

**GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016**

**Blandford Town Hall**

**7:00 P.M.**

**I. OPENING OF MEETING**

Mrs. Crane called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Mrs. Austin, Mrs. Buikus, and the Country Journal reporter are recording the meeting.

BLANDFORD

Michele Crane  
Terri Garfield

CHESTER

Shirley Winer  
Martha Otterbeck  
Diane Dunn

HUNTINGTON

Ron Damon  
Jeff Wyand

MIDDLEFIELD

Sarah Foley

MONTGOMERY

Anne-Marie Buikus  
Madelyn Austin

RUSSELL

Tara Balboni  
Heather Morgan  
Lyndsey Papillon

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Joanne Blocker, Director of Academics  
Jason Finnie, High/Jr. High Principal  
Kurt Garivaltis, Pupil Services Director  
Wendy Long, District Grant Writer

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: Westfield News and Country Journal reporter

**II. PUBLIC INPUT (3 Minute Limit)**

None.

**III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT**

None. Mrs. Crane will meet with the student council next week on behalf of the committee to touch base.

**IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS**

A. First Semester Field Trips - Mr. Finnie indicated that there were no requests for out-of-state field trips for the first semester. Dr. Hopson informed the school committee that the policy committee would be looking at the field trip policy at their next meeting.

B. Coordinated Review Update - Mr. Garivaltis gave an overview of the Coordinated Program Review focusing on the findings that require district actions. The PowerPoint was shared online with the school committee. They are welcome to ask Mr. Garivaltis questions as they review the report.

Mr. Wyand asked if there are any fines for any of these citations. Mr. Garivaltis said that there are no monetary fines. The district has one calendar year to correct the findings. There will be a mid-cycle review in three years.

C. Strategic Planning Part II – Online - Mrs. Crane indicated that this was embedded in the central office update. Dr. Hopson reviewed the next step for online education. Dr. Hopson asked the committee if they were fine with reading this information online, and the consensus was yes. Mrs. Crane has been thinking about the district strategic plan for the meeting in October for setting school committee goals.

**V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM**

- A. FY '17 Fall Grants Approval - Mr. Damon moved, seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approval the fall grants for FY '17 as presented by Mrs. Long. The first three grants are the Food Services Equipment Grant, Teen Dating Violence Continuation Grant, and Autism Speaks Local Grant. There are two grants that have been posted since the last meeting. The two additional grants are the Safe and Supportive School Grant and the Digital Connections Partnerships Grant and Loan Program.

YEAS – 13 NAYS – 0 ABSTAIN – 0 ABSENT – 1 (Mrs. Rousseau)

- B. Mrs. Otterbeck moved, seconded by Mrs. Dunn to approve the superintendent attending the Future of Educational Technology Conference (FETC).

YEAS – 13 NAYS – 0 ABSTAIN – 0 ABSENT – 1 (Mrs. Rousseau)

**VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Position on Charter School Cap Vote - Mrs. Crane indicated that Mr. Duggan asked if the school committee would take a position on the charter school cap. Mrs. Foley had paperwork she was given from a school committee in Westfield, which is the position of the MTA. Mrs. Crane said the actual question on the ballot is to lift the cap and increase the number of charter schools. Mrs. Crane will draft a resolution to send out in the packet next time. Mrs. Otterbeck thought that it would be important for us as a committee to have and support a position.
- B. FY '17 Budget Transfers - Ms. Fisk reviewed the budget transfers that were sent in the packet. There were no questions.

**VII. CONSENT ITEMS 8/24/16 Minutes**

Mrs. Otterbeck, moved, seconded by Mrs. Balboni to approve the minutes of 8/24/16. There were no corrections.

YEAS – 9 NAYS – 0 ABSTAIN – 4 (Buikus, Foley, Morgan, Wyand) ABSENT – 1 (Rousseau)

**VIII. COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. School Committee  
Mrs. Balboni attended the Charting the Course workshop in Lee. It was very engaging, and she is recommending that school committee members attend if they have not done so already.

Mrs. Buikus requested that the new contracts be posted on the website.

- B. Chairperson  
Mrs. Crane asked members on the warrant signing committee to come in to sign warrants tomorrow.

- C. Superintendent  
Dr. Hopson mentioned that the district has started negotiations with the secretaries.

He also informed the committee that the district has also posted for a tutor to assist a student in readiness for the MCAS test.

Dr. Hopson informed the committee that the first meeting regarding the possibility of blizzard bags with a group of four teachers representing elementary, middle and high school as well as administrators has taken place.

Mrs. Papillon asked what the conditions would be if a student doesn't turn the work in, what does it mean for teachers, and does correcting the work mean that the day counts for the teachers as well? Dr. Hopson explained that the blizzard bag group will be looking at all of the information, and a report will be made to the school committee in October for their approval.

- D. Business Manager – None.

**VIII. COMMUNICATIONS - CONTINUED**

- E. Administration - Mrs. Long informed the committee the after-school program has not received grant funding, and Mrs. Madden has also submitted her resignation to the Collaborative. Mrs. Long reminded the committee that it is Homecoming Weekend with the Shipman Concert beginning Friday night, soccer games on Saturday and breakfast at the Chester Common Table on Sunday. The Foundation board meets Monday night. Applications are coming in for the next round of funding.

**IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING**

- A. Superintendent's Evaluation - Mrs. Crane will continue to chair and Mrs. Foley will be the secretary for the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee.
- B. Legislative Liaison – Mrs. Papillon informed the committee that the Reading Recovery program received funding for this year. Mrs. Papillon will be attending the MASC/MASS conference.
- C. Policy Subcommittee - Policy will meet September 28th at 6 p.m. in Chester.
- D. Building Liaisons - Mrs. Foley informed the committee that the girls' soccer team is undefeated and they defeated Renaissance.

**X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA - None****XI. INFORMATION****Information**

Gateway Students Return August 30  
 Lunch price change announced  
 Gateway Alumni: Save date for Homecoming Weekend  
 Superintendent's Corner August 22, 2016  
 After-school grant declined – program planning underway  
 September Calendar Highlights  
 Teachers tackle cyber-bullying on opening staff day  
 Gateway Staff Participate in Active Shooter Drill  
 Superintendent's Corner August 29, 2016  
 Gateway Homecoming Weekend

**Warrant**

AP#1014	\$43,389.50	PR# 05	\$404,566.75
AP#1016	\$39,437.84		
AP#1019	\$55,520.61		

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Otterbeck moved, seconded by Mrs. Winer to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

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