

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.

All visitors attending the school committee meeting should sign in at the security booth.

REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021 - 7:00 P.M.

Gateway Performing Arts CenterThis meeting is being held in person, however a Zoom link is being provided for anyone who wants to participate remotely****

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73818138030?pwd=Y1ZzUIY2djhMN0RiYU10MTR0anNwdz09>

Meeting ID: 738 1813 8030

Passcode: 4M7MQZ

(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
	Lyndsey Papillon	

<u>CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION</u>	<u>ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL</u>
Dr. David B. Hopson, Superintendent	Martha Clark, High/Middle AP
Stephanie Fisk, Asst. Superintendent	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: _____

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

A.

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

- Brian Fogue said he had graduated and is technically done. Class of 21 has graduated. It was nice and almost felt normal. Underclassmen have a week left. Baseball has one game left. Softball is doing well and are 5 and 3.
- Mr. Crane thanked Brian saying he has been an asset to the committee with his contributions; he is smart and we have enjoyed hearing his input.
- Brian Fogue said UMass has a student government.
- Brian Fogue talked about the letter from Allison Berge. He thinks the sexual education and updating the curriculum is well laid out. He was part of the last class taught by Ms. O'lander who had her own touch on the issues addressed in the letter. Had a less than pleasurable experience once. He thinks this is a good conversion.
- Mrs. Crane said the letter is in the packet. Two of the three letters were from students. One was improving topics and curriculum of sex ed, and one about adjusting the start times. She was impressed with the students. The last letter was from a parent about the hockey co-op.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITION

A. School Committee Recognition - Michele, Martha, Melissa, Madelyn, Sarah F.

- Mrs. Crane said she has really enjoyed her time on the school committee with all they have accomplished but the one thing she is most disappointed in was that the regional agreement wasn't done. It is 97% done there. 14 years ago she heard one man one vote for the first time. All the things that the various boards have done for the students, seeing kids through and making lifelong friendships has been the most rewarding. It's been great working with the community. There was certainly more business rather than theory.
- Mrs. Foley said 9 years ago she was approached by someone and they wouldn't take no for an answer. Since the late night meetings in Worthington, things have gotten so much better and she attributes this to Mrs. Crane for running a tight office.
- Mrs. Nazzaro didn't realize her tenure would end so soon. She will probably end up volunteering in the new district. She is going to miss the community, the town, the people and the things she has learned. She feels honored to serve with such an esteemed group.
- Linda Hyjeck said collectively lots of people wanted to say something. Many of the teachers wanted to let you know the hard work and time is appreciated. Volunteering your own time away from your family is a huge contribution. They understand difficult

decisions have been made. A positive vibe for the people who are leaving. You're all going out fully appreciated and wished well in your next adventures.

- Mrs. Otterbeck said she is grateful to have spent several years on the school committee. She remembers the late nights in Worthington, but we had baked goods. It was a huge learning curve. There is a whole lot of language that Ms. Fisk says she doesn't understand. She is thankful for the teachers and their willingness to give feedback.
- Amy Thornton echoed Linda Hyjek. To all the committee members, even those who are not leaving, but the people who are leaving, thank you for listening. Thanks to Dr. Hopson for listening and Mrs. Crane for orchestrating, you were rockstars during this difficult time. She appreciates the hours you have spent.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Superintendent requests authorization for the District Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer under the provisions of M.G.L., Chapter 71, Section 16 (9), and with the approval of the Chairperson of the Gateway Regional Regional School Committee, to incur temporary debt, (borrow from time to time) in anticipation of revenue to be received from and source for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021. This is for short term borrowing in case assessments are not received on time, etc.

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve the following: Superintendent requests authorization for the District Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer under the provisions of M.G.L., Chapter 71, Section 16 (9), and with the approval of the Chairperson of the Gateway Regional Regional School Committee, to incur temporary debt, (borrow from time to time) in anticipation of revenue to be received from and source for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021. This is for short term borrowing in case assessments are not received on time, etc.

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

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

B. Recommendation to Participate in the National School Lunch Program.

Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Nazzaro to approve participation in the National School Lunch Program.

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

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

C. Budget transfers

- Ms. Fisk said these are pretty standard; not replacing teachers because we were remote and transportation savings. We purchased 3 vans and a mini bus to save on special ed transportation and athletics.
- Mr. Forgue asked if they would be used across the towns.
- Ms. Fisk said only out of district placements.
- Mrs. Foley asked who was driving.
- Ms. Fisk said we pay paras for the certification and they drive
- Ms. Fisk said we are looking at and working with technology on a replacement schedule - laptops, smartboards, projectors, things we haven't replaced in a few years Opeb and compensated absences.

Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to approve budget transfers.

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

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. FY '22 School Calendar Approval

Mrs. Nazzaro made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to waive the two-meeting rule to vote on the FY '22 school calendar.

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

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

Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to approve the FY '22 school calendar.

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

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

VII. CONSENT ITEMS 5/12/2021 (Enc.)

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve the minutes of 5/12/2021.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 8 Nays Abstain 2 Absent (Roll Call Vote)

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

Abstain: Lyndsey, Ed

Mrs. Papillon made a motion seconded by Mr. Renauld to go into executive session at or before 7:45 p.m. for the purpose of Negotiations: Union (GEA), Administrative and approval of executive session minutes to return to open session.

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

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

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee - None

B. Chairperson

- Mr. Lubbers thinks it is terrific that students are sharing their thoughts. We should take it seriously. For those not involved in extracurricular or sports, he agrees with starting school later. His daughter had a difficult time getting up to go to school. Looking at social skills proven since way back when, teenagers have a different biorhythm. Should be seriously considered.
- Mrs. Crane said it can be put on the agenda for a later time.
- Mrs. Balboni would be curious to see the data from Boston.
- Mrs. Nazzaro said other Berkshire county schools are doing it too.
- Mr. Finnie said it doesn't happen due to athletics and employment for our students. Those are the classic reasons.
- Mrs. Crane said it can be put on a future agenda.
- Mrs. Crane said she is just sharing letters. She is not sure when we need to take care of the hockey co-op.
- Dr. Hopson is assuming we will continue to have it.
- Mr. Finnie did see the sex education letter. That is one of the major reasons we hired the health teacher for next year. Good observations made by the students.

C. Superintendent - Central Office Update (Enc.)- None

D. Assistant Superintendent - None

E. Administration

- Mr. Finnie wanted to publicly thank the members of the community for helping with the senior celebration and navigating the changes in celebrations.

F. Town - None

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING

- A. Superintendent Search
- 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.

Warrants

AP#1081 \$66,927.34	PR#24 \$512,898.03
AP#1083 \$86,745.39	PR#25 \$378,815.56
AP#1085 \$108,746.72	PR#25.1 \$10,193.64
AP#1088 \$109,067.86	

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

8:35 or earlier

A. Negotiations: Union (GEA), Administrative

B. Executive Session Minutes Approval

8/21/19, 5/13/2020, 5/27/2020, 8/26/2020, 11/18/2020, 12/9/2020, 1/13/21,
1/27/21, 3/10/21, 4/14/21

Mrs. Papillon made a motion seconded by Mr. Renaud to go into executive session at or before 7:45 p.m. for the purpose of Negotiations: Union (GEA), Administrative and approval of executive session minutes to return to open session.

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

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

Entered executive session at 7:39 p.m.

Returned to open session at 7:50 p.m.

Mr. Renaud made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to ratify the Teachers 2021-2024 Contract.

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

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

Recuse: Lyndsey

Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mr. Renauld to ratify the Food Services 2021-2024 Contract.

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

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

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

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to adjourn at 7:54 p.m.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy L Stewart
School Committee Secretary