

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.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 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 Fogue
Martha Otterbeck
Shirley Winer

HUNTINGTON
Darlene McVeigh
Melissa Nazzaro

MIDDLEFIELD

MONTGOMERY
Madelyn Austin

RUSSELL
Sarah Page
Lyndsey Papillon

SECRETARY
Stacy Stewart

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION
Dr. David B. Hopson, Superintendent

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Jason Finnie, Middle/High Principal
Kurt Garivaltis, Pupil Services Director
Deanna LeBlanc, Curriculum Director
Wendy Long, District Grant Writer

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS:

- Mrs. Crane opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

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

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

- Mrs. Crane said there is no student council but she talked to Mrs. Russell their advisor and offered to speak with the students.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITION

A. Field Trip Approvals – 8th Grade PA/DC Trip

- Mr. Finnie said this is the regular trip. They are just planning ahead.

B. NEASC Update

- Mr. Finnie gave a brief presentation. The links are on the high school website. The most important is the letter, which highlights the reports we need to do. The special report due in December focuses on curriculum. The two-year report due in October 2020 focuses on three areas, school wide expectations, curriculum and instruction, and professional development.

- Mrs. Garfield asked if he anticipates weaving some of these in this year or over several years.
- Mrs. LeBlanc said they will be woven in this year and over the next few years.

C. PBIS Overview (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports)

- Mrs. LeBlanc said they are both good and bad. When implemented you should see a reduction in disciplinary infractions, aggressive behavior, improvements in emotional regulation, academic engagement, and improvements in perceptions of school climate. PBIS is as much about changing staff/adult behavior as it is students.

Mrs. McVeigh arrived at 7:29 p.m.

- Mrs. LeBlanc talked about the incentives/acknowledgements.
- Mrs. Page asked what are in the drawings.
- Mrs. LeBlanc said things like foam balls, etc.
- Mr. Finnie said they will ask student council for incentive ideas.
- Mrs. LeBlanc said they have created PBIS Teams at each level and are attending a training, which will go on for the next three years. Data, how many incidents we have. (the May institute)
- Mrs. Winer asked if it goes along with the SAIL program.
- Mrs. LeBlanc said yes.
- Mrs. Garfield asked how often the drawings are held.
- Mrs. LeBlanc said weekly. Once a week they pull 4 tickets from each grade level.
- Mrs. Page asked if folks are buying into it.
- Mrs. LeBlanc said yes, they are.
- Mrs. Papillon said they use PBIS at her school but their classrooms do individual drawings as well.
- Mrs. Nazzaro said her son got a ticket and was super excited even though he didn't win the drawing.
- Mrs. Austin asked how often the team goes.
- Mrs. LeBlanc said throughout each year.

Mrs. Otterbeck arrived at 7:42 p.m.

D. EEC Admissions

- Dr. Hopson said the policy is included in the central office update. Every chapter 74 program has to have them.
- Mr. Finnie said a lot of the work was done by our new teacher. Now that we have two programs there is a more formal review from the state. This will protect us and the students and clarify what the expectations are.
- Dr. Hopson asked to have the two-meeting rule waived. This will be attached to the student policy.

Mrs. Nazzaro made a motion seconded by Garfield to suspend the two-meeting rule.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Jason, Terri, Melissa, Sarah P., Darlene, Lyndsey, Martha, Shirley, Michele

Mr. Fogue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve the EEC Admissions Policy.

- Mrs. McVeigh asked how is it different then a student being admitted to any other course of studies.
- Mr. Finnie said it is the same. It is really if we reach capacity. It protects us if we deny a student because it is full. It gives criteria.
- Dr. Hopson said it has no impact on choices in the curriculum.
- Mr. Finnie said there are slightly different graduation requirements.
- Mrs. Winer asked have we started with the preschool program.
- Mr. Finnie said we have 10 freshmen enrolled. The state will visit the facility on October 10 and meet with the parent advisory council. Hopefully they will approve the program. They are not working with the children yet.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked if this group had changes would they suggest them.
- Mr. Finnie said yes.

Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve the EEC Admissions Policy.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Jason, Terri, Melissa, Sarah P., Darlene, Lyndsey, Martha, Shirley, Michele

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. School Committee Goals

Mrs. Papillon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Page to approve the school committee goals.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Jason, Terri, Melissa, Sarah P., Darlene, Lyndsey, Martha, Shirley, Michele

7:30 VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS - None

VII. CONSENT ITEMS 9/11/19 (Enc)

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to approve the minutes of 9/11/19.

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

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

Abstain: Jason, Darlene

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mrs. Austin said her daughter was outside with the band when they were getting ready to vote for president. When she went inside to hear the speeches she missed them because she didn't know where to go.
- Mr. Finnie said that was unfortunate that she missed the speeches. He will follow up on it.
- Mrs. Otterbeck said the Booster Club is working hard to sell food and sell sweatshirts.

B. Chairperson

- Mrs. Crane said we need two people to stay and sign warrants after the meeting. We got our rural aide numbers, and they were better than we thought.
- Dr. Hopson said they didn't include it in chapter 70 calculations. We received about \$90,000 more. We get the first payment in October and the second is in May. They are going to do a rural school study. Mrs. McVeigh asked if there would be a reduction in assessments. She said four students moved into Huntington who attend voke and one of our voke students got in an accident and requires special transportation, and the library director quit.
- Dr. Hopson said no, the state made it outside the budget.

C. Superintendent

Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Dr. Hopson said if anyone wants to go Friday October 4 there is a joint meeting with the Executive Directors of MASS and MASC at the superintendent's round table. The meal is at 12:30 p.m. If anyone is interested let Mrs. Stewart know.

D. Business Manager – None

E. Administration

- Mr. Finnie said surveys will be coming out in relation to our civil rights review - annual self-assessment survey. Teachers took one, students will take one, and parents will receive on as well.
- Mr. Garivaltis said in addition there has to be perception that every student, in terms of both curricular and extracurricular has equal access to everything we have available.
- Mr. Finnie said in the 10th grade MCAS there was a question that we determined to be racially biased. The state tossed out the question and a study was done and revealed it affected students emotionally. They

looked at were students on track before or after. Any student that was on track or feels they were negatively affected can take the November Legacy test as a shot to get the John and Abigail Adams scholarship.

- Mrs. Crane said what about the kids who answered it appropriately.
- Mr. Finnie said there are 41 students who can choose to take the Legacy test for the scholarship.
- Mrs. Long said the MS/HS open house is next Tuesday 6-7:30 p.m. Look for the Foundation's 50/50 raffle. Next Thursday night is a training being hosted by SEPAC around children and aggressive behaviors.

F. Town - None

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING

- A. Superintendent's Evaluation –Next Meeting 10/9/19
 B. Legislative Liaison - None
 C. Policy Subcommittee - None
 D. Building Liaisons - None

X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

XI. INFORMATION

Information

Gateway choirs selling holiday growing kits
 VHS to DVD-R fundraiser for Gateway film studio
 Gateway Open Houses coming up
 Help needed at Littleville & Chester libraries
 PSAT's on October 16
 Gateway students half-day Sept 24
 Superintendent's Corner September 13, 2019

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

Warrant

AP#1017	\$56088.73	PR#006	\$370,283.68
AP#1019	\$34,740.23		
AP#1021	\$7.30		

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

XIII.

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Page to adjourn at 8:09 p.m.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Jason, Terri, Melissa, Sarah P., Darlene, Lyndsey, Martha, Shirley, Michele

Respectfully Submitted,
 Stacy L Stewart
 School Committee Secretary