

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WORKING MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2016

Middle School Room 112/114

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

Martha Otterbeck
Diane Dunn

HUNTINGTON

Jeff Wyand

MIDDLEFIELD

Sarah Foley

MONTGOMERY

Anne-Marie Buikus
Madelyn Austin

RUSSELL

Tara Balboni
Lyndsey Papillon

SECRETARY

Stacy Stewart

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Dr. David B. Hopson, Superintendent

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

OTHERS: Pat Correira, MASC

7:00 - II. NEW BUSINESS

9 p.m.

A. School Committee Goal Setting (Enc.)

- Pat Correira from MASC gave a PowerPoint presentation on goal setting. She went over what a Smart goal is. They are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Results-focused and Trackable.
- Mrs. Foley asked what is the recommended number of goals?
- Mrs. Correira said four is a good number.
- Mrs. Crane handed out some goals she put together.
- Mrs. Correir said budget is one you have to do.
- Educational offerings – MCAS, foreign language

Goal: Sustainability - online instruction.

- Mrs. Correira asked are these goals what you are interested in or do you want to add something or take away something.
- Mrs. Crane said we need a sustainability goal. Our towns are struggling and asking us to cut. Dr. Hopson has done some planning. Administration is trying to make us more sustainable. We need to have a better working relationship with the towns.
- Mrs. Otterbeck said we need to get our communities invested in our children therefore invested in our school. We need to get the community to engage with the school more.
- Mrs. Correira said that piggy backs with what Mrs. Crane said. This might be a communication and sustainability goal.
- Mrs. Otterbeck said we did that with 2025 it was a good turnout t
- Mrs. Balboni said the struggle is less with parents of kids but more with the aging population.
- Mrs. Garfield said we need a shared vision with what a school looks like today.

- Mrs. Crane said we communicate a lot, but do they listen to what we say. We have a communications specialist.
- Mrs. Correira said you could make this a communications/sustainability goal. Talk to your communications person about how to get the community involved.
- Mrs. Balboni said we have a communications committee at the elementary.
- Mrs. Correira said you need to get the upper class (middle and high schools) parents involved.
- Mrs. Otterbeck said not all parents buy into their child's education.
- Mrs. Correira asked how do you get them in here. Who do you want to target and what do you want to achieve.
- Mrs. Balboni said we talk about this all the time. Parents who had a negative experience in school tend not to get involved. We need to think more about communicating with the community as a whole. Negative images are why we have such a tough time with the budget.
- Mrs. Correira asked how do you get them in here? There was a reading program where the elderly people came in to read to the kids at the school she worked in.
- Mrs. Balboni said we could have mentorships from people who worked in a specific field to mentor the kids. It validates the person.
- Mrs. Correira said to make that a goal. Invite the elderly and parents that don't work. This could be a goal – invite the community members, grandparents, etc.
- Mrs. Foley said we could bring in local historical societies.

Goal: Touch every household in the district in the next two years.

- Mrs. Balboni and Mrs. Otterbeck said it would be nice to get the kids to volunteer in the community - the bands, choir, sports teams, etc.
- Mrs. Correira suggested grants - bringing money in.
- Mrs. Dunn said people don't understand why students need all this technology. We need to make them understand why education is so important.
- Mrs. Balboni asked if we can get the kids to teach the seniors how to use the computers.
- Dr. Hopson said we need to talk about more than just colleges. We still have a high percentage of first generation college students.
- Dr. Hopson said one of the things we talked about in LTM is projects (transition projects and long term) which would tie in with parents and grandparents. Students would present the projects to the public. The trick will be to get other people rather than the parents.
- Mrs. Foley said in addition to bringing the community in, it would be nice to get the students involved in their own town processes. They need to see the whole process.
- Mrs. Correira said it could be a class for credit. What grade do you want to start? She also said school committee should know what is going on in the district.
- Mrs. Papillon said it is important for the teachers know that we value them. To know what what they are doing with the students – both their success and challenges.
- Mr. Wyand said on sustainability we should do something to limit our school choice out and increase our school choice in. We need to sell our school.
- Mrs. Garfield asked what is the lane for the kids that don't want to go to voke, but don't want to go to college.
- Dr. Hopson asked how do we collect money for students who are homeschooled, where we might provide online classes for and count them on our census.
- Dr. Hopson said we may have to have a goal to get those students to be recognized as our students. You could have them be home schooled and enrolled in 1 or 2 periods a day. On the flip sides some that are here might want to do the same. We are paying a teacher \$500 per student to mentor an online course. They can do that even if it doesn't fit in their schedule not just because we don't offer it.
- Mrs. Correira said you are in essence creating your own online academy. The state would then hypothetically pay the district.

Goal: Gateway Online Academy

- Mrs. Corriera said now you need to define the action steps.
- Dr. Hopson said we need to do this not to cut staff, but to enhance student learning and opportunity.
- Mrs. Correira went over "writing a smart goal"
- Mrs. Crane asked could this sustainability/communications goal become two.
- Mrs. Correira said budget is the easy piece. Administration is the one who works on the budget. They need to have a little bit of wiggle room. The Superintendent can't transfer from transportation to personnel without your approval, but he can transfer within transportation. She is a firm believer in never tell the towns anything unless you are giving at least 5 % back.

Goal: Educational offerings

- Mrs. Crane said this committee has always been a firm believer in whole child.
- What do you expect of the superintendent?
- Dr. Hopson said if school committee is okay, then we need to add benchmarks. Mrs. Crane is right in that we are already doing a lot of this stuff.
- Mrs. Crane said when we vote, we need to be able to state why we voted this way. It gives you something to hang your hat on and feel more organized.
- Mrs. Corriera said if you and your superintendent in terms of goals are not on the same page, it's not going to work. It is all one in the same and all about kids.
- Mrs. Crane will work with Dr. Hopson to take a stab at these goals and then the committee can come back again and decide.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,
 Stacy Stewart
 School Committee Secretary