

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 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
Martha Otterbeck
Diane Dunn

HUNTINGTON
Aaron Welch
Melissa Nazzaro

MIDDLEFIELD
Sarah Foley

MONTGOMERY
Madelyn Austin

RUSSELL
Tara Balboni
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: Kayla Brady, Amy Porter, Peter Spotts, Ed Quinn, Bret Hartley, Deb Kuhn, Joanne Frappier, Darlene McVeigh, Dan Jacques

- Mrs. Crane opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- The Peeter 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

A. Facilities/Maintenance Presentation

- Ed Quinn, Bret Hartley, and Joey Frappier from maintenance introduced themselves.
- Ms. Fisk gave a PowerPoint presentation.
- Mrs. Crane and Mr. Welch met with Bret and Ed a couple of weeks ago. She complimented the maintenance staff, and spoke of how others have expressed the same. This PowerPoint will be on the website.

7:45 V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM

A. Strategic/Improvement Plan

- Mrs. Crane said we spoke about this at the last meeting. We need to vote to approve the plan as a new format for the District Improvement Plan.

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to approve the Strategic/Improvement Plan.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Paula, Melissa, Lyndsey, Martha, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

- Mrs. Papillon asked if we have any further information from the YMCA and the after school program.
- Mrs. Long said she met with the head of the Hampshire and Westfield YMCA regarding the wellness center. The piece that they are waiting for is the financials. She hasn't received them from Ms. Fisk. They need to see what wellness brought and what the expenditures are.
- Mrs. Long said she has not made much progress with the afterschool program. We are mainly going through the Westfield YMCA. She and Mr. Finnie met with Andrea and were working on a survey. She is wondering if it should be pursued. We are half way through the first semester and there hasn't been much questioning from the parents. We weren't funded for the 21st century grant for the second year, so we will be eligible again. We need to see if the collaborative is willing to work with us again and managed the grant. The plus to this is that the YMCA is not educational driven whereas the 21st century grant is.
- Mrs. Balboni wouldn't take people not questioning it meaning they are not interested in it. It filled a gap for things for kids to do. It's better than kids going home to an empty house to play video games.
- Mrs. Otterbeck added that just because there hasn't been discussion doesn't mean they don't miss it. There are also parents that don't know about it. She has also heard discussion from parents about opening the wellness center again.
- Mrs. Foley asked if the option for the YMCA to run the wellness center is separate and apart from the afterschool program.
- Mrs. Long said yes.
- Mrs. Winer asked if the wellness center is still used in the school for gym.
- Ms. Fisk said yes.

8:00 - VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS - None
8:30 p.m.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS 10/11/17 (Enc.)

Mrs. Garfield made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to approve the minutes of 10/11/17 as written.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays Abstain 3 Absent (Roll Call Vote)

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

Abstain: Tara, Diane, Martha

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mrs. Papillon asked if the invitations for executive session went out to the towns.
- Mrs. Crane said yes we sent out a letter. She only received one piece of feedback. Bob Daley of Chester wanted to clear up misunderstandings in the letter. She said Blandford didn't have anyone to send tonight.
- Mrs. McVeigh said Huntington will have to formally vote this Wednesday.
- Mrs. Hepburn took a tour of the high school and middle school with Ms. Fisk.
- Mr. Welch took a tour of Littleville with Mrs. Coburn. Everyone should know about the STEM cart. There is no dedicated classroom for it, so the cart goes to the kids.
- Mrs. Austin said Friday night the middle school is hosting the Bandster Bash and spaghetti supper. Fifth grade is included too.
- Mrs. Foley said the boys' soccer senior night has been moved to Monday. The girls' senior night was a success. She bumped into the cross country meet at Stanley Park.

B. Chairperson

- Mrs. Crane said the boys' cross country team has been doing very well. They already had their senior night. PVAC is on Sunday and Western Mass is on the 11th.
- The next MARS Facilitated Meeting is November 2 at 6:30 p.m. here at Gateway.

C. Superintendent

Central Office Update (Enc.)

Dr. Hopson said we need an executive session.

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to go into executive for the purpose of negotiations – Teachers and non-union negotiations at or before 7:40 p.m. not to return to open session.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Paula, Melissa, Lyndsey, Martha, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

- Dr. Hopson met with leadership over the summer about joining the Collaborative for Educational Services. The collaborative has voted to allow Gateway to join. For staff that take professional development there, it will be a savings. We are trying to work with them on the small schools coalition. It looks like they have enough offerings for it to make it worth for us to join. We've been collecting services from both the Collaborative for Educational Services and Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative. It may make sense for us to join as we need more services and there is a potential for sharing. We will still use Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative.
- Dr. Hopson said there are one hundred plus policies that that came out this summer that need to be reviewed and updated. He will send the first 15-20 electronically for the next subcommittee meeting. Some of them are very simple. If we can get though ten a night it won't be too bad. Kayla Brandy volunteered to sit on policy.

D. Business Manager

- Ms. Fisk met with leadership team about their budgets. She will make updates as we go. We won't have health insurance numbers until December.

E. Administration

- Mrs. Long said Thursday night, pupil services is hosting a parent training night about rights and responsibilities. They will also use the opportunity to introduce Chris Tamburrino. Chester Elementary is also hosting a BooBash on Friday night at 5:30 p.m.
- A community service project just launched at the high school. They are collecting district wide. Each school is collecting something different for a relief effort for Puerto Rico. Chester and Littleville are collecting school supplies. The high and middle schools are collecting personal care items. There will also be a community collection on Saturday as well. A group did something similar a couple of years ago. Everything will go to Western Mass United for Puerto Rico.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation

- Superintendent's evaluation in January.

B. Legislative Liaison

- Legislative – everything is leading up to the conference.

C. Policy Subcommittee

- Meeting before the November meeting.

D. Building Liaisons

- Covered under communications

X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

XI. INFORMATION
Information

Reminders, updates on 2nd Annual Homecoming Weekend!
 Girls Soccer 'Senior Night'
 Gateway early release October 17
 Superintendent's Corner October 3, 2017
 Gateway soccer player kicks her way into history
 Homecoming weekend had something for everyone!
 Boy's Soccer Sr. Night
 Coats for the community
 Gateway hosts presentation on college financing
 Gateway soccer start writes new page in record books
 Superintendent's Corner October 12, 2017

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

Warrants

AP# 1021 \$43,265.54	PR# 008 \$388,197.56
AP# 1026 \$50.26	
AP# 1025 \$37,655.92	

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

Mrs. Ottebeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to go into executive for the purpose of negotiations – Teachers and non-union negotiations at or before 7:40 p.m. not to return to open session.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Paula, Melissa, Lyndsey, Martha, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Ottebeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Paula, Melissa, Lyndsey, Martha, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

Respectfully Submitted,
 Stacy L Stewart
 School Committee Secretary