

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 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
Michele Crane
Terri Garfield

CHESTER
Shirley Winer

HUNTINGTON
Ron Damon
Aaron Welch
Melissa Nazzaro

MIDDLEFIELD
Sarah Foley

MONTGOMERY
Madelyn Austin

RUSSELL
Paula Hepburn
Lyndsey Papillon

SECRETARY
Stacy Stewart

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Wendy Long, District Grant Writer

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: Andy Myers, Amy Porter, Darlene McVeigh, Peter Spotts, Kayla Brady, Dan Jacques

- Mrs. Crane opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m.
- Mr. Spotts from the Country Journal is recording the meeting

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

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT - None

IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS - None

7:45 V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM

A. First Semester Field Trips

- Wrestling Overnights: 12/15-16/17 (Hudson Falls NY), 1/5-6/18 (Ravena NY), 1/12-13/18 (Maple Hill NY)
Choirs: New York to see Wicked 3/21/18
- Empire Model UN
- 8th Grade Trip to Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, PA April 11-13, 2018

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to approve the following field trips: Wrestling overnights 12/15-16/17 (Hudson Falls NY), 1/5-6/18 (Ravena NY), 1/12-13/18 (Maple Hill NY); Choirs: New York to see Wicked 3/21/18; Empire Model UN, and 8th Grade Trip to Washington DC, Philadelphia PA April 11-13/18.

- Mrs. Foley asked about the girls on the wrestling field trips
- Dr. Hopson said the coach's wife has them on a different level of the house.

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Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays Abstain Absent 1 (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Sarah, Terri, Paula, Melissa, Lyndsey, Aaron, Shirley, Michele
Absent: Ron

B. Maternity Leave Request

Mrs. Winer made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve the maternity leave for Julie Case.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Ron, Sarah, Terri, Paula, Melissa, Lyndsey, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Strategic/Improvement Plan

- Dr. Hopson said hopefully it is simpler than last time. There are specific goals, timelines, and actions/activities. It has gone from thirty-two tabs to just a few. It is pretty simple and straight forward. The leadership team looked at them last week to review progress. We are about 90% on target right now. This information was included in the all towns group.
- Mrs. Crane asked if a vote was needed next time.
- Dr. Hopson said it would be helpful as we are using this as the improvement plan for the district.
- Members can email Dr. Hopson or Mrs. Crane if they have questions.

B. Executive Session Attendance/Invitations for Negotiations

- Dr. Hopson said at the first facilitated meeting the towns asked if they could be included in executive session regarding negotiations. The arguments were good. School committee can make the parameters around their attendance. It would be nice if it was the same people.
- Mr. Damon said we should limit the number. He wouldn't have a problem with one or two. He would hate to say come if you like and have one or two people show up now and then.
- Mrs. Nazzaro said the idea was that they would be part of the update in executive session, not be present for actual negotiations. It would be nice to have the same people present so there wasn't a catch up period every time. She would suggest be to keep to one member per town.
- Mr. Welch asked what the date of the first executive session is.
- Dr. Hopson said if you vote it could be tonight. He said by law the select board chairs have the right to choose one of them (of the 6) as a voting member. School committee has allowed Dan Jacques to be in executive session. Dr. Hopson said we also still need to decide how many school committee members will be at the negotiations table. The outside town official brings a different viewpoint than the rest of us.
- Mrs. Crane said if we vote this tonight we will have to waive the two-meeting rule.
- Mr. Jacques would suggest having one representative from each town.
- Mrs. Papillon asked if we would send a formal invitation to the towns.
- Dr. Hopson said it would be in the best interest if we vote tonight we send an invitation.
- Mrs. Nazzaro asked if it would this be precedent setting if we allow the representatives that are here tonight sit in.

Mr. Welch made a motion seconded by Mrs. Nazzaro to send an invitation to have the towns choose someone from their town to participate in executive session for negotiations with the goal being the towns hear the information throughout the process. The letter will include the rules for executive session and recommendation that the same person attend each session.

- Mrs. McVeigh asked if you can explain to whoever comes to executive session that it can't be discussed outside executive session. These are the rules you have to abide by.

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Winer to suspend the two meeting rule.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Ron, Sarah, Terri, Paula, Melissa, Lyndsey, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

Mr. Welch made a motion seconded by Mrs. Nazzaro to send an invitation to have the towns choose someone from their town to participate in executive session for negotiations with the goal being the towns hear the information throughout the process. The letter will include the rules for executive session and recommendation that the same person attend each session.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Ron, Sarah, Terri, Paula, Melissa, Lyndsey, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

- Dr. Hopson asked about how many people we want to have at the table. We have a fairly reasonable MTA representative.
- Mrs. Crane asked if we need to decide tonight.
- Dr. Hopson said we will send a letter to those who volunteered to sit on negotiations reminding them. The tentative date is the 23rd at 3:30 p.m.
- Mrs. Winer is going to step out.
- Dr. Hopson said it is important to have the committee there.
- Mr. Welch can be there.
- Mrs. Nazzaro could be there too.
- Mrs. Crane said we could start with Mr. Damon and Mr. Welch.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley go into executive session at or before 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of union negotiations - Teachers not to return to open session.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Ron, Sarah, Terri, Paula, Melissa, Lyndsey, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

VII. CONSENT ITEMS 9/27/17 (Enc.)

Mrs. Garfield made a motion seconded by Mrs. Winer to accept the minutes of 9/27/17 as written.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 8 Nays Abstain 2 Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Ron, Terri, Paula, Melissa, Lyndsey, Shirley, Michele

Abstain: Sarah, Aaron

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mr. Welch went to the CVSR lunch with guest speaker from MASS. It was informative and gave a higher-level overview of DESE and the trends we've seen going back to charter schools, how the money is flowing and the challenges at the state level. It makes him more interested in going to the MASC/MASS joint conference.

B. Chairperson - None

C. Superintendent

Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Dr. Hopson said the state came out with regulations for records retention. We already retain our email, which is why Dan has a grsd email. We have to find a way to archive all voice mail and social media

accounts. We started with collecting the social media staff is using. There are only a handful of entities that can archive at this point. You have to archive the meta data. We've started to move toward changing email addresses. Club advisors now have a club advisor email. An example is yearbook@grsd.org. We will have to sit down with staff and figure how we can best use social media. We settled with teachers to have their own web pages, but the minimum cost for a website and 2 or 3 social media accounts is like \$400 per month. It is a long process and will be difficult. Some teachers have great web pages which are not part of our website.

- Mr. Welch asked how long the retention is.
- Dr. Hopson said seven years. If someone requests your email about something you have to re-dack things not regarding it. We can only charge a certain amount.
- Mrs. Winer asked what is and isn't social media.
- Dr. Hopson said anything that you use to correspond with someone else that that allows them to respond back.
- Mrs. Foley asked is this a mandate and how do other districts handle it.
- Dr. Hopson said the records retention has been around. This part is just new. Westfield is one of the schools that does it.
- Mrs. Nazzaro said it has been around for years and years, they just cleaned up the language. You used to be able to just respond within 10 days and now you have to give them the information within 10 days. The fees stack up quickly. It's an overwhelming task. Those small tweaks have made a big impact.
- Mr. Myers said Hampshire regional got a grant to help with it.

D. Business Manager – None

E. Administration

- Mrs. Long said homecoming weekend is here. She handed out the annual report for the foundation. She briefly went over the information. The homecoming weekend is the biggest fundraising weekend of the year.
- Jessica Van Heynigan hit her 100th point in soccer last week. This is a very rare accomplishment. She is the 2nd soccer player in Gateway. Jess Rida was the 1st in 2002. Back then you got 2 points for a goal and 1 point for an assist. Now it is 1 for 1. Jessica is out there now trying to break Jess Rida's 104 points. Jessica was nominated by the republican newspapers, for student athlete of the week. She is the Mass live student athlete of the week. She thinks there is a plan to recognize her on Saturday.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation

- Superintendent's evaluation met tonight, and will meet again January 10.
- Mrs. Papillon asked if it was possible to do a robo call for the special town meetings regarding the school budget.
- Mrs. Long said yes.

B. Legislative Liaison

- Mrs. McVeigh said Susan Bump spoke at the Berkshire Task Force. They are issuing a report on educational funding. They do have the right to go out and study for legislation. They have said that regional schools have not been adequately reimbursed for regional transportation.
- Dr. Hopson said she will be speaking at a MARS meeting as well.
- Mrs. Nazzaro said a few weeks ago we talked about legislation for waiving the penalties on closing schools. Have we heard anything else?
- Dr. Hopson said he will have to check back with Steve Kulik.
- Mrs. McVeigh said that was another thing that was discussed at the meeting.

C. Policy Subcommittee

- None at this time, but they will start meeting shortly.

D. Building Liaisons (Enc.)

- Mr. Welch and Mrs. Crane are meeting thw the facilities guys tomorrow.
- Mrs. Foley is meeting with Mr. Finnie the day before thanksgiving.

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

XI. INFORMATION
Information

Support the Gateway Education Foundation while shopping!
 Students rewarded for summer reading
 Atkin is Commended Student in National Merit Scholarship Program
 Gateway Middle & High School Open House
 VHS to DVD-R fundraiser for Gateway film studio

The warrant signing committee had reviewed the following warrants, found them to be in order, and approved them.

Warrants

AP# 1021 \$107,975.90

PR# 007 \$364,398.81

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

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley go into executive session at or before 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of union negotiations - Teachers not to return to open session.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Ron, Sarah, Terri, Paula, Melissa, Lyndsey, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

A. Union Negotiations - Teachers

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Welch made a motion seconded by Mrs. Nazzaro to adjourn at 8:13 p.m.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 10 Nays Abstain Absent 1 (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, , Ron, Sarah, Terri, Paula, Melissa, Aaron, Shirley, Michele, Dan

Absent: Lyndsey

Respectfully Submitted,
 Stacy L Stewart
 School Committee Secretary