

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 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

HUNTINGTON
Ron Damon
Melissa Nazzaro

MIDDLEFIELD

MONTGOMERY
Madelyn Austin

RUSSELL
Tara Balboni
Paula Hepburn – can't vote
Lyndsey Papillon

SECRETARY

Stacy Stewart

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Jason Finnie, High/Middle Principal
Wendy Long, District Grant Writer

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: _____

- Mrs. Crane opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- The reporter 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. First Semester Field Trips

Empire Model UN

- Ms. Thompson discussed the Model UN Trip. It is a 4-day Model UN trip to New York. It will be Thursday December 7 through Sunday December. The cost is \$229 per night and \$55 per student for the event. She is looking at taking a Peter Pan bus.
- Mrs. Crane asked if they could hook up with another school.
- Mr. Finnie said last time transportation was a challenge, but they are motivated and figured it out.
- Ms. Thompson said she would put four girls in a room. There are only girls going on the trip.

Mrs. Otterbeck arrived.

Wrestling Overnights: 12/15-16/17 (Hudson Falls NY), 1/5-6/18 (Ravena NY), 1/12-13/18 (Maple Hill NY)

- Mr. Finnie explained that wrestling trips are overnight tournaments, all in New York. The majority of the team is going out the night before. The other coach will bring students who don't want to go the night before.
- Mrs. Winer asked if there are girls on the team.
- Mr. Finnie said we don't know yet. There were two girls last year.

Choirs: New York to see Wicked 3/21/18

- Mr. Finnie said the choirs are looking to take a trip to New York to see Wicked in March, but they need to start booking tickets now. They are going to get to work with the cast of Wicked. They are also working on grants with the cultural council to help pay for the trip.

7:45 V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM**A. FY '19 Budget Process**

- Dr. Hopson said at the last meeting he handed out a preliminary timeline. The next joint budget meeting would be in November. He is looking for school committee approval.

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to approve the FY '19 budget timeline.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Terri, Melissa, Lyndsey, Martha, Shirley, Michele
Paula can't vote yet.

B. FY '18 Superintendent's Goals

- Mrs. Winer is concerned about the lack of understanding. There is a lot that does not have a label such as special education.
- Dr. Hopson said if you look at the timeline, the principals and administrators would come and give a presentation about their aspect. It is a great opportunity for townspeople to ask those questions. This may be the first time in a long time when the town representatives are here.
- Mrs. Winer said special education is broader and she doesn't think they have any idea what it leads to.
- Dr. Hopson said we also have needs that are not identified as special needs.
- Mrs. Winer said the towns need to know what is going on.
- Mrs. Crane said those of us on the committee are the ones who know those answers and they should trust us and there should be a back and forth flow of information. She doesn't get a lot of calls. She only gets asked about the money part.
- Dr. Hopson said the other piece is the facilitated budget discussion. The MARS people will be asking for information. We are going to share things such as five years of budget history.

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve the Superintendent's FY '18 Goals.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Terri, Melissa, Lyndsey, Martha, Shirley, Michele
Paula can't vote yet.

8:00 - VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

8:30 p.m.

A. Maternity Leave Request

- Dr. Hopson said Mrs. Case is having her second child. She would like to take the remainder of the school year off after her maternity leave. School committee has to approve it. Under the law, she gets paid while using her sick time and the remainder is unpaid.
- Mr. Finnie said right now she is reaching out to colleges to fill her position while she is out.
- Mrs. Nazzaro asked if he thinks that this someone might be a student.
- Mr. Finnie said he looking for someone who either just graduated, or may have some experience.
- Mrs. Nazzaro asked if you could you have an intern.

- Mr. Finnie said it would be great if it were someone who graduates mid-year.
- Dr. Hopson said we also have two other counselors in the middle and high school so things won't fall apart.

B. Complying with An Act Relative to Gender Identity

- Dr. Hopson said we have already had transgender students in the high school, but some are identifying in the elementary. At the high school we've identified unisex bathrooms. By law anyone has the right to use the restroom of the gender that they identify with. We have met with staff. The real goal is to make sure that students are supported.
- Dr. Hopson said we are up to date with policies. As students come forward unless they are comfortable using a unisex bathrooms, they will be able to use the restroom they identify with. He is letting school committee know so when questions come up, you understand we've done this in the past.
- Mrs. Winer asked if we have problems with a child identifying and the parents not knowing.
- Dr. Hopson said to his knowledge we do not.
- Jason Fogue asked if they are required to notify the school.
- Dr. Hopson said a student may identify themselves to someone they trust and not want anyone to know. If they are comfortable you have to share it with the staff. In the past, we had a student who didn't want everyone to know so they chose to use the unisex bathrooms.
- Mrs. Balboni asked if this is public information and should be shared?
- Dr. Hopson said yes.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS 8/23/17, 9/13/17 (Enc.)

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve the minutes of 8/23/17.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Terri, Melissa, Lyndsey, Martha, Shirley, Michele
Paula can't vote yet.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve the minutes of 9/13/17.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Terri, Melissa, Lyndsey, Martha, Shirley, Michele
Paula can't vote yet.

- Mrs. Winer found them very difficult to read/follow. It wasn't the fault of the secretary just the set up of the meeting.

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Nazzaro to go into executive session at or before 7:45 p.m. for the purpose of Negotiations Update – Teachers, and Litigation: Kennedy, et al. v. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, et al. - No.:HSCV2014-00210, not to return to open session.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Terri, Melissa, Lyndsey, Martha, Shirley, Michele
Paula can't vote yet.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mrs. Papillon said the Littleville open house was last night. It was hot. The tables looked great. Mrs. Long was there with the Gateway Foundation. She loved the wish lists outside each of the classrooms. The kids were so excited.

B. Chairperson

- Mrs. Crane said cross-country is going well. They only have two home meets this year. It has to do with how they share home locations. Soccer is going on right now. J.V. won and Varsity tied with more people injured than on the field.
- Mrs. Austin said the younger band kids are doing a bake sale at the Fall Festival in Huntington this weekend.

C. Superintendent

Central Office Update

- Dr. Hopson said tomorrow is the lunch and learn with 4 technology companies from around the country. There are 11 or 12 school districts coming. There is a listening session. Mr. Parker hopes this will become an annual event.
- Mrs. Balboni asked what they are presenting.
- Dr. Hopson said low cost laptops, security for Internet protection, systems for teachers to manage all the computers in their classroom.

D. Business Manager - None

E. Administration

- Mrs. Long said the foundation had a display and a 50/50 raffle at both open houses. Last year they made \$100 this year they made \$330. They will also be at the middle and high school open house. Monday night the board met and approved the highest number of applications they received and approved the most money. They did get a \$4,000 grant from CFWM. The following projects were awarded: Chester Elementary Literacy Night, Pawsome Reading Challenge and Literacy Night, Life Skills Vocational Training at Student Store, Chimney Corners overnight trip, Wright! Brothers Musical, On Broadway! and Swamped! A musical about friendship, tolerance, and change, "The Last Five Years" high school musical performance, Living through the Holocaust, Xylophone Project, PreK, K Playground Fun, and MIAA Student Ambassador Program.
- This year's homecoming is coming along again. It starts October 12 and goes to the 15th. The following activities will occur. Chester Common Table is hosting a Gateway night, the Shipman Memorial Concert, a road race, the outdoor club is sponsoring an event on Littleville Lake, there will be soccer games Saturday including the alumni game, the soccer teams are doing a community service project, and Sunday there is a lunch at the Comfort Kitchen from 11:30-3:00 p.m. and 10% of tab goes to the foundation. All events are open to everyone.
- Mr. Finnie is sorry for confusion on the middle and high school open house format. Open meet and greet format.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation

- The next meeting is October 11, 2017

B. Legislative Liaison - None

C. Policy Subcommittee - None

D. Building Liaisons

- Update list of members and who they'd like to meet with.
- Mrs. Balboni will meet with Mrs. Long. Mrs. Otterbeck and Mrs. Nazzaro will meet with Ms. Fisk. Mrs. Papillon will stay on with Littleville along with Mr. Welch and Mrs. Hepburn. Mrs. Dunn will stay with Chester. Mrs. Garfield and Mrs. Foley will stay with the high school. Mrs. Crane and Mr. Welch will meet with facilities. Mrs. Balboni will meet with the middle school. Mrs. Garfield will meet with the Foundation. Mrs. Winer and Mrs. Crane will meet with special education.
- Mrs. Crane said this was started before she was chair was to get school committee members into the schools. Really we make sure we go to events their kids are at.

X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

XI. INFORMATION
Information

Order your Gator Gear by September 17!
 College planning night for Gateway seniors
 Gateway School Based Health Center is offering Flu Vaccinations
 Gateway early-release September 26
 Superintendent's Corner September 11, 2017
 Chester, Littleville, Open Houses coming up
 Education Foundation Board to meet
 PSAT's on October 11
 Superintendent's Corner September 14, 2017
 Something for everybody at 2nd Annual Homecoming Weekend!

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

Warrants

AP# 1018 \$35,363.49

PR# 006 \$355,405.83

AP# 1019 \$46,559.74

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

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Nazzaro to go into executive session at or before 7:45 p.m. for the purpose of Negotiations Update – Teachers, and Litigation: Kennedy, et al. v. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, et al. - No.:HSCV2014-00210, not to return to open session.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Terri, Melissa, Lyndsey, Martha, Shirley, Michele
 Paula can't vote yet.

A. Union Negotiations - Teachers

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT at 9 p.m. unless extended by majority vote.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Terri, Melissa, Lyndsey, Martha, Shirley, Michele
 Paula can't vote yet.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Stacy L Stewart
 School Committee Secretary