

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Gateway Regional School District will provide and exemplary education that challenges all students in an instructional setting appropriate to their needs.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

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

CHESTER
Shirley Winer
Martha Otterbeck

HUNTINGTON
Darlene McVeigh
Melissa Nazzaro
Aaron Welch

MIDDLEFIELD

MONTGOMERY
Madelyn Austin

RUSSELL
Tara Balboni
Sarah Page
Lyndsey Papillon

SECRETARY
Stacy Stewart

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

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
Robert Austin

OTHERS: Peter Spotts

- Mrs. Crane opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Peter Spotts is recording the meeting.

7:05 p.m. II. PUBLIC INPUT FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA (3 Minute Limit) - None

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

- Robert Austin said student council met yesterday and made posters for spirit days. The first Spirit day will be spooky day on October 31. They held their first club fair during advisory. It is an opportunity for students to see what there is and choose a club. Robert ran the as schools match wits club booth.
- Mrs. Crane said cross country had a good run tonight. The girls beat both teams they competed against. Kailyn Hawley won overall for the girls. The boys won against one team. Soccer was cancelled yesterday and today due to the rain.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS

A. First Semester Field Trips

- Mr. Finnie said the 8th grade is looking to take their annual Washington, D.C. trip. Hannah Sullivan is organizing the trip for April 10-12, 2019. They are starting to take care of deposits and fundraisers.

- Mr. Finnie spoke about the Costa Rica trip. This is the 3rd trip. They are looking to go April 14-22, 2019 with the same company; Ecoteach. They are using pretty much the same itinerary with a few changes. They will participate in local activities, tour a school visit, tour a sustainable farm, visit a butterfly farm and stay with host families. There will be multiple chaperones. Guides are with the students. Each house has a translator. The cost is \$2,700 per student.
- Mrs. Austin asked how many students have signed up.
- Mr. Finnie said they haven't asked for students to sign up, they are waiting for school committee approval.
- Robert Austin asked what it would cost outside this program.
- Dr. Hopson thinks it would be much more and gave an example of a trip he took years ago.
- Mr. Finnie agreed it would probably be more if you went without going through the program.
- This will be voted on at the next meeting.

7:35 p.m.V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Policy Approval

- GBGE – Domestic Violence Leave Policy
- GBGF – Family and Medical Leave
- GBI – Staff Participation in Political Activities
- GCBA – Professional Staff Salary Schedules
- GCBB – Employment of Principals
- GCBC – Professional Staff Supplementary Pay Plans
- GCF – Professional Staff Hiring
- GCJ – Professional Teacher Status
- GDQD – Suspension and Dismissal of Support Staff Members
- IB – Academic Freedom

Mr. Welch made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to accept Policies a-i.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Melissa, Sarah P., Lyndsey, Martha, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

Abstain: Darlene

VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Foundation Reform Resolutions

- Mr. Welch asked if we want to do the same as Pittsfield; sending a letter of support saying the state law makers didn't get the job done.
- Dr. Hopson said MASS is going to be doing work on this with a lawsuit for insufficient funding. While it is important, under the best scenario of 1 billion dollars, no money would come to Gateway. If they fund 1.2 billion, Gateway would get about \$18,000. We are held harmless for declining enrollment. It would increase the foundation budget, which means required minimum contribution from the towns would go up and the above minimum would go down.
- Mrs. Crane said the rural schools initiative is that part of the discussed Chapter 70 reform.
- Dr. Hopson said there is some discussion about trying to roll it in, but right now it is separate.
- Mr. Welch met with Senator Hallmark. He said that was on their radar but it is a very small caucus. They need to pass the funding through the millionaires' tax so it is likely a two-year process. Mr. Welch's intent was a little less it will show change, but more to show solidarity for the other schools/school committees around. It is pretty broken that 200 school systems are afloat because they are held harmless.
- Mrs. Crane asked what everyone thought. We would come up with more appropriate wording.
- Mrs. Otterbeck would think it is important to support other school committees.
- Mr. Welch said it is clearly a problem. It was just left to die. This can't keep going on. We are doing as much as we can locally.
- Dr. Hopson would suggest he and Aaron work on a potential statement for the next committee meeting.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS 9/12/18 (Enc.)

Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve the minutes of 9/12/18.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Melissa, Sarah P., Martha, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

Abstain: Darlene, Lyndsey

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mrs. Austin said the band and middle school is having a bake sale on the green in Huntington.
- Mrs. Crane said she sent an email to Mrs. Guertin regarding the thank you letter for the instrument donation and she hasn't heard back from her.
- Mrs. Winer asked if the student accident was in a car.
- Dr. Hopson said no. It was on an ATV.
- Mrs. Crane said it is very sad that this is our second loss this year.

B. Chairperson

- Mrs. Crane said at the next meeting we will bring up an issue that has to do with the new contract. Sheila Greene is the only retiree we need to do this for.
- Ms. Fisk said it has to do with article thirty-five of the teachers' contract. It states for 15 or more years of service a teacher can buy back up to 184 sick days at a rate of \$10 (up to \$1,840) per day if they file by February 1 of the year preceding retirement. It can only be waived by the school committee. She wasn't able to meet the deadline due to contract negotiations.
- Dr. Hopson said if you go back far enough they put in the Lexington plan and the state changed it. This is kind of an incentive. This will be on the next meeting under new business and then old business for a vote.

C. Superintendent

Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Dr. Hopson thanked the administrators for doing such a great job without student tragedy.
- Mr. Finnie thanked all the members of the staff helping assisting and making decisions He met with faculty on Monday morning. Mrs. Hanousek and Ms. Blume were communicating with him and Kurt. Supports were in place with school staff, clinicians from the health center, and school nurses. Teachers and counselors facilitated work with the students. As the day progressed we tried to keep an element of routine.
- Mrs. Nazzaro what kind of communication if any went to the kids at the elementary. She didn't know if they heard it in school or just through the grapevine.
- Mr. Finnie said the staff was notified, but nothing went to the students.
- Mrs. Balboni said there were a couple of other students involved. One of them is coming back to school tomorrow. She asked how is that going to go.
- Mr. Finnie said their teacher talked to students and teachers who have him in class to assess where they are.
- Mrs. Long said this is not a unique situation for a veteran teacher. She has always been impressed with the way staff keeps an eye on things. They seem to pick up on student needs.
- Mr. Finnie said part of the issue is incidents like this can trigger other things even with those students who wouldn't normally be affected.
- Dr. Hopson and Ms. Fisk thanked the committee. They just got back from ASBO. They weren't they only small school there. They don't have broad band in all their communities. They also met a district with 18 school committee members and 3 school committees at the elementary level.

D. Business Manager - None

E. Administration

- Mr. Finnie will be meeting with the chair of the NEASC visiting committee on Monday to go over the process on how we got to where we are. A key question is how can this report inform the community on target areas of need. Mr. Finnie will get a copy of the school committee questions to the committee. He also asked for the names of members who would be attending on October 28. It will start 2/2:30 and there will be a welcoming reception at 4/4:30.
- Mr. Welch, Mrs. Nazzaro, Mrs. Page, and Mrs. McVeigh all said they would attend.
- Mrs. Long said the foundation is back to a full board after voting in Nick Balboni. The Foundation met Monday night to review applications for funding. The Comfort kitchen held an anniversary weekend. The fundraiser we had Friday night and had the largest participation. The next fundraisers come up on homecoming weekend October 11-14. Thursday is the kick off diner at the Common Table where 15% of the proceeds go to the Foundation. Friday night will be family movie night. Thanks to Ms. Fisk for getting

the license to show the movie. The class of 2020 bake sale and face painting will take place at intermission. Saturday is the road race and kayak adventure at Littleville Dam, soccer games starting at 11:00 a.m. and finishing with the alumni soccer game at night. Sunday the alumni band will play. All events are free except for your dinner on Thursday.

F. Town - None

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation - Next Meeting 10/10/18

B. Legislative Liaison - None

C. Policy Subcommittee – Next Meeting 10/24/18

D. Building Liaisons

- Mrs. Papillon said the open house at Littleville was very well attended. Kids and staff were excited. She gave Mr. Finnie and the middle school staff kudos. Her mother-in-law was at the middle school open house and she also had grand children at Hampshire and Smith and was really impressed with what Gateway has to offer.
- Mrs. Nazzaro saw a Verizon ad and wonders if there are other educational innovative programs out there that might help us come up with other opportunities.

X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

XI. INFORMATION

Information

Foundation Board to meet

Gateway named to MIAA Sportsmanship Honor Roll

Gateway Open Houses coming up

Superintendent's Corner September 7, 2018

VHS to DVD-R fundraiser for Gateway film studio

School-Based Health Center expand to serve students at Chester

Auclair named to MIAA Student Advisory Committee

Gateway School Based Health Center is offering Flu Vaccinations

Superintendent's Corner September 14, 2018

"State of the District" presentation at School Committee

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

Warrant

AP#1018 \$19,693.28

PR#006 \$365,595.96

AP#1019 \$24,461.59

AP#1020 \$44,824.32

AP#1023 \$5.63

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Austin to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Melissa, Sarah P., Darlene, Lyndsey, Martha, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy L Stewart

School Committee Secretary