

**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**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71869666747?pwd=aTRSUTJNVFZrNGZsWkc0V0kydndRZz09>

Meeting ID: 718 6966 6747

Passcode: WiWE1e

**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	Megan Coburn, Chs,Lit Principal
Stephanie Fisk, Asst. Superintendent	Jason Finnie, Middle/High Principal
	Kurt Garivaltis, Pupil Services Director
	Deanna LeBlanc, Curriculum Director

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES  
 Brian Forgue

OTHERS: Matt Bonenfant, Josh Garcia, Shelbi Macri, Dan Mckellick, Bob Daley, Jim Duggan, Andy Myers

Mrs. Crane opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m after everyone checked the disclaimer.

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

A.

### III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

- Brian Forgue said students are going along as normal. Coronavirus has students learning remotely. Numbers need to be looked at before we can go back. Reindeer games took place, seniors and juniors tied; sophomores came in second and freshman last. Tryouts for basketball are coming up. He said Dan McKellick is here in support of hockey. Brian also has input on the recommendation to restrict enrollment and also talk about harassment when it comes up on the agenda.

### IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITION - None

### V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Student Input on Harassment Statement

- Dr. Hopson said the suggestions by the students were approved by the attorney. The students did a great job adding the additional description.
- Brian Forgue said they have covered the importance of the changes. They did their best sending in the revised portion and are glad it is all set. He hopes the school committee approves this motion.

***Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mr. Forgue to approve the changes to the Harassment Policy.***

***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

### VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Approval of Ice Hockey Co-op with Southwick-Tolland-Granville

- Matt Bonenfant said we have an agreement with MIAA to be part of a hockey co-op program. This takes place when a school does not have the numbers to maintain a varsity sport. They are allowed to work with other schools who also do not have enough for a team. We have been a host in skiing and participants in boys ice hockey in Southwick last year and St. Mary's in previous years. It allows student athletes with a school that is geographically close, but maintains their schooling at their home school.
- Mrs. Crane asked how many students from Gateway are participating.
- Matt Bonenfant said two and they have participated in the past.
- Mrs. Crane asked when their games start?
- Matt Bonenfant said virtually right now. Southwick is in the same boat as we are. You have to go with your home athletic rule even though you are part of their program.
- Mrs. Balboni asked how students know about this.
- Matt Bonenfant said it has been posted on the website - it didn't really make it out there this year.
- Mrs. Crane asked if we needed to vote on this.

- Dr. Hopson said yes, we should have voted this when we voted on winter athletics.

***Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to waive the two-meeting rule to vote on participation in the Ice Hockey Co-op with Southwick-Tolland Granville Regional School District.***

***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

***Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve participation in the Ice Hockey Co-op with Southwick-Tolland Granville Regional School District under the same parameters we approved for basketball.***

- In the event schools are remote it just postpones games.
- Mr. Forgue asked if there is a financial obligation.
- Mr. Bonenfant said the athlete and family are responsible for any fees incurred.
- Mrs. Foley asked if the athletic fee is paid to the hosting or sending school.
- Mr. Bonenfant said it gets paid to the hosting school, whatever their fee is.
- Mr. Forgue asked were there no girls, is that why we are not talking about Longmeadow.
- Mr. Bonenfant said there were no girls.

***Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve participation in the Ice Hockey Co-op with Southwick-Tolland Granville Regional School District under the same parameters we approved for basketball.***

***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

**B. Approval of Additional FY '21 Grants**

- Mrs. LeBlanc went over the new additional grants for FY 21.
- Moved to old business for a vote at the next meeting.

**C. Recommendation to restrict enrollment to not exceed 1% to Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual Schools.**

- Dr. Hopson said the state has decided that if the school committee votes and we let DESE know we have to let 1% new students attend the state's virtual schools but beyond 1% the virtual school doesn't get to charge Gateway. Any student above the 1% gets to stay until they graduate. This does not stop Gateway from paying for virtual classes.
- Mrs. Foley asked what the reasons are why families are choosing virtual schools.
- Dr. Hopson said some are because they are asynchronous, so if you don't want to go to school during the normal school day plus they have a wide range of courses.

- Mr. Forgue asked if 1.32% goes full-time or just certain classes.
- Dr. Hopson said they are full-time.
- Mrs. Otterbeck asked if it is a way to homeschool.
- Dr. Hopson said no, there is no charge for homeschool students.
- Mr. Forgue asked if this impacts students who are taking online classes.
- Dr. Hopson said it doesn't, we pay for those separately.
- Move to old business for a vote at the next meeting.

**VII. JOINT BUDGET SESSION WITH TOWN OFFICIALS**

- Ms. Fisk said the budget is on Cleargov again. She is waiting on CPI, and locking in oil. This is a level services budget, with an additional special education teacher. Revenue is estimated. It looks more like a 1.8% increase to the towns. Medicaid is down a bit. Medicaid claims cannot go against federal funds. Homeless transportation down because of remote learning. She is holding off on charter right now. The link will be on the website. There is some shifting of staff.
- Andy Myers asked if we have census numbers.
- Mrs. Stewart said she is collecting that information. Schools have until Januray15 to submit students attending their schools from Gateway. There should be a census next week.
- Mr. Forgue said Brian Forgue had a conversion with Adam Hinds and is trying to make sure the revenue we are projecting actually comes through.
- Brian Forgue said it was a good productive conversation. He would like to talk with Ms. Fisk about the state guidelines and how statutory and alternative are decided. He talked about 2/3rds for the alternative instead of all towns.
- Dr. Hopson said it is law that if you have the alternative method you have to have approval of all towns. You would have to change the law.
- Brian Forgue said the whole idea was maybe that could be done. Senator Hinds said he might tap him to speak to other local senators about rural school problems.

**VIII. CONSENT ITEMS 12/9/2020 (Enc.)**

***Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve the minutes of 12/9/2020.***

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

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

***Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mr. Renauld to go into executive session at or before 7:45 p.m. for the purposes of Negotiations - GEA 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

## **IX. COMMUNICATIONS**

### **A. School Committee**

- Mr. Renauld said the Hampshire Council of Governments was disbanded. Huntington used them for various things. He received an email from Natalie Blais.
- Mrs. Foley asked if it was something they were doing illegal.
- Mr. Renauld said no, they were running in the red.
- Mrs. Fisk said last year the insurance portion separated themselves from that group.
- Mr. Renauld said the insurance etc., is going to be turned over to the state, which is nice.

### **B. Chairperson**

- Mrs. Crane said Mrs. Huntoon brought up the fact that Mr. Pero has not shown up at any of our meetings. They will co-write a letter asking him to resign or if he is going to participate as long as the committee is okay with that. It is a problem for any town when a seat is or isn't filled.
- The committee was okay with that.

### **C. Superintendent**

Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Dr. Hopson said we have a number of people who are applying for the superintendency. He will be sending out to the search committee a rubric and information. We have over 10 applicants but not all of them have filled out the district application. We have been meeting with the towns of Russell and Montgomery looking at the regional agreement and we meet again February 2.

### **D. Business Manager**

- Ms. Fisk said some additional funding is coming from covid relief stimulus funds. She is not sure how and when it will be spent - anything related to covid and additional related services. They have talked about extending summer programs for those falling behind, not just special education students.
- Mrs. Foley said with the covid vaccine coming down the pike is the school-based health center going to be involved in that.
- Dr. Hopson said more than likely because Gateway is grouped as an emergency dispensing site. They will likely be dispensing right at the school.

### **E. Administration - None**

### **F. Town - None**

Went into executive session at 7:46 p.m.

## **X. COMMITTEE REPORTING**

**A. Superintendent Search** –Next Meeting 1/27/2021 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.

**Warrants**

AP#1040 \$205,561.54	PR#13 \$369,407.27
AP#1043 \$4,015.77	PR#14 \$351,960.68
AP#1047 \$64,890.10	

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**8:35 or earlier**

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

***Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mr. Renauld to go into executive session at or before 7:45 p.m. for the purposes of Negotiations - GEA 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. Otterbeck to adjourn at 7:55 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