

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2016

Middle School 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

Shirley Winer
Diane Dunn
Diae Dunn

HUNTINGTON

Ron Damon
Kara Rousseau
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

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: _____

Mrs. Crane opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Mrs. Buikus, Mrs. Austin, and the reporter are recording the meeting.

7:05 p.m. II. PUBLIC INPUT (3 Minute Limit) - None

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

- Anna Pless said they had the funny senior pictures today. They are hosting a red, white, and blue spirit day in honor of Veterans Day. Spirit points are also awarded for the food drive. Today was double-points day. NHS is starting the hill town holiday help. They will be collecting donations next Saturday on the bridge in Huntington. Girls' soccer won their game on Monday against McCann Tech. They are playing Mount Everett tonight. The boys won on Tuesday and are playing Monson tomorrow. Saturday is the PVAC cross country race. Many of the girls ran their personal best. District auditions were last Saturday. They placed high seat in their sections and will get All-state auditions. The band fruit sale and senior class Poinsettia fundraisers will start soon.
- Mr. Wyand asked if NHS collected in several towns or changed location.. He said it feels like it is the same place every year.
- Mrs. Long said they have collected in other locations.
- Mrs. Garfield asked if Anna could bring the fundraisers to school committee.
- Dr. Hopson said the forms are also in central office too.
- Anna said she would talk to the other classes to make sure school committee knows about fundraisers.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to go into executive session at or before 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of union negotiations- secretary, non-union and administrative negotiations and approval of executive session minutes to return to open session.

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

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

Absent: Heather

IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS

A. Wrap Around Program Update – Melinda Slowey

- Melinda Slowey gave a presentation.
- Mrs. Rousseau asked if there is a minimum number of students for delays and snow storms.
- Mrs. Slowey said snow days are tough, you can't tell a parent to come back to pick their kid up. The only time they have had a problem was for Veterans Day, but they have people sign up ahead of time.
- Mrs. Winer asked about the summer program. Is there a way for the wrap around program to turn into a summer program. It was a program that was more academically structured.
- Mrs. Slowey said she would love to, it may be difficult since they only have three staff members.
- Mrs. Coburn said it is difficult because of the wide range of students.
- Mr. Forgue asked if the fees make it self sufficient or is it supplemented somewhere else.
- Mrs. Papillon thanked Melinda. Her kids were frequent flyers. She loves the homework help.
- Mrs. Balboni has loved the program. Most schools don't have one like that. It is such a tremendous service in a pinch.

7:45 V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM

A. GYAA

- Dr. Hopson and Ms. Fisk have looked over the information and they are going to reduce the fee by \$500 for the Memorial Day tournament.
- Dr. Hopson said to keep in mind, if they continue to decline the school will help out.

B. Blizzard Bags

- Dr. Hopson said the proposal has been revised after staff had a chance for input. We did get an email from DESE. The Commissioner looks at it from meeting student needs stand point, not saving money, which is what it is geared toward.
- Mrs. Foley asked if it turns out it doesn't work in the best interest of the students what do we do. Is there a way to measure its effectiveness or put it in place without sacrificing student learning.
- Dr. Hopson said that was a teacher concern too. We will rely on teacher input; how many students actually turn in the work, MCAS, although we might not see any impact. We will also get parent input. Students will have five days with the understanding, that on a case by case basis, the teacher can waive it. For long-term projects, teachers will give a due date. If it doesn't work we can just not do it in the future.
- Mrs. Morgan asked about the special education kids and those on IEP's or those that have their own curriculum.
- Dr. Hopson said the curriculum is adapted to their needs. In their case, the teacher might extend it to ten days with the help of the teacher. The special education teacher has to prepare each one and will have to do more work when the student comes back. Advanced Placement has to be ready no matter what, there is no such thing as a snow day for them.
- Mrs. Morgan asked what happens with the services such as speech or OT.
- Dr. Hopson said they would have to see what times that can be made up.
- Mr. Wyand asked how we are going to handle the internet situation for those who do not have it.
- Dr. Hopson said every teacher understands that if they prepare an electronic lesson plan, there has to be a paper one as well.
- Mr. Wyand said one of the schools had a predetermined list for those students.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mr. Wyand to approve Blizzard Bags and send the proposal to DESE for approval.

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

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

8:00 - VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

8:30 p.m.

A. Policies: EBC, IJND, IJNDBA (Enc's)

- Mrs. Crane said this is the first reading. These will be on the next agenda for a vote.

B. School Committee Goals

- Mrs. Crane said the goals were added to the packet this morning. She, Ms. Fisk, Dr. Hopson, and Mrs. Long put this document together. Mrs. Correira also has the packet and we haven't heard back yet. She would like the committee to take a look at them and contact her with any changes or if you think this is something you can support.
- Mrs. Foley said this document looks thorough and thanked Mrs. Crane for putting this together.

C. Recommendation to Approve Student Activity Accounts as listed in Attachment.

- Ms. Fisk said this will be a yearly vote, and will probably happen the last June meeting at the same time as other annual votes. The same will happen with the cap on the student activity account. In the early months you don't use the money, but more is spent towards graduation.
- Move to old business for a vote at the next meeting.

D. Recommendation to Approve a maximum balance of \$25,000 in the Student Activity Checking Account.

- The same will happen with the cap on the student activity account. In the early months you don't use the money, but more is spent towards graduation.
- Move to old business for a vote at the next meeting.

E. Recommendation to Appoint Stacy Stewart as the Public Information Officer under the Updated Open Meeting Law.

- Dr. Hopson said in the past requests have come to him and Mrs. Stewart helps pull the information together. Under the new law, it has to be noted as a point of contact.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS 10/19/16, 10/26/16 (Enc.s)

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to approve the minutes of 10/19/16.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 11 Nays Abstain 2 Absent (Roll Call Vote)

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

Mrs. Rousseau made a motion seconded by Mrs. Dunn to approve the minutes of 10/26/16.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 10 Nays Abstain 3 Absent (Roll Call Vote)

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

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mrs. Papillon was hoping to have something to pass along. Overall she highly recommends members to attend the conference. There is a wealth of information to tap into. She was also able to finish her training, so there were other sessions she missed. Social emotional learning and the impact of poverty on education, practical strategies for student with anxiety behaviors, and a few others. There are questions school committees can ask with equity for the whole child. They had a wealth of information. They are the same kinds of questions teachers ask their students. The PowerPoint is not available yet. She will share it when it is. She got to network with people across the state.

B. Chairperson

- Mrs. Crane read an email from Mr. Duggan thanking the school committee for their support and reaching out to the teachers about Question 2. Someone will be at the next meeting.
- Mrs. Crane said it is that time of the year when school committee places the yearbook ad. This year the cost is \$12 each. We will take the picture in December.

C. Superintendent

Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Dr. Hopson said we switched the student information system. We also went to Facility Point to manage school use. It has not gone public yet. The program is not quite where we want it to be yet. They are working on being able to book multiple dates at a time. We have also gone with electronic based professional development software. This is a way for faculty and staff to track their own PD. We asked the association if they wanted to buy the next module so it will pull it all for the official state form. Right now we only track what is in house.

D. Business Manager

- Ms. Fisk said we are part of a free light bulb program. Bulbs with a life of 50,000 hours they are free. We should save \$5 per light bulb per year. The catch is we have to install them in 30 days. First load should land in 2 weeks then we will reorder for the next load.
- Mr. Wyand asked about the lumens.
- Ms. Fisk said they tested them and they are really nice lights.
- Dr. Hopson said we put them in near other bulbs and they are not bad at all.
- Ms. Fisk said we keep the spare ones so we don't have to replace them.

E. Administration

- Mrs. Coburn said Grandparents/grand friends day is coming up on the 23rd. Report cards are coming out; Rediker has been tricky, grades 3-5 will have a parent portal. The STEM program is amazing and the kids love it. They get so much experience and exposure to scientific method and the vocabulary. They are working with Ever Source to sell light bulbs that the school will get 100% of the profit.
- Mrs. Long said parent teacher conferences are Monday and Tuesday and are a half day for students this year. Friday the 18th is the penny social for the choirs. Saturday is the Littleville Country Craft Fair, and the following week on the half-day before thanksgiving there are college activities. Winter sports tryouts start after the break. Tuesday is the Chester parents' literacy night.
- Mrs. Papillon asked about the change in parent teacher conferences.
- Dr. Hopson said it was negotiated with the teachers and part was a to get out of school earlier and at the elementary there are many, and no one comes to the high school parent teacher conferences.
- Mrs. Long said there is abreaking news about the new nurse practitioner at the school based health center. Enrollment is up to 58 %
- Dr. Hopson said both elementary schools had an evaluation drill this week. Chester evacuated across the street to Bolduc's, and Littleville to the ms gym. Students and staff did a great job.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation

- The next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2017

B. Legislative Liaison – None

C. Policy Subcommittee

- Policy met tonight and will have policies for the next meeting.
- The next meeting will be January 25, 2017

D. Building Liaisons

- Mrs. Foley said last night's soccer game was a heck of a game.

X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

XI. INFORMATION

Information

Sixth graders use engineering to tackle real-world problems
 Sixth annual Red Cross Blood Drive at Gateway
 Superintendent's Corner 10/24/16 (winter weather delays & cancellations)
 Political 'party time' for Gateway 8th grade!
 Last call for Education Foundation business sponsors
 Holiday, Parent-Teacher Conferences coming up
 November School Committee meeting
 Superintendent's Corner 10/31/16
 Renowned Storyteller kicks off Gateway Reading Challenge

Warrant

AP#1032 \$91,015.04

PR# 09 \$353,690.11

AP#1035 \$67.72

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

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to go into executive session at or before 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of union negotiations- secretary, non-union and administrative negotiations and approval of executive session minutes to return to open session.

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

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

Absent: Heather

- 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

Went into Executive Session

Returned to Open Session

Mrs. Dunn made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve a 1.5 % increase for non-union staff.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 11 Nays Abstain Absent 2 (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Anne-Marie, Diane Sarah, Terri, Heather, Lyndsey, Kara, Shirley, Jeff, Michele

Absent: Tara, Ron

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Rousseau made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morgan to adjourn at 8:58 p.m.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 11 Nays Abstain Absent 2 (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Anne-Marie, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Heather, Lyndsey, Kara, Shirley, Jeff, Michele

Absent: Tara, Ron

RespectfullySubmitted,

Stacy L Stewart

School Committee Secretary