

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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

JOINT BUDGET/REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Middle School 112/114

7:00 P.M.

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

I. OPENING OF MEETING

BLANDFORD

Michele Crane
Terri Garfield

CHESTER

Jason Forgue
Martha Otterbeck
Shirley Winer

HUNTINGTON

Darlene McVeigh
Melissa Nazzaro
Aaron Welch

MIDDLEFIELD

Sarah Foley

MONTGOMERY

Madelyn Austin

RUSSELL

Tara Balboni
Sarah Page
Lyndsey Papillon

SECRETARY

Stacy Stewart

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Dr. David B. Hopson, Superintendent
Stephanie Fisk, Business & Finance

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Martha Clark, High/Middle Assistant Principal
Megan Coburn, Chs,Lit Principal
Jason Finnie, Middle/High Principal
Kurt Garivaltis, Pupil Services Director
Deanna LeBlanc, Curriculum Director
Wendy Long, District Grant Writer
Darlene Rehor, Elementary Assistant Principal

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: Mike LeFleur, Jeanne LeClair, Chris Tamburrino, James Higby

- Mrs. Crane opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

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

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT - None

IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITION

A. School Committee Goals

- Mrs. Crane said the goals were in the central office update.
- Dr. Hopson said the format is the same. A lot of them are ongoing, superintendent’s search, continue facilitated meetings, refreshing and updating communications, etc. He will spend some time looking at other small school districts. The number of schools participating in Grinspoon every other year due to their population decrease is increasing.
- Let Mrs. Crane know if you have any changes or questions. We will move to Old business for the next meeting.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Public Communications Discussion – Wendy Long, Jeanne LeClair

- Mrs. Crane invited Mrs. Long and Mrs. LeClair to focus on what their ideas might be.
- Mrs. Long said Mrs. LeClair is going to be at Gateway two days a week. We are starting the breaking news and it will be coming out every other week. She is working with the interns. Mrs. LeClair is going to share the goals and plans for this year.
- Mrs. LeClair created an outline of where they want to go with relation to school committee goals, as well as what she wants to see and the town needs. She would like to keep communication consistent and will step up the social media communications – small video or slide show. Long-term she would like to communicate about and emphasize student and alumni achievements, getting information out however people receive their information. A suggestion is the key communicator program – group of people who would get detailed information, so they are equipped with factual information. She will be in the building Monday's and Wednesdays, but is always accessible.
- Mrs. Long said Mrs. LeClair participates in leadership team meetings, communications council, and communications committee.
- Mrs. Nazzaro said there are lots of missed opportunities and two ways to fix that are to have lots of facts or to have some static one-page things we can give to people. How do we combine the need to have static with the fact that there is always new stuff that goes out?
- Mrs. LeClair said right now breaking news has been the suppository for that. Breaking news is archived itself. She would love to think of a more accessible way. She talked about a counter card at the towns – all the events are listed on those. Monthly would be ideal.
- Mrs. Nazzaro feels there are opportunities we are missing. Are there ways to focus on engaging families not necessarily the same way we engage the larger communities. Getting the families engaged is going to move us forward right now.
- Mrs. Winer asked if there is a way we can involve the newspaper without the cost.
- Mrs. LeClair said right now Mrs. Long and the interns fill the local newspaper. It is worth asking.
- Mrs. Crane said she knows some of the focus was engaging the community and how we are going to move things forward – such as the regional agreement. Is the communications council a way to do this?

B. Change in Meeting Schedule – February 12 to February 5

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to approve the change in the meeting schedule.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Sarah F., Terri, Melissa, Sarah P., Lyndsey, Martha, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

C. Travel to National Forum for the Advancement of Rural Education

Mrs. Garfield made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to approve the superintendent to travel to the national forum for advancement of rural education.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Sarah F., Terri, Melissa, Sarah P., Lyndsey, Martha, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

Absent: Tara

D. Superintendent's Goals 2019-2020

Mrs. Garfield made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to approve the superintendent's FY '20 goals.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Sarah F., Terri, Melissa, Sarah P., Lyndsey, Martha, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

7:30 VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Alternate to Blizzard Bags

- Dr. Hopson said we are looking at a potential 3-hour late start. Last year there were a couple of days we needed a little more time. We are trying to see if we can cut down on the number of days missed in total. In Massachusetts the high school has to go 180 days and have 990 hours of instructional time. We will be discussing that as we move forward. Students would still get lunch.
- Mrs. Balboni said it is like a reverse half day.
- Dr. Hopson said yes and Mr. Finnie and Mrs. Coburn came up with a schedule for that type of day.
- Ms. Fisk said also if you think of the days you have cancelled due to the cold. This might make a difference as well.
- Mrs. Austin asked if we have to provide bussing.
- Ms. Fisk said, yes for regional schools.
- Mrs. Austin said years ago when she was in school, they had school with no transportation. You had to get a ride.
- Mrs. Long asked if it would always be a 3 hour late start or would there be both 2 and 3-hour late starts.
- Dr. Hopson said both.

Mrs. Otterbeck arrived 7:31 p.m.

B. First Quarter FY '20 Budget Transfers

- Mrs. LeBlanc said when she initially budgeted testing supplies we were going to use the grade. The partner program for math is called the G-made. Ideally we need to get that information early in the school year.
- Mrs. Foley asked if it is online or paper.
- Mrs. LeBlanc said online.
- Ms. Fisk said other transfers are from staff changes since the budget passed. There will be transfers when we find out what we receive for rural school aid. We will have to send out assessment letters.

Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Winer to waive the two meeting rule to vote on budget transfers.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Sarah F., Terri, Melissa, Sarah P., Lyndsey, Martha, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

Mr. Welch made a motion seconded by Mrs. Nazzaro to approve the first quarter FY '20 Budget transfers.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Sarah F., Terri, Melissa, Sarah P., Lyndsey, Martha, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

C. MS/HS Handbook Updates

- Mr. Finnie said some of these changes came about due to the PBIS. A challenge is internal suspension and the next jump up is external. An alternative would be an extended detention from 2:30 to 5 pm. It would be promoted as an opportunity center. Focus on decision making; making better decisions. Other changes have to do with school-wide expectations, gambling, deer scent and other types of smells. One last major change has to do with physical altercations. They needed to differentiate between shoving on playground compared to other things they've seen. They didn't always want to have the worst discipline.
- Mr. Finnie said we update our cell phone policy. They are not allowed to use them during the day now that we have the Chrome books. There are a lot of negative social interactions.
- Mrs. Winer asked where they put them.
- Mr. Finnie said we are just asking them to put them away. The first offense is the office keeps it for the day, the seconded is the parent has to pick it up, and third it is kept for the semester.
- Mrs. Coburn has a quick change. They have clarified and tiered the school discipline. It clarifies who handles what instance?

VII. JOINT BUDGET SESSION WITH TOWN OFFICIALS

A. Budget Overview

- Dr. Hopson gave a brief PowerPoint presentation
- Mrs. Balboni said we need to prep people when the budget comes out.

- Ms. Fisk said you can just Google Clear Gov.
- Mrs. Papillon suggested an email with the link.
- Mrs. Balboni asked with regards to replacing the phone system, does everyone have a fancy phone. Her company did away with them.
- Dr. Hopson said no, the office phones do a lot, and the others don't. He said we have never officially asked the towns if they want to start putting stabilization funding or if they want to go out and bond. We are on a five-year replacement year; if we go to a four-year cycle we will miss that obsolescence. We are trying to get a phone call between Google, DESE and Pearson.
- Dr. Hopson said the next steps are to work with school committee and the towns. We build our budget on last year's rural school aide, so we will find out soon.
- Mrs. Balboni is curious how the school numbers are this year.
- Ms. Fisk said as of Friday we were down about 20 students from last March, Preschool numbers fill in over the year. The March numbers were high. The loss is not at the high school it was at the elementary level.
- Mr. Finnie said the 9th grade class is 52, 10th is 37, juniors 61, and seniors 49.
- Ms. Fisk said we need to bring up the elementary numbers.
- Mrs. Coburn said they have lost kids at Chester and the kindergarten numbers are smaller than the past couple years.

B. Town Financials - None

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS 8/21/19 (Enc)

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Nazzaro to approve the minutes of 8/21/19.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 7 Nays Abstain 4 Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Tara, Sarah F., Terri, Melissa, Sarah P., Shirley, Michele

Abstain: Madelyn, Lyndsey, Martha, Aaron

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee - None

B. Chairperson

- Mrs. Crane sent out the list of subcommittee members. Is anyone willing to be the representative to the collaborative?
- There was discussion about having multiple members attend.
- Dr. Hopson said they would prefer to have a member than not have a member. If there are a couple of people to split it that would probably be okay.
- Mrs. Nazzaro and Mr. Welch volunteered.
- Mr. Welch will continue to be legislative contact for the committee.

C. Superintendent

Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Dr. Hopson said this is the year for paraprofessional negotiations. It probably won't happen for the next month or two.

D. Business Manager - None

E. Administration

- Mr. Finnie said we got our letter of continued accreditation. The full report is on the website. He said Mrs. Long and Mrs. LeClair are working on getting the information out to the media. He will give a summary at the next meeting.
- Mr. Coburn said the fall mini courses would be starting; they are working on PBIS and Literacy.
- Mrs. Long said Friday is instrument rental night. Open houses are next week.

F. Town - None

X. COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation –Next Meeting 10/9/19

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

Parents reminded of Gateway's "Mobile App"

New at Gateway for 2019-20

New faces at Gateway

Superintendent's Corner August 30, 2019

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

Warrant

AP#1013 \$122,699.54 PR#005 \$430,522.96

**8:35-9 p.m. XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None
or earlier**

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Austin made a motion seconded by Mrs. Winer to adjourn 8:15 p.m.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Sarah F., Terri, Melissa, Sarah P., Lyndsey, Martha, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy L Stewart
School Committee Secretary