

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2017

Middle School 112/114

7:00 P.M.

All visitors 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
Terri Garfield

CHESTER
Martha Otterbeck
Diane Dunn

HUNTINGTON
Ron Damon

MIDDLEFIELD
Sarah Foley

MONTGOMERY
Madelyn Austin

RUSSELL
Tara Balboni
Lyndsey Papillon

SECRETARY
Stacy Stewart

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

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

- Mrs. Otterbeck opened the meeting at 7:06 p.m.
- The reporter is recording the meeting.

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

- Mrs. Kennedy said she received a disturbing phone call and wanted to clear things up. She asked if Mrs. B was gone, and what would happen to the chorus.
- Dr. Hopson said Mrs. B is not gone. This is news to him.
- She also asked if the band or athletics were being cut.
- Dr. Hopson said no, not at this time.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked how many students are in the upcoming freshmen class.
- Mr. Finnie said the high sixties.

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT - None

IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS - None

7:45 V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM

A. Approval of Letter on Facilitated Discussion

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to approve the Facilitated Discussion letter.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 8 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Lyndsey, Martha

B. Banners/Advertising Policy and Regulations - KHB & KHB-R

Mrs. Dunn made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to approve the Banners/Advertising Policy and Regulations – KHB & KHB-R.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 8 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Lyndsey, Martha

- Mrs. Papillon asked about the fee schedule.
- Mrs. Otterbeck said it would be \$500 per sport and \$1,200 for a three season sponsorship. It is about \$100 to make the banner and it would be taken out of the fee.
- John Van Heynigan asked about the tax exempt number.
- Ms. Fisk said the booster club should have their own. They are not under the districts.

Mrs. Dunn made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to approve the Banners/Advertising Policy and Regulations – KHB & KHB-R.

C. Approval of 2019 Senior Class Trip To Walt Disney World

- Mrs. Otterbeck said it would be the 30th year and would cost about \$1,400 to go. Seventeen students are interested in going.

Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to approve the 2019 Senior Class Trip to Walt Disney World.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 8 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Lyndsey, Martha

D. Approval of Superintendent's Evaluation Summary

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve the FY '17 Superintendent's Evaluation Summary.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 8 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Lyndsey, Martha

E. Acceptance of Chapter 40D, Section 13D. Establishment of a Reserve Fund for Future Payments of Accrued Liabilities for Compensated Absences (Audit recommendation)

Mrs. Dunn made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to approve the Acceptance of Chapter 40D, Section 13D. Establishment of a Reserve Fund for Future Payments of Accrued Liabilities for Compensated Absences.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 8 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Lyndsey, Martha

F. Fourth Quarter Transfers

- Ms. Fisk said they were in the packet last time. The only change is programs with other schools and Tuition with Collaboratives changed to \$19, 516.

Mrs. Dunn made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to approve the Fourth Quarter Transfers.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 8 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Lyndsey, Martha

G. FY '18 Budget

- Dr. Hopson said we can't vote on the budget as we don't have enough members. To get level with assessments approved by towns already required close to \$100,000 in reductions due to the changes from December to June. The list of potential reductions plus using \$20,000 from E & D keeps the budget assessment increase to just under 2.5%. He suggests the committee hold a special meeting next week to vote the budget.
- Mrs. Balboni will not be here next week.
- Mr. Damon said it would be helpful if the suggested reductions were rated from most harmful to least harmful.
- Dr. Hopson said these are the least harmful. The first three; Chester & Special Education secretary days and half-time nurse, we don't currently have. Security; we are proposing getting coverage from a central office staff member and others throughout the day. Activities that occur at night that are not school related will have a charge for security. Food services; we are still working on, not so sure we are close. The food service director from the other school is not willing to do two jobs for the price of one. The answer will probably be no. Clerical substitute cuts are only part of what we set aside. The second secretary in high school will cover all secretaries when they are out. The reductions in regular education substitutes are the savings in subs for five blizzard bag days. You only need substitutes for paraprofessionals who are 1 to 1. It is a portion. High school text books are just putting it off a year. That course is a year out. 1/3rd of the copier costs. Curriculum facilitators –this is only part of the money set aside – some of the money will hire someone to do some work. We have a secretary that has put in for retirement in January. This would not replace her till the end of the year.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked for a copy of the cuts.
- Mr. Damon asked how this reduction impacts the town of Huntington.
- Ms. Fisk said it drops the Version 1 assessment about \$7,000.
- Mr. Damon said if we were active for support of our own proposed budget, we might be able to carry Huntington 48 to 44, he doubts a special town meeting will get that kind of attendance. We might prevail.
- Dr. Hopson said we reduced assessments by about \$24,000. If we were to look at what some of the towns wanted we'd have to cut the budget by about \$200,000.

Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to hold a special meeting next Wednesday, June 28 at 7:00 p.m. for the FY '18 Budget.

- Mr. Damon suggested we explore having school committee participate via telecommunications.
- Dr. Hopson said the committee voted it down, a couple of years ago. Plus it is not on the agenda and the committee has a 2 meeting rule.
- Dr. Hopson said if you cannot come up with a budget in 30 days, the original budget goes back to the towns.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked if you can ask for a 15 day extension.
- Dr. Hopson said yes
- Mrs. Dunn asked what the status was of the Huntington school committee.
- Mrs. McVeigh said no one ran for school committee. The person who had the most write-in ballots declined the seat.

Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to hold a special meeting next Wednesday, June 28 at 7:00 p.m. for the FY '18 Budget.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 8 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Lyndsey, Martha

- Mrs. Kennedy asked if the committee should take a motion to request a 15-day extension.
- Dr. Hopson said we still have time. DESE will approve it. We just need to ask.
- Mrs. Garfield asked if the special meeting has to be on a Wednesday. She won't be able to make any July meetings.
- Dr. Hopson said no.

8:00 - VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS
8:30 p.m.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS 6/7/17

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to approve the minutes of 6/7/17.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 8 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Lyndsey, Martha

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS
A.. School Committee – None
B. Chairperson

Quorum Reminder for Re-organization

- Mrs. Otterbeck reminded everyone that July 12 is the reorganization meeting. We will need a quorum, and people should think about what subcommittees they want to be on.

C. Superintendent

Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Dr. Hopson said he gave his Blizzard Bag Presentation at the Berkshire Superintendent's Roundtable. A student told him how excited he was that all the hard work he had done on blizzard bag days had paid off. It was nice being out so early.
- Mrs. Balboni said the end didn't trickle this year like it usually does. There wasn't the wasted time in the end. It was productive. She really enjoyed it.

C. Business Manager

- Ms. Fisk just wanted to make sure no one panicked. The Huntington fireworks are not being held here. There won't be fireworks going off here. They are using the parking lot and potentially the field for activities. We can't have fireworks here. Huntington is looking at having the fireworks go off at either Donovan's or the old LaFond field.

D. Administration

- Mrs. Long would like to credit the transportation coordinator for getting the bus schedule out so earlier. It is on the website as of today. The links were on social media as well. There may be adjustments, so check them again before school starts.
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IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING
A. Superintendent's Evaluation

- Mrs. Otterbeck said the next evaluation meeting is August 23, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the superintendent's office.

B. Legislative Liaison

- Mrs. Papillon said there is a public hearing on Senate Bill 223 on July 25th. MASC members are urged to attend. The outdated formula being used is strongly impacting our students.

C. Policy Subcommittee – None
D. Building Liaisons

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

XI. INFORMATION
Information

Superintendent's Corner June 9, 2017
 Summer Wrap Around at Littleville
 Gateway showcases emphasis in hands-on learning
 Students make pottery thanks to towns, Foundation
 Gateway graduates 56 on Booster Field
 Gateway Regional High School Senior Awards May 2017
 And the winner is.....
 Gateway schools close on June 14
 Littleville conducting backpack drive in June
 Superintendent's Corner June 5, 2017
 School Committee honors Gateway staff

Warrants

AP#1094 \$73.13

PR# 25, 25.1 \$375,900.95

AP#1091 \$105,312.41

**8:35-9 p.m. XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None
or earlier**

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to adjourn at 7:36 p.m.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 8 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Lyndsey, Martha

Respectfully Submitted,
 Stacy L Stewart,
 School Committee Secretary