

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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

JOINT BUDGET/REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

Via Zoom (virtual)

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72689580362?pwd=VmtKQWo5eVo4TlFjU1FsY21oQ0ZlZz09>

Meeting ID: 726 8958 0362

Passcode: 6C5932

7:00 P.M.

(A PORTION OF THIS MEETING MAY BE HELD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION)

I. OPENING OF MEETING

| | | | |
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| <u>BLANDFORD</u> | <u>CHESTER</u> | <u>HUNTINGTON</u> | <u>MIDDLEFIELD</u> |
| Michele Crane | Jason Forgue | David Lubbers | Sarah Foley |
| Terri Garfield | Martha Otterbeck | Edward Renauld | |

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|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <u>MONTGOMERY</u> | <u>RUSSELL</u> | <u>SECRETARY</u> |
| | Tara Balboni | Stacy Stewart |
| | Sarah Page | |
| | Lyndsey Papillon | |

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| <u>CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION</u> | <u>ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL</u> |
| Dr. David B. Hopson, Superintendent | Martha Clark, High/Middle AP |
| Stephanie Fisk, Business & Finance | Megan Coburn, Chs,Lit Principal |
| | Jason Finnie, Middle/High Principal |
| <u>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES</u> | Kurt Garivaltis, Pupil Services Director |
| Brian Forgue | Deanna LeBlanc, Curriculum Director |
| | Jeanne LeClair, Communications |
| | Darlene Rehor, Elementary AP |

OTHERS: Anne Marie Buikus, Shelby Marci, Elizabeth Hamoui, James Duggan, Ramona Thieme, Parker Atkin, Lisa Atkin, Bob Daley, Nick Balboni, Andy Myers, Josh Garcia

II. PUBLIC INPUT FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA (3 Minute Limit)

- Lisa Atkin thanked the school and committee for working around the clock to get ready for school. She pointed out the kids cannot get on the grsd.org website. It is blocked. She was reading through the presentation and the pages that discuss masks, and she didn't see any requirements about the kind of mask. She was also wondering about extracurriculars and band and choir. There was nothing about how they will work. There were no sports and now there are. She is concerned about holding athletics. \
- Dr. Hopson said the School committee and policy met about the gators and bandanas and they are not acceptable because they don't cover the bottom. State/DESE is going to have guidance about extracurriculars in the next couple of weeks or so.
- Mr. Finnie said usually clubs/committees meet in September and the only option is remote right now.
- Lisa Atkin read DESE's guidance about sports and it was very vague. How are we going to keep them safe and social distancing?
- Dr. Hopson said the changes they made to soccer games, makes it look like it is not soccer. There are no slide tackles, throw ins, and no contact. Small cohorts; only about 8 schools in each cohort. There is a limit to how many players on a bench and guests at a game. Visitors from other schools are not allowed to watch. The plan is also going to the Huntington board of health.
- Dr. Hopson said there will be music, but how we do it is still up in the air.
- Mr. Finnie said guidance is outside only, facing one direction, with six feet distance. Nothing has been put out yet, but he is hoping for more guidelines once school starts.

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

- Brian Fogue said there is not too much to report. School is almost starting and they picked up their chromebooks. In terms of clubs, he met with Parker to see what they could do for the political action club and model UN.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITION

- None

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to approve the Fuel Efficiency Policy.

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

Yeas: Tara, Sarah F., Jason, Terri, David, Sarah P., Lyndsey, Martha, Ed, Michele

B. Building Liaisons/Subcommittee Confirmation

- Mrs. Crane is still waiting to see if Mrs. Nazzaro will fill the CES slot. She put in italics those who were in the liaison positions last year..

VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. MASC Race Relations Statement

- Mrs. Crane said this is an updated Race Relations statement. It is a resolution that the school committee will take a stand on diversity, equity and inclusion. It acknowledges we are paying attention to this issue and looking at different ways to do things. She would welcome any questions or discussion.
- Mr. Forgue is concerned in the must guarantee that racist practices are eradicated. We can take the necessary steps, but we cannot guarantee it.
- Lisa Atkin said grammatically must ensure is not the same as guarantee. She feels we must do this.
- Dr. Hopson thinks Mr. Forgue's question is how we can do it.
- Mrs. Crane will put something together, and if anyone has any changes or questions, please let her know.
- Mr. Forgue said if we are discussing full diversity and full inclusion, we should increase all authors not just black authors; minority authors of diversity.
- Parker Atkin thinks we should incorporate more black and LGBT authors.
- Dr. Hopson doesn't want to miss any group.
- Mrs. Crane asked Parker Atkin to come up with a list or wording from the student's perspective so she can put it in with her other edits.

B. Policies

a. ACAB - Harassment

- Replacement policy regarding harrassment. This had come about because of the changes in Title IX. The wording is from MASC due to changes in federal law. We also looked over the protocol for that too which doesn't need to be approved just explains how it will be done.

b. EBCFA - Face Coverings

- Parker Atkin asked to have the ACAB policy so he can look it over.
- Dr. Hopson said we have high needs students coming in this week. It is in our plan so we should have it in place so the school committee stands behind it.

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to waive the two meeting rule to vote on the face coverings policy.

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

Yeas: Tara, Sarah F., Jason, Terri, David, Sarah P., Lyndsey, Martha, Ed, Michele

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve Policy EBCFA

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

Yeas: Tara, Sarah F., Jason, Terri, David, Sarah P., Lyndsey, Martha, Ed, Michele

- Mrs. Balboni said if a kid comes in with a bandana do we hand out a paper and cloth mask.
- Dr. Hopson said that would only apply to those kids being dropped off.
- Ms. Fisk said they expect students at the bus stop to have masks.
- Brian Forgue asked if it clarifies procedures if they refused to take a mask.
- Dr. Hopson said in negotiations with the union we came up with a multi stage process, reminder, if they refuse they go to the principal's office, the principal's office will work with them, and if it is ongoing the student will end up being remote.
- Parker Atkin said because we are relying on students to remember could they attend their classes remotely.
- Dr. Hopson said they won't be allowed on the bus or in school. That is a possibility.

VII. JOINT BUDGET SESSION WITH TOWN OFFICIALS

A. FY' 21 Budget Update

- Ms. Fisk said reductions are all non employee related.
- Our yearly audit has started as well.
- Mr. Forgue asked how much of the adjusted budget is from the reduction of fall sports; what impact does it have.
- Ms. Fisk said very little because most of it is funded in athletic revolving funds.
- Mr. Renaud said the school settled for 55% of the bus contact. What is being done with that money.
- Ms. Fisk said anything that is not expended in a year goes to E & D to offset town assessments the following year.
- Andy Myers really appreciates the communication back and forth between Gateway and the towns and looks forward to continuing to work together.

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS 8/26/2020 (Enc.)

Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to approve the minutes of 8/26/2020.

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

Yeas: Tara, Sarah F., Jason, Terri, David, Sarah P., Lyndsey, Martha, Ed, Michele

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mrs. Balboni said GYAA had a great golf tournament. It was a good time.

- Mrs. Papillon thanked staff and Gateway administrators for all their hard work. She is looking forward to the fall, she is blessed, and excited for the school year. They added a second time in the evening for chromebook to pick up for parents who couldn't make it during the day.
- Mrs. Balboni agrees and she brought all her kids today.
- Mrs. Crane agrees it feels exciting to see what the day is really going to look like.
- Mr. Forgue asked who ultimately makes the decision on the number of teams and number of students on teams.
- Dr. Hopson said the principal and the athletic director make that decision.
- Dr. Hopson said it feels like two teams would make more sense also in terms of depleting the revolving account he knows Matt has set up meetings for this weekend.
- Ms. Fisk said from what she has seen it would be one varsity team for both girls and boys soccer, and cross country boys and girls 4 teams total.
- Mr. Finnie said cross country will run differently just by the nature of the sport.
- Mr. Forgue asked how many from each school are going to be able to participate.
- Mr. Finnie didn't know.

B. Chairperson

- None

C. Superintendent

Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Dr. Hopson is pleased the staff have stepped up to the plate, and worked hard to get things ready.

D. Business Manager

- Ms. Fisk said in the parent survey that was sent out there are about 28% of students opting remote learning. That is about 200 students. Anyone has the option to switch to hybrid. It takes a couple weeks to get them on the bus. We may be able to look at extending the radius if we can.

E. Administration

- None

F. Town

- None

X. COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Search Subcommittee –Next Meeting 9/9/2020 - [via zoom](#)

- They came up with h ground rules and a schedule on how we plan to move forward. There will be 3-5 topics to discuss in a public forum. Save the date October 28 - information and details to follow. They w Will come up with a job description. Mr. Forgue has offered to chair.

- B. **Legislative Liaison** - None
- C. **Policy Subcommittee** - None
- D. **Building Liaisons** - None

XI. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

XII. INFORMATION

Information

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

Warrant

AP#1013 \$39,009.22 PR#05 \$406,014.08

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None
8:35 or earlier**

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

Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to adjourn at 7:59 p.m.

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

Yeas: Tara, Sarah F., Jason, Terri, David, Sarah P., Lyndsey, Martha, Ed, Michele

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy L Stewart
School Committee Secretary