

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

**Chester Elementary School
7:00 P.M.**

(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
Ron Damon
Kara Rousseau
Jeff Wyand

MIDDLEFIELD
Sarah Foley

MONTGOMERY
Anne-Marie Buikus
Madelyn Austin

RUSSELL
Tara Balboni
Lyndsey Papillon

SECRETARY
Stacy Stewart

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Megan Coburn, Chs,Lit,Ms Principal
Sara Laing, Chs,Lit, Ms Assistant Principal
Wendy Long, District Grant Writer

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: _____

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

- Mrs. Crane opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Mrs. Buikus, Mrs. Austin, and the reporter are recording the meeting.

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT - None

IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS

A. Initial Budget Overview

- Dr. Hopson said we won't be able to even present a level services budget for next year. It looks like we might be at last year's student numbers. It's nice to have new students but a lot of them have needs. They are moving in with family members, not parents. Also included in the budget could be a superintendent search if that is the way you want to go; with an estimed cost of around \$20,000. In order to move forward with a level services budget we would have to let go of classroom teachers somewhere. We may also need to hire a part time administrator with the tasks that need to get done as administrators start doing them. We also need to include NEASC which is usually about \$20,000.
- Mrs. Crane said it will be interesting to see what MARS comes up with.
- Ms. Fisk said we should see something from the special education finance review in the next few months

B. Strategic Planning Overview (online)

- Dr. Hopson said the intent was to lead you down the path of what the leadership team came up with as school committee moves forward with their goals. There are some great things going on in the district. We

have teachers acting as mentors to students taking online classes. The teacher will check in on a regular basis to make sure students succeed in online courses.

7:45 V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM

A. Position on Charter School Cap Vote

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to accept the Charter Cap resolution as written.

- Mr. Damon thanked anyone who took part in writing this. It is important the public knows where we stand.
- Mrs. Long said this would go out in a press release, and there are reporters here, and our legislators should get a copy.
- Mr. Damon suggested we give this to the teachers.
- Mr. Wyand has noticed an advertisement in the last couple of days which is misleading saying it doesn't take money away from public schools. Is it true they are just going to shift the funding from regional schools to charter schools.
- Dr. Hopson said the probability is yes, the existing public schools will suffer.
- Mrs. Dunn suggested sending it to GTAC as they are interested in the financial aspect.
- Mrs. Crane asked Ms. Fisk to explain the money part.
- Ms. Fisk said if the state started funding everyone's transportation, our money would go down. We are losing charter school and choice is capped at \$5,000. Charter schools can be between \$13-15,000.00. When we get our Chapter 70, the charter and choice is deducted.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to accept the Charter Cap resolution as written.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 10 Nays 1 Abstain 2 Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Tara, Ron, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Lyndsey, Martha, Shirley, Jeff, Michele

Nays: Madelyn

Abstain: Anne-Marie, Kara

B. FY '17 Budget Transfers

- Ms. Fisk said these are from the first quarter and there will be more in the seconded quarter. The new ELL and preschool teacher started and will be in the 2nd quarter.

Mrs. Winer made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve the first quarter FY '17 Budget Transfers.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 13 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Anne-Marie, Ron, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Lyndsey, Martha, Kara, Shirley, Jeff, Michele

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

8:30 p.m.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS 9/14/16 (Enc.)

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to accept the minutes of 9/14/16.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain 1 Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Anne-Marie, Ron, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Lyndsey, Martha, Shirley, Jeff, Michele

Abstain: Kara

Mrs. Buikus said they looked good except Ms. Fisk didn't outline how people voted.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mrs. Buikus would like to follow Ms. Fisk as her liaison.
- Mrs. Winer asked if there was anyone else besides her who has trouble with Google docs.

- Dr. Hopson will put together a short explanation on how to use Google docs.

B. Chairperson

- Mrs. Crane sent out a sympathy card on behalf of the committee to Marilyn Pike's husband.

C. Superintendent

Central Office Update

- Mrs. McVeigh volunteered to meet with MARS.
- Dr. Hopson said MARS has contracted out six people. They will meet with GTAC. They are doing a comparison of Gateway and 8 other schools. They will be meeting Finance, select board, school committee, treasurers, managers, etc. Mrs. Buikus and Mrs. Crane will meet with them. Mr. Wyand might go too.
- Dr. Hopson met with secretaries again, nothing really to report yet. They have two more meetings.

D. Business Manager

- Ms. Fisk said the audit is taking place. It is coming to a close on what they do in the building. They will wait for OPEB to finish. Melanson Heath and Company is doing the audit.

E. Administration

- Mrs. Coburn said enrollment at Littleville is going up. They enrolled over 30 new students.
- Mrs. Coburn said in terms of DESE accountability Littleville is Level I. She is going through data to see what initiative has made the most difference. 4th grade didn't have to do a long composition. She also thinks students were more comfortable with the PARCC assessment since it was their second time.
- Mrs. Buikus asked if we have enough room with the new students.
- Mrs. Coburn said they are pretty spread out. Class sizes are creeping up to 22. Summer enrollments consisted of a lot of ELL students.
- Mr. Wyand asked if the state has decided what they are doing.
- Dr. Hopson said MCAS 2 will be the new standardized test. It will be taken on the computer. MCAS 2 in the high school will not happen for a few years before it counts towards graduation.
- Mrs. Foley asked about the level of the other schools.
- Dr. Hopson said middle school is level 2 all other schools are 1.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation

- Meets October 12 at 6:00 p.m. in Montgomery.

B. Legislative Liaison

- Mrs. Papillon has nothing to report at this time.

C. Policy Subcommittee

- Policy met tonight.
- Mrs. Garfield said the committee looked at policies for bidding, funding proposals, disposal of school property, Changes for drug/prohibited substances. They had nine policies to look at. Some will be in the packet for the next meeting. Most changes were just wording changes from MASC.

D. Building Liaisons

- Mrs. Papillon said Littleville's Open house was last night. There was a great turnout and the rooms looked great. 3rd and 4th grade kids did a lot of collaborative things in joint spaces. The book fair was great.
- Mrs. Balboni said middle school seems to be running smoothly. 6th grade has a humanities class that is knocking her socks off. They tackle some pretty interesting issues.
- Mrs. Foley said the high school and middle school bands were at the big E and the sports teams are doing well.
- Mrs. Austin said the band will have a bake sale at the Huntington Craft Fair
- Mrs. Foley asked why GYAA is coming to the next meeting.
- Mrs. Crane said they would like to meet with us. She thinks it has to do with paying fees for using the district building. She asked them to provide something in writing to us. It will be included in the next packet.

- Mrs. McVeigh said the New Open meeting law requires school committee to appoint a Public Information Officer.
- Mrs. McVeigh said at the last task force they talked about scheduling an executive session and have Attorney Russell Dupere there. It is time for all parties involved in litigation to come together to strategize the issues. There are items that need to be addressed by school committee such as a financial draft agreement, Worthington's share of OPEB, retirement, etc. She can work with Dr. Hopson and get a hold of the select boards. She could get Attorney Lampke on a conference call. We need to refocus back on this again. It may not be time to present. What is our standing, how far are we willing to go, put a timeline together. October 26.
- Mr. Wyand asked if we could release some of the executive session minutes.
- Mrs. Stewart will review them for the next meeting.

X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

GYAA – October 12

XI. INFORMATION

Information

Gateway Welcomes New Staff
 September School Committee Meetings
 Superintendent's Corner September 1, 2016
 Chester, Littleville Open Houses coming up.
 Education Foundation Board to meet
 Gateway Homecoming Weekend
 College planning night for seniors
 Students rewarded for summer reading
 Superintendent's Corner September 12, 2016
 Gateway early-release September 20
 Gateway Open House on October 6
 Homecoming weekend wrap up
 Gateway School Based Health Center and Gator Grins Dental Outreach are open for the School Year
 Superintendent's Corner September 19, 2016

Warrant

AP#1020 \$47,717.10 PR# 06 \$345,991.34
 AP#1022 \$139,834.03

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

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to adjourn at 7:48 p.m.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 13 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Anne-Marie, Ron, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Lyndsey, Martha, Kara, Shirley, Jeff, Michele

Respectfully Submitted,
 Stacy L Stewart
 School Committee Secretary