference.
- Dr. Hopson said two weeks is July 22. If we schedule a meeting we can change it.
- Ms. Laurie asked if the administration started to develop ideas.
- Dr. Hopson said you had a budget back in January that had \$630,000 less. You might want to look at that budget again.

Mrs. Kennedy made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to set a special meeting on July 22, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. if necessary. (if we don't receive mitigation funds)

- Mrs. Winer said in the event we need to do this we should send a letter out.
- Mr. Damon said what if there is no quorum
- Dr. Hopson said if you can't make a meeting, there may be different assessments. The same budget would be sent with different assessments.
- Mr. Damon said there is nothing in the budget he is comfortable removing.

Mrs. Kennedy made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to set a special meeting on July 22, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. if necessary. (if we don't receive mitigation funds)

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays Abstain 1 Absent

VII. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. School committee hotel, meals and travel reimbursement.

- Mr. Damon said if this committee decides to pay for hotels etc., we should put in some limitations.
- Ms. Fisk said we have an internal regulation already. It would be the same process.
- Mrs. Crane asked to send out the current protocol.

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS 6/10/15(Enc.) ,6/24/15

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy to approve the minutes of 6/10/15

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 7 Nays Abstain 3 Absent

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. School Committee - None**
B. Chairperson

- Introductions were made. Diane Dunn is a new school committee member representing the town of Chester.

C. Superintendent

Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Planning overview for 2025; looking at how to bring up more than sustainability. We will copy and expand upon 2015 where we took community groups; teachers, community member etc. and investigate what they want to see in the schools in 10 years. Starting now for what we want the district to look like in 2025. We see major activities as: October, create focus groups (students, alumni, parents, staff, community members and town officials); Jan- March: putting information together (potential drafts); April –June send information to the committee (is there anything missing); July – September of next year review. Hopefully by next fall we will start implementing options.
- Mrs. Winer asked how this relates to accreditation study.
- Dr. Hopson is hoping that some of the information we find here will be able to be used.
- Mrs. Winer said it would be helpful to have a summary of what happened in 2015 and could school committee get a copy.
- Dr. Hopson said all the information was on the website.
- Mrs. Crane asked what would be needed from school committee.
- Dr. Hopson said you could be a focus group; you are actually a town official.
- Dr. Hopson said one of the things that came up last time was how do you get broad band into the towns. That was important in the school but we don't have control of the towns. A lot of people still access internet through phones.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked who built the website and how much it cost.
- Dr. Hopson said e-rate used to fund the website, but it no longer covers websites. We had teachers look at different hosts that cost less, and were easier to use. Currently the new website is \$3,000 cheaper per year than the other. He thinks it is about \$4,000. School point is the new host. Leadership team had a brief meeting with them today. There will be training for the teachers for their WebPages. Teachers use them for multiple reasons. Some that didn't like the old host actually used other applications.
- Mrs. Long said the new host refits for a mobile device.
- Dr. Hopson said there are some scheduling pieces that need to be worked out.
- Mrs. Kennedy had an issue when she went on the new website.
- Dr. Hopson said there are a number of links that are not working correctly right now. If anyone sees anything please let us know.

D. Business Manager - None

E. Administration

- Mrs. Long said we are starting the FY '16 grant season; working on special education and title grants. She thanked Mrs. Balboni for being her liaison this year. She has a public relations background that will be very helpful.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation - None

B. Finance Subcommittee - None

C. Legislative Liaison - None

D. Policy Subcommittee - None

E. Building Liaisons

- Mrs. Crane said we should revisit the liaison section. For the next meeting, think about if you have a particular interest and if folks want to stay in that area or try something else.

F. Community Curriculum Committee - None

XI. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA
Future Agenda Items

XII. INFORMATION
Information

Local author visits Littleville

Gateway to have new website, new e-newsletter

O'Neill named 'Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction'

Superintendent's Corner June 19, 2015

Gateway summer announcements

Summer reading emphasized for Gateway students

4th grades host final school assemblies

Superintendent's Corner June 24, 2015

Kids become storytellers at Gateway Middle School

Community partners bring CPR training to health class

Students return from Boys State, Girls State- Huntington Historical Society sends 1st Gateway girl in years

Warrant

AP#1097 \$269,189.34

PR#25 \$396,646.57

AP#1099 \$50,540.94

PR#26 \$41,387.51

AP#1000 \$553,281.42 FY '16

PR#26.2 \$891,764.96

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

- A. Union Negotiations
- B. Non-Union Negotiations
- C. Litigation

XIX. ADJOURNMENT *Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mr. Damon to adjourn at 8:38 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy L Stewart
School Committee Secretary