

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2016

**Montgomery Town Hall
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
Ron Damon
Jeff Wyand

MIDDLEFIELD
Sarah Foley

MONTGOMERY
Anne-Marie Buikus
Madelyn Austin

RUSSELL
Tara Balboni

SECRETARY
Stacy Stewart

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Megan Coburn, Chs,Lit,Ms Principal
Jason Finnie, High/Jr. High Principal
Kurt Garivaltis, Pupil Services Director
Sara Laing, Chs,Lit, Ms Assistant Principal
Wendy Long, District Grant Writer
Anthony Sabonis, High/Jr. High Assistant Principal

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: _____

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

- Mrs. Crane opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Mrs. Buikus, Mrs. Austin, and the reporter are recording the meeting.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked all town school committee members except those from Russell (they are not part of the lawsuit) to talk to their town officials and encourage them to attend the next school committee meeting.

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

- Gabby Garalczyk said they have started spirit days. They have had pink for breast cancer awareness day. Flannel Friday is coming up and the food pantry drive will start in the next couple weeks. There is a spirit point game going on. Students receive spirit points at events such as reindeer game that is held in the winter and includes games like tug of war.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS - None

7:45 V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM - None

8:00 - VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

8:30 p.m.

A. GYAA

- Mr. Jason Fogue introduced himself as the new GYAA President. Their concerns primarily revolve around the amount and purpose of school use fees. He feels it is excessive. He said Ms. Fisk gave him a number

of between \$65-75,000 in that fund. He would like to know why they bring it to the positive if they don't see any outcome out of it. He would like to know what it's going to be used for. He is hoping they will be reclassified to make it more cost effective.

- Ms. Fisk sent information out late in the day and handed out a few copies. It included the previous fiscal years fees paid by GYAA and what GYAA made for the Memorial Day tournament. The back page has information and what it can be spent on; field maintenance, field equipment. We are looking at renovating fields in the next few years. We will be replacing nets behind booster field. Sometimes it is spent on custodial staff for other groups like the Huntington Dance Center who need staff for running the technology booth, or kitchen staff. It is the cost of using the area. Ms. Fisk said we get money from other groups besides GYAA. For example, we have someone come in and hold dog scent trials.
- Mr. Forgue asked for the fee paid by that organization.
- Ms. Fisk said \$1,532, for the grounds for 1.5 days.
- Mr. Forgue said the guidelines don't have a listing of what the funds can be used for.
- Ms. Fisk read the information in the school use pamphlet.
- Mrs. Crane asked what the school committee would like to do with this request. This committee created the fees structure and policy.
- Dr. Hopson said this is not the first time GYAA has come to school committee. What we have done the last couple of times was specifically for GYAA and other groups. GYAA could lower fees for everyone. He said we should have been charging GYAA \$2,200 but we keep at it at \$900.
- Mr. Forgue said they pay for 4 fields the entire year, but they use 7 for the big tournament. They feel like they are already paying for 4.
- Dr. Hopson said you are using the field for the fall at a \$1.50 per hour.
- Mr. Forgue said you can't break it down like that.
- Dr. Hopson said you cleared \$7,000 for your last tournament.
- Mr. Forgue said it would be significantly more if they didn't pay \$1,900.
- Dr. Hopson said it could also go to upkeep, or improvement of the fields.
- Mr. Forgue said there is \$66,000 in there, what is the goal amount.
- Dr. Hopson said there is no goal amount. The \$66,000 is the result of more than just GYAA.
- Ms. Fisk said we wouldn't renovate those fields if we didn't have that money. We certainly couldn't add it to the budget right now.
- Dr. Hopson said if DEP approves the second well we will have water on the field which we never had before.
- Mr. Forgue said the school uses the field as much as we do, how do you account for that.
- Ms. Fisk said we still have part of it in the budget, we don't part and parcel out like that. We don't part and parcel out for things like toilet paper, etc. It just isn't cost efficient.
- Mrs. Crane said the fees haven't changed since 2010.
- Mr. Forgue said his other concern is that he thought there was talk about increasing fees.
- Ms. Fisk said we would talk about all fees in at once. It usually comes through when the budget comes through. They all get brought to school committee at once.
- Mr. Wyand said asked if the \$7,500 goes back to the kids and if yes how is that so.
- Mr. Forgue said they use it to keep registration costs down and to send kids to a tournament. The turnout is dwindling, which is leading us to potentially raise fees. They have one of the lower registration fees. He went over the registration costs, stating the average profit is 20 to 25 % less.
- Dr. Hopson asked if they have a family cap. The district has a cap at which a family pays.
- Mr. Forgue said no they don't usually.
- Mr. Wyand asked how we come up with the price of \$1,500 for dog training.
- Ms. Fisk said it is for hours and custodial services. Custodial services are time and a half.
- Mrs. Garfield asked how many students participate.
- Mr. Forgue gave the figures for fall soccer and basketball. He said the numbers are larger in the spring. They also pay league a league registration. They still charge \$120 but that is up for review. That covered uniforms in the past.
- Mrs. Garfield said there are a lot fewer school age kids.
- Mr. Forgue said they never turn away child who cannot afford to pay either.
- Mrs. McVeigh said \$7,500 is split between the Booster Club and GYAA.
- Mr. Forgue said yes.
- Mrs. Harrison said Rec pays for the uniforms and liability insurance for the kids.
- Mrs. Crane asked what part of the payment that is most objectionable.
- Mr. Forgue said the amount.

- Mrs. Crane asked if he wanted to be reduced.
- Mr. Forgue said of the \$1,900 for Memorial Day, \$640 was for the building to be open. Cost-wise it is not significantly cheaper to have bathrooms brought in. \$1,320 for the fields, for the tournament is significantly higher than 1.5 an hour. For the jamboree they paid \$1,000. The \$7,000 profit is split between GYAA and the booster club.
- Mr. Foley said the Memorial Day Tournament is the real issue. GYAA pays for nothing for playoffs and the jamboree.
- Mr. Forgue said yes that is the real moneymaker.
- Ms. Fisk said the fall tournament is about \$1,300 to \$1,400 per group.
- Mr. Foley said the playoffs aren't going to create a profit. They are never going to generate a large profit.
- Mrs. Crane said could we look at the fee structure for the next meeting.
- Dr. Hopson asked what he is looking for the Memorial Day tournament; where they would like a break.
- Mr. Forgue said they pay \$500 for the season. He would like it to be \$800 less. He understands he still has to pay for the custodian. Out of \$1,300 he wants it to be \$500.
- Mr. Foley asked about the agreement for the season. What is the number of fields they are already paying for?
- Dr. Hopson said if we cut across the board they would have to come back again and increase them in a couple of years. If he had his way we wouldn't charge any fees.
- Mr. Forgue asked about the relationship between the school and the booster club. GYAA had written a letter stating they were unhappy with the booster club's participation. It is not fair for them to split the profits. GYAA wants to use the building shack for the tournaments. He was told any events on school grounds, the booster club gets first bid, then the school, and then GYAA. He was told it had to be bid out every year. He wants to use it for those three events. What is the relationship between school and booster club.
- Dr. Hopson said if you decrease the amount it affects the kids. The booster club as they are operates under the umbrella of the district.
- Mrs. Mackechnie said they help with bags, scoreboards, scholarships, sports banquet, etc.
- Mr. Forgue understands the booster club does great things for the kids. He is not trying to take away from that.
- Dr. Hopson said when we look at what the booster club does for the school verses if we go out to bid, it is greater. If the booster club gives \$5,000 to the district, we would have to get at least \$5,000 in order for the bid to benefit us. We are using it as an off shoot of the school.
- Mr. Wyand asked what about the insurance.
- Ms. Fisk said we already pay for the insurance, and we own the equipment.
- Mrs. Crane has never understood the relationship between the two groups. Why is there a split?
- Mr. Forgue said when it was set up, in the past few years, GYAA sets up the field does the lining etc. and the booster club has the shack.
- Mrs. Otterbeck said she has been on both sides. It is usually the same 5 people so she doesn't understand the divide. If GYAA is going to run the shack with the same three people how much money will it generate?
- Mr. Forgue said it would be a problem for them, but in the end they would figure it out. He said one of their concerns was the shack started closing early. Again he states the district owns the building and everything in it and the booster club runs it without going out to bid and that's okay.
- Ms. Fisk said if a school or a school entity runs it, it is okay.
- Mrs. Crane said we should take under consideration the amount for the spring tournament.
- Mr. Jacob, former president, now vice president said he is all about splitting and helping kids, but they rent the fields for that weekend and it benefits youth soccer. They don't need to open the booster club if they don't want to.
- Dr. Hopson said the booster club could open the shack for every activity if they wanted to.
- Gabby Garalczyk said she has been working, and feels the time she put into GYAA and the booster club will back to her. She will be applying for the scholarship.
- Kathy Mackechnie said you need to have people in the shack to make it run correctly.
- Mr. Forgue said the booster club is a division of the school so they can operate without a lease.
- Ms. Fisk said yes.
- Dr. Hopson said in two weeks we will have a recommendation.

B. Policy Approval: Draft Minutes, DBG Budget Adoption Procedures; DD Funding Proposals and Applications; DJE Bidding Requirements; IJOA Field Trips; IHAMB Teaching about Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs; JICH Drug and Alcohol Policy; JLCD Administering Medicines to Students; GBEC Drug-Free Workplace; JKAA Physical Restraint; ECAF Security Cameras in Schools.

- Mrs. Crane asked if anyone has any questions on policy.
- Mr. Damon said unless someone on the committee had particular objections, he would like to treat them as one package.
- Mrs. Buikus asked where the 150 miles came from.
- Dr. Hopson said he just pulled it out of a hat. He looked at all the places we go; Boston, Hartford, Albany, VT and any further than that it is probably going to be an overnight.
- Mrs. Buikus asked how far in VT.
- Dr. Hopson said it depends on ski team.

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to go into executive session for the purpose approving executive session minutes and non-union and administrative negotiations at or before 8:30 p.m. not to return to open session.

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

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

VII. CONSENT ITEMS 9/28/16 (Enc.)

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve the minutes of 9/28/16.

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

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

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mrs. Otterbeck met with Ms. Fisk yesterday regarding budget.
- Mr. Wyand would like to add Gateway teachers association to the agenda. It would be nice to have them come more often.
- Dr. Hopson said in years past there used to be 1 or 2 members at every meeting. He can ask them to do quarterly updates on GTA activities.
- Mr. Wyand said it would be good to get some positive feedback.
- Ms. Garfield asked what about a liaison.
- Dr. Hopson doesn't think you can do that. It is a contractual issue.
- Mrs. Crane said Mr. Duggan has been communicating with the committee very well concerning union issues.
- Mrs. Otterbeck met with the coaches and athletes of the fall sports and has been in contact with Mrs. Wing. She used to work at Bay state Hospital and they are having a toy drive. She wanted to get our students involved. They were very open and receptive. It was encouraging.

B. Chairperson

- Mrs. Crane took part in the MARS meeting with Mr. Wyand and Mrs. Buikus. She was there for about an hour and the others were there longer. They tried to represent what had been going on here. She also did a work sheet for the audit.

C. Superintendent

Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Dr. Hopson thanked Mrs. McVeigh for trying to get people out to meet with the MARS people.
- Mrs. McVeigh said it was herself Andy Myers, Wayne Precanico, Linda Smith, and Joe Kearns. Most of the towns were represented. Then several people joined the GTAC meeting.
- Dr. Hopson said we might get a preliminary report in December.
- Mrs. McVeigh said it is nice, they said they would share it with the town officials.

- Dr. Hopson talked about blizzard bags. He said we have three very different results. The high school is concerned for different reasons, the middle school would prefer not to have them, and the elementary teachers have their bags done and they are all ready to go. The elementary is doing theirs based on where they are in the curriculum at that time of the year. Hopefully we will get back to you in the next couple of weeks.
- Mrs. Austin asked if they have to have these done ahead of time.
- Dr. Hopson said we left it up to the discretion of the teacher. There are pretty neat things you can do at home. Middle school is into project based learning so theirs may be done over several days. High school might want to wait till a couple days before.
- Mr. Wyand asked about the potential savings of not having to make up school days.
- Ms. Fisk said a savings in utilities and bus transportation. It could be about \$5,000 a day for transportation. At some point she could come up with a ball park figure for utilities. The average snow days missed over the past few years is about 5.4 days.
- Dr. Hopson asked if anyone had questions about the Google drive information.

D. Business Manager

- Ms. Fisk said the field work for the audit is complete. They are waiting for the pension report. We also had an audit on student activity funds and they are making several recommendations. They are best practice recommendations. School committee will approve student activity accounts. The principals are in charge of them. There are a lot of new changes in paperwork.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked how many years have you been using this auditor.
- Ms. Fisk said this is the first year.
- Mrs. Austin asked if they are going to come and give a presentation.
- Ms. Fisk said yes.

E. Administration

- Mrs. Long spoke about the blizzard bag lessons. There are some really cool things mapped out where kids will be measuring rainfall, snowfall and then mapping and graphing their information. The first meeting of the new outdoor club was held today. Andy Myers and Jeff Penn have started generating interest in an outdoor club. A ski trip was discussed today. There is no money for advisors, so they are volunteering. Over 30 kids signed up and more than 15 showed up.
- Mr. Wyand said he read about the video the students created for safe driving.
- Mrs. Long said it was in breaking news and it will be on YouTube this week.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation

- They met tonight. They are meeting again in January and the management meeting will be in February.

B. Legislative Liaison - None

C. Policy Subcommittee

- Will meet before the school committee on the 26th at 6:00 p.m. at Stanton Hall

D. Building Liaisons

- Mrs. Crane said she met with Mr. Quinn and Mr. Hartley. They are settling in nicely. It would be nice if we could get our well approved. She met with student council. She was glad to see someone here tonight. She also had the chance to meet with Mr. Garivaltis.
- Mrs. Balboni said the middle school open house was great. She met with 8 different teachers. The kids seemed happy to share their experiences and projects.

X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

XI. INFORMATION

Information

Gateway Education Foundation funds 7 projects totaling \$5K

Foundation receives \$5,200 from Ford Motor Company
 The view from the band
 Superintendent's Corner September 26, 2016
 Middle School looking at extended day program
 Schools closed for holiday
 Education Foundation seeks business sponsors
 Gateway driver safety video takes state grand prize
 PSAT's on October 19
 A senior's last run
 October School Committee meetings
 Gateway school committee votes to oppose Question 2
 Superintendent's Corner September 30, 2016

Warrant

AP#1023 \$23,675.92 PR# 07 \$379,976.02
 AP#1025 \$40,845.46

**8:35-9 p.m. XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
 or earlier**

- A. Executive Session Minutes Approval: Cover letter and 12/17/14, 1/28/15, 2/11/15, 6/10/15, 6/24/15, 9/23/15, 10/21/15, 11/18/15, 12/19/15, 1/6/16, 1/20/16, 2/10/16, 3/9/16, 3/23/16, 4/27/16 (Enc.'s)
- B. Union Negotiations: Secretarial
- C. Non- Union and Administrative Negotiations
- D. Litigation: Kennedy, et al. v. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, et al. - No.:HSCV2014-00210

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to go into executive session for the purpose approving executive session minutes and non-union and administrative negotiations at or before 8:30 p.m. not to return to open session.

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

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,
 Stacy L Stewart,
 School Committee Secretary