

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/JOINT BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76058449024?pwd=OEYzRU9teWczSGtETUNyYzhmMkgrZz09>

Meeting ID: 780 2185 5994

Password: t92a05

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	Edward Renauld	

<u>MONTGOMERY</u>	<u>RUSSELL</u>	<u>SECRETARY</u>
Madelyn Austin	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: Parker Atkin, Shelby Marci, Peter Spotts, Bob Daley, Andy Myers, Jim Duggan, Elizabeth Hamaoui

Mrs. Crane opened the meeting after everyone checked the disclosure. Mrs. Nazzaro is at the Hampshire Educational Collaborative meeting representing the committee.

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

- Parker, Brian, and Nathan have been working on the harassment statement based on what they are noticing in the student body.
- Mrs. Crane asked if they had anything in writing.
- Parker tried to email something to Mrs. Crane unsuccessfully.
- Mrs. Crane gave Parker her email address and suggested emailing Mrs. Stewart too. She asked what the theme was. There were three changes; the use of slurs in a non-educational context, the addition of two more protected categories: mental/emotional health and sexual activity, and that the school shall take a response to harassment by following the procedures at the end of the bullying plan.
- Mrs. Crane asked Parker to send it along so that we can take a look at it, to see what we can do with it

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

- Brian Fogue said learning is going well. Only complaint is that they only have a 20 minute lunch break. You only have about 12 minutes. Most students who are in school are enjoying it. Some students just stay home because they can. Clubs are starting. Class elections were today so that should be starting soon. Most of the fall sports are done. It was a productive season. Proud of the students for sticking it out.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITION - None

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

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

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve the Final FY '21 Budget.

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

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

B. FY '21 Grant Approvals

Mrs. Papillon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to approve the FY '21 Grants.

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

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

Absent: Ed

VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Superintendent's Search Parameters

- a. Job Descriptions
 - b. Posting Brochure
 - c. Timeline
- Mr. Forge said he is confident the job description represents the position itself - They are hopeful there will be a large number of qualified candidates. We need to verify that we are going to keep it as a full-time position. This will be posted just before the holiday break.
 - Mrs. Crane said Dr. Hopson shared it in the central office update.
 - David Lubbers thinks it was done very well. He is supporting Mr. Forge on this one. A lot of people put in a lot of work.

Mr. Renauld has joined the meeting.

- Mrs. Foley thinks it's very thorough.
- Mr. Forge said we don't need to Officially approve it tonight, but will at the next meeting.
- Mrs. Crane said if you have questions, reach out to the subcommittee. The timeline pinpoints the goals we want.

VII. JOINT BUDGET SESSION WITH TOWN OFFICIALS

- Dr. Hopson said there is nothing new. The House and Senate are now in a joint session to come up with this year's budget. Looks like next year will be pretty close to this year. They have taken money out of rainy day funds and shuffled things around. We shouldn't see any 9c cuts.
- Ms. Fisk said the biggest question is the rural school aid at this point. Dr. Hopson said that is not in the House but in the Senate at 1.5 million, which is half of what it was last year.
- Mrs. Foley asked how it affects us.
- Dr. Hopson said there is no minimum additional student aid, rural is 270 last year could be an amount in the budget but we don't know. If there is no rural school aid this year, most likely won't be next year will put us a little behind the 8 ball next year.
- Ed Renauld said that Senator Hinds said something about an increase in rural school aid.
- Dr. Hopson said he was talking about it last time on a conference call so at least he is trying.
- Andy Myers said one of the key metrics is the school census, and is wondering if there is one for October.
- Ms. Fisk has the October 1 census without school choice and charter. Numbers are down a bit due to homeschooling and preschool due to social distancing. Next month will have the state of the district, so we will show the numbers at the December 9 meeting.

- Dr. Hopson said census counts are down in all schools, because people are keeping their kids home
- Andy Myers is mostly interested in the distribution between the towns.
- Mr. Forgue asked how much of what the state is planning is dependent on the next round of CARES act money. Is there any correlation between the two?
- Dr. Hopson said if they get a substantial amount of money from CARES they will have a supplemental budget and back fill it.

Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to enter into executive session at or before 8:00 p.m. for the purposes of Negotiations - Union and Non-Union, not to return to open session.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 11 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

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

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS 10/14/2020 (Enc.)

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve the minutes of 10/14/2020.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays Abstain 2 Absent (Roll Call Vote)

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

Abstain: Madelyn, Lyndsey

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mr. Lubbers has an idea for a diversity program in the school system by having presenters at the school who bring forth diversity. He has had a lot of experience with food, cultures, and music. It would be a great idea. When you finally break bread with someone you get to know them.
- Mr. Crane said we can keep that in mind when we can start getting together again, we can do that.
- Brian Forgue said up until last year, model united nations did a fundraiser where students cooked food and did presentations about it. It helped connect different cultures. It also helps out model united nations quite a bit.

B. Chairperson

- Mrs. Crane said she will pay for the ad and everyone can pay her this year. She will send out an email with her venmo account.

C. Superintendent

Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Dr. Hopson said we did hire a new public relations person - is on the job and learning.

D. Business Manager

- a. FY '21 First Quarter Report (Enc)
- Ms. Fisk said the first quarter report was in the packet and posted on the website. Using federal funding to cover special education costs. We need to expend out the 225 per student money by the end of December. We are just about done with that.

E. Administration

- Mrs. Coburn said yesterday during our pd the anti racism training. We talked about ways to bring in more multiculturalism and ways to incorporate it. We don't have a lot of staff, but we are thinking about it.

F. Town - None

Moved to executive session at 7:45 p.m.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTING

- A. Superintendent Search –Next Meeting 11/18/2020 via Zoom
- B. Legislative Liaison
- C. Policy Subcommittee
- D. Building Liaisons

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#1026 \$138,530.87	PR#09 \$359,084.74
AP#1027 \$2.58	PR#10 \$362,579.96
AP#1031 \$54,895.65	
AP#1034 \$17.17	

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

8:35 or earlier

- A. Negotiations - Union (GEA), and Non-Union

Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to enter into executive session at or before 8:00 p.m. for the purposes of Negotiations - Union and Non-Union, not to return to open session.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 11 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

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

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to adjourn at 8:14 p.m.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 11 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

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

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy L Stewart
School Committee Secretary