

**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.

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020**

**Via Zoom**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79724093453?pwd=NzlkM2RiTHB3L3ZKYIFLa0VGYm9xdz09>

**Meeting ID: 797 2409 3453**

**Passcode: e79PKZ**

**7:00 P.M.**

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

**I. OPENING OF MEETING**

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

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

<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
	Darlene Rehor, Elementary AP

OTHERS: \_\_\_\_\_

- Mrs. Crane opened the meeting after everyone accepted the disclosure statement. She said she had the deepest regard for everyone who works for the district. As school committee members they are grateful for everything they do for the district.

**II. PUBLIC INPUT FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA (3 Minute Limit) - None**

**III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT**

- Brian Forgue said learning is going good and he is looking forward to school over the next few weeks. The girls cross country team lost their last meet. The boys won their last two meets. There is a club meeting coming up. He said the nurse letter hit him pretty hard. Mr. Carlson has been a nurse for as long as he has been alive. If all this is true in what he said and he had to resign it concerns him. He would like to know more about this.
- Dr. Hopson said we had 15 people who asked for accommodations. Of those there were only two people who could work completely remote. It is hard to work all remote as a school nurse. He could have taken an unpaid leave, but he chose to retire.
- Dr. Hopson said under an unpaid leave he would have had to pay his share of the health insurance. We had to follow the law. We have folks that have to wear face shields and other PPE's as accommodations.

**IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITION**

**A. Education Foundation Update**

- Dr. Hopson said they haven't met since Covid. They did fund the summer reading program at Chester and Littleville, purchased white boards for K, 1, and 2 and purchased a program called eSpark for 5th grade teachers. They opted not to fundraise because of Covid.
- Mrs. Balboni said they did a lot of work to hold a trivia night in May. They are in a financial position to give out grants in the fall. They would like to raise money and spirits.

**V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Policy ACAB - Harassment**

***Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve Policy ADAB - Harassment.***

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

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

Absent: Lyndsey

## **B. MASC Race Relations Statement**

- Dr. Hopson said we started with the one from MASC and Mrs. Crane re-wrote it completely. He asked if anyone had any suggestions or changes.
- Mrs. Balboni asked if hiring people of diversity and adding more diversity is something that we consider.
- Dr. Hopson said unfortunately the number of applications we get are low in general.

### ***Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to support the Race Relations Statement.***

- Mr. Forgue asked if Mrs. Crane had a chance to discuss this further with Parker.
- Mrs Crane said she sent him the information, but she never heard back from him.
- Brian Forgue thinks that Mrs. Crane changed what Parker wanted her to change.
- Mr. Forgue asked how we are overseeing this in the virtual environment. How do we handle a situation when a student leaves a discussion because the parent is uncomfortable with a conversion.
- Mr. Finnie said the teacher would reach out to the parent - the idea is to have multiple viewpoints on a situation - part of the education process is to be exposed to multiple perspectives. They are not teaching one perspective only.
- Mrs. LeBlanc said we are reviewing curriculum for bias as a whole staff to address some of those issues.
- Mrs. Balboni asked how measurable is this goal.
- Mrs. Crane's idea this would show a particular attitude and idea about a tone about this item. She knows the administrators have ways to start working on this.

### ***Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to support the Race Relations Statement.***

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

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

Absent: Lyndsey

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Approval of the FY '21 budget expenditures and revenue in the amount of \$16,474,203**

- Ms. Fisk said this is mostly around utilities and transportation items. This won't change assessments to the towns this is cost level.

### **B. FY '21 Grant Approvals**

- These are new grants, plus some with updated amount totals.

### **C. Superintendent Search Parameters**

- a. Job Description
- b. Public Hearing - October 28, 2020 - 7-9 p.m. - Virtual

- Mrs. Crane said Mr. Forgue came up with a draft of the job description of what they felt were the most important parameters. Dr. Hopson came up with a draft of the posting. The public hearing comes up in two weeks. The hope is to incorporate more input on the wants/desires from the community.
- Dr. Hopson said we are on track in terms of timeline.
- Ms. Foley asked if there was a job description.
- Dr. Hopson said he stole ideas from other schools as we did not have a job description.
- Mrs. Crane said they looked at all the documents and widdled it down.

**VII. CONSENT ITEMS** 9/9/2020 (Enc.)

***Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to approve the minutes of 9/9/2020.***

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

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

Abstain: Melissa

Absent: Lyndsey

**VIII. COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. School Committee**

- Mrs. Otterbeck is curious about what is happening with students coming back and advisories such as the yearbook, etc.
- Mr. Finnie said we have not filled all of the advisorships. We are putting together a virtual club fair Wednesday.. All advisors were asked to put together an overview of how it would work in a remote environment.
- Mrs. Nazzaro said she sat in on the first collaborative meeting. She is not prepared to present a full update. She wanted to see what was expected. It was a 3 hour zoom meeting. She is trying to gauge what she should talk about at our meetings.
- Mrs. Crane thought she would give a few key ideas that were discussed. She thinks it was very much about laying out all of the different programs, products and general usefulness of the collaborative according to the executive summary. There are a lot of participants.

**B. Chairperson - None**

**C. Superintendent**

Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Dr. Hopson said they held negotiations for teachers and cafe. They set ground rules. Hopefully he will have something to share next time in executive session

**D. Business Manager**

- Ms. Fisk said the audit is going on now; virtually. She and her staff have been doing a lot of scanning.

**E. Administration**

- Mrs. Coburn said K, 1 and high needs students are back at school. They are happy to be back at school. The high needs kids have adapted well. So far the kids have been great and are excited and happy to be there.
- Mr. Finnie said he has fewer students, but the kids are happy to be back. We have started targeting kids that are struggling. Those folks are happy to be back. They held a virtual question and answer night for middle school parents last night.
- Mrs. Crane asked how bussing is going now.
- Ms. Fisk said now it is going well, ask her again tomorrow.

**F. Town**

- Mr. Forgue is curious. What recent and long term effect is if level service plus doesn't happen
- Dr. Hopson said level service plus has already happened the rest runs out in December. At this point we are in decent shape. If we get additional money, it may help the second half of the year. The second half is pretty equal to what we anticipate.
- Ms. Fisk said it depends on how long we continue. For this year we are fine. The next school year is what we need to plan for. They are recommending to plan for a level service. We have a lot of homeschool students. That is going to impact our chapter 70 money.
- Dr. Hopson said the 6 towns either have an option to vote someone in for negotiations.
- Mrs. Nazzaro said the bulk of the summary was a synopsis of the virtual offerings they had and also what they have been doing over the past several months. She will pull out the most relevant and participate to the fullest.

**IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING**

- A. Superintendent Search –Next Meeting 10/14/2020 via Google Meets
- B. Legislative Liaison
- C. Policy Subcommittee
- D. Building Liaisons

**X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

**Future Agenda Items**

**XI. INFORMATION**

**Information**

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

**Warrant**

AP#1016 \$87,071.64	PR#06 \$330,550.29
AP#1018 \$43,811.64	PR#07 \$350,122.66
AP#1020 \$7,530.50	PR#08 \$358,627.88
AP#1023 \$159,278.82	

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None**

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

***Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs.Foley to adjourn at 7:56 p.m.***

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stacy L Stewart,  
School Committee Secretary