

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, OCTOBER 9, 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
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
Wendy Long, District Grant Writer

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: Kristina Cortis, Bob Garriepy, Krissy Pryzbyla, Steve Estelle, Kim Sakaske, Mike LaFleur, Matt Bonenfant, Ed Quin, Bret Hartley

- Mrs. Crane opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

- Chloe McLeod and Brian Fogue were present. Chloe introduced herself. She is a senior, president of yearbook, on tech crew and swamp manager. Students got a late start to student council this year. Spirit days started at the girls' soccer game with wear white for lady gators. They are starting the showcases again and the theme is New England sports teams; seniors have Patriots, juniors have Red Sox, sophomores have Bruins, and the freshmen have Celtics. Half of the showcase will be the sports team and the other half will be information about the class. The swamp's first official day was today. They are looking to do fundraising to sell more gator gear than just sports. Girls and boys soccer qualified for tournament. Girls are 9-1-1 and boys are 8-6-1. Boys cross country is 5-1 in league and the girls are 7-0 in the league. PSAT's for underclassmen are happening for those who need them. The cost is \$17 per student. The woodshop made bathroom passes with the number of the classroom engraved on each one. We are not allowed to leave lunchroom without signing out. Only two people are allowed at a time in the bathroom.

Must have a pass from a club in order to leave. There is a no phone policy in classrooms. The new math teacher is Ms. Rock. She is also the drama club advisor. Drama club is doing a fundraiser selling pies.

- Brian Fogue said Model UN is organizing their first fundraiser, as schools match wits is picking team for an air in November. GSA is making progress.
- Chloe McLeod said yearbook is moving along a lot quicker this year and pushing online sales this year. Chloe is doing free senior photos for anyone who needs them -promoting herself.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITION

A. Gateway Education Foundation Update

- Mrs. Long gave a PowerPoint. 2010 to 2011 when the foundation started. Planning group was created in 2012 with a board of directors, and they started raising and spending money. The logo was a competition. She went over the projects that the Foundation has funded. A lot of literacy, performing arts, academics and enrichment. Funds for learning are the primary expenditure then the special summer program. Shipman fund was created to fund improvements to the GPAC, student led projects, Model UN, and Project 6 sold bracelets and raised \$650 for hill town at home.
- Mr. Fogue left at 7:25 p.m.
- The Foundation started funding girls' state when the women's group for the American Legion folded years ago. Lori Belheumer said the historical society would fund one and the Foundation would fund the other and they have been funding it since.
- Some of the Ways to support the Foundation are through homecoming weekend, Giving Tuesday, and Amazon Smile
- Board structure: 2 school committee members, 3 teachers, 4 others must be alumni or live in the district.
- Mrs. Balboni asked if she was going to stay on the board.
- Mrs. Long said she is not going to stay. Kate Albright-Hanna will be taking her place. The board has formed 3 subcommittees; finance, fundraising and communications.
- Chloe McLeod asked if they were placing the yearbook ad again this year.
- Mrs. Long is sure they will. She said to contact Mrs. Wing and have her bring it up at the next meeting.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

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

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve the field trip to PA/DC.

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

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

Absent: Jason

7:30 VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. FY '20 Budget Transfers

- Ms. Fisk went over the transfers.
- Move to next meeting for a vote.

B. Motion to accept a Pay loader as a donation from the Town of Huntington

- Mr. Hartley said it was going to be used for snow removal.
- Mrs. Nazzaro asked what a pay loader is.
- Mr. Hartley said it's a small bucket loader.
- Ms. Fisk said Mrs. McVeigh was very helpful in securing this.
- Mrs. McVeigh said it hasn't been used in years. It was important to transfer it over. The only cost will be repairs and cost of the transfer.
- Mr. Hartley said the transfer will take place next week.

Mrs. Nazzaro made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to waive the two-meeting rule to vote on accepting the pay loader.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Sarah F., Terri, Melissa, Sarah P., Darlene, Lyndsey, Martha, Michele
 Absent: Jason

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to approve acceptance of a pay loader as a donation from the town of Huntington.

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Sarah F., Terri, Melissa, Sarah P., Darlene, Lyndsey, Martha, Michele
 Absent: Jason

VII. CONSENT ITEMS 9/25/19 (Enc)

Mrs. McVeigh made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve the minutes of 9/25/19.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 8 Nays Abstain 2 Absent 1 (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Terri, Melissa, Sarah P., Darlene, Lyndsey, Martha, Michele
 Abstain: Tara, Sarah F.,
 Absent: Jason

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mrs. Papillon said she Mrs. Balboni and Mrs. Page attended the Russell select board meeting last night. They were not on the agenda. They asked questions about the MARS participation, regional agreement and Jeanne's contract. They are waiting to here from Chester on Jeanne's contract as they are the lead.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked if they said what their legal issues are.
- Mrs. Papillon said they said she was hired by the grant the first year and it wasn't posted the second year. She said Nick Balboni has been tenacious about asking if they have other plans or if they are willing to work around it. With regards to the regional agreement they are hoping to meet with the town of Montgomery because they have some concerns. They said it took us a year to come up with it so was it too much to ask for them. She said they plan on attending every Tuesday night until they are sick of hearing from them. They asked the select board members if they were planning on attending and they said no. She plans on asking the MARS guys for the expertise.
- Mrs. McVeigh said somewhere in the minutes for facilitated discussion it says the purpose.
- Mrs. Nazzaro said if they are asking school committee to represent Russell, are they willing to take your recommendation.
- Mrs. McVeigh said they also appointed two non- school committee members to participate with the meetings.
- Mrs. Papillon said at the last school committee PBIS she got a post card today from the 7th grade team.

B. Chairperson

- Mrs. Crane reminded everyone there is facilitated discussion tomorrow at 6:30 in Russell Town Hall.

C. Superintendent

Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Dr. Hopson attended a MARS meeting yesterday with DESE and a representative from the House and Senate about the chapter 70 formula what happens to the 216 schools being held harmless. It would have to go above 2 million for Gateway to receive additional money. The only additional money we will see would be if we doubled our student population.
- Dr. Hopson said we did have an incident on booster field. A ref decided it was unsafe to play on. There are several divots on the field. Some have been there and some are due to the irrigation. He has decided we will not be playing any more games on the field this year. Mr. Hartley will start renovating it this fall, so we are only out one season instead of two seasons if we started in the spring. There also won't be a graduation on booster field. It will also impact homecoming weekend. We can move to field number 3 and play there.
- Mrs. Otterbeck said we would have to change the times.

- Dr. Hopson said yes. In order to fix the problem and fix it right the field needs to be closed. If we start to renovate in the spring, it will be closed for 2 seasons. If you start now we can get some grass out there
- Mr. Estelle walked the old field and thinks maybe you need 5 or 6 yards. The only thing that is not safe on the field is 3 or 4 feet of a 6 inch irrigation line.
- Dr. Hopson said we could fix it temporarily, but then you'll lose the field for two seasons.
- Mr. Estelle said we've already had to cancel JV games and now we are moving very big games. He doesn't agree. Why can't we temporarily fix it?
- Dr. Hopson said we can temporarily fix it.
- Mr. Estelle said the field wasn't ever taken care of well and we played on. He thinks the water being installed if great.
- Mr. Hartley said it is a waste of money to continue to patch it. The previous field we fixed was out of commission for 2 years and now it looks great.
- Mrs. Balboni said as the expert you think this is the way it needs to be done.
- Mrs. Sakaske do we have to do the whole field to make it safe.
- Mrs. Cortis asked how this field we have been playing on all of a sudden become unsafe. The professionals are aware of sinking etc. She was there when it all happened. How all of a sudden it became booster field is unsafe. Is it really valid that the field is unsafe when it was fine until that night when the opposing team's coach complained to the officials? Are we 100% sure the field is unsafe.
- Dr. Hopson isn't 100% sure. Once you have an official say it is unsafe, you have to rectify it. It doesn't fix the other problems on the field. He said Mr. Hartley said if you want to fix it right, this is what you need to do. I felt we should fix it and we have rural school aid, which we may not have again. We can fix it temporarily or we can fix it the right way.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked if there could be a compromise; patch, meet with the coach, athletic director, play the rest of this season and start the repairs in the spring. Who knows maybe the grass will grow. If we have to go two seasons, then, then we have to go through two seasons. Not having night games is detrimental to students. Maybe we can rent temporary lights to go out tow field number 2 or 3 next year.
- Chloe McLeod asked where we would have graduation.
- Dr. Hopson said it can be anywhere around it booster field or inside.
- Chloe McLeod said can't we give seniors the opportunity to play on it.
- Dr. Hopson said we can temporarily fix it for this season. We will then being to fix it in the spring knowing for sure we can't play on it next season and take the chance of missing two seasons on the field.
- Mr. Bonenfant said Monday night there was no option when the ref said it wasn't safe. We were putting speed dry on the field last year. We moved games to help get it ready this year. As a coach it is beautiful under the lights. He wouldn't put his daughter on the field if a ref said it was unsafe. We've had conversations that it was going to be a two season ordeal. Whatever is decided we cannot guarantee someone won't get hurt. He wants to make sure our school does what is best for our students. He said Mr. Hartley and Quinn have done more with less than anyone he knows.
- Mrs. Otterbeck was only going to say if there was a way to make it work. It doesn't feel like there is a win situation.
- Mr. Estelle said any field on any day under weather conditions can be deemed unsafe. His opinion should not make you change a season. There are two or three trenches that need to be fixed. You don't have a good field because there is no topsoil. We shouldn't move the season because one ref makes a complaint. He will volunteer to and bring in officials to make sure it is safe.
- Mrs. Crane asked how many more games are there to play.
- Mr. Bonenfant said only 3 or 4 more games.
- Mrs. Crane said if we do the temporary fix are we going to have problems with the refs.
- Mrs. Estelle said not unless we have a lot of rain.
- Chloe McLeod asked can we hold only senior nights on booster field.
- Dr. Hopson is leaning toward temporarily fixing the field. We barely missed the bullet with EEE. If it was closer we wouldn't be playing night games at all. To finish off this season and then hopefully with the water only miss a season instead of two.
- Chloe McLeod said as a student she agrees with whatever Mr. Bonenfant does. He is involved with the students and his son and daughter are out there with us.
- Mrs. Nazzaro said it is always easier to plan for the change rather than to react to the change. She feels sad for the seniors and graduation. It will be an issue whether we finish or don't finish the season.
- Mrs. Long would like to affirm Mrs. Nazzaro's comment. It would be a shame to shut down a field mid-season, especially since there are 10 seniors.

- Mrs. Garfield asked if we could fix those divots on the field and make it safe. They play so hard on the field.
- Mr. Hartley said it won't be perfect but it will be better.
- Dr. Hopson said everyone who spoke tonight has a lot of good things to say.
- Mrs. Cortis said we have the ability to rally troops, labor donations, etc. from the booster club. Playing at 4 p.m. would not be good for the booster club in terms of making money.
- Dr. Hopson said we will keep playing this year and if Mr. Hartley needs additional help he will contact the booster club and Mr. Estelle.

D. Business Manager

- Ms. Fisk said this morning we had a bus incident. The bus driver operated irresponsibly and has been removed from the Gateway routes. We have someone interested in bidding for the next bus bid. So there may be some competition.

E. Administration

- Mrs. Long thanked school committee for keeping her position in the budget. It has been nice to have school committee meetings function so nicely this past year. She appreciates everyone's service.

F. Town - None

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING

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

- Mrs. Crane said they will have something in December regarding the superintendent's search. The next meeting is November 13.

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 Ed Foundation over \$100K mark
 Gateway 'Homecoming' schedule announced
 Crafters needed for annual fair

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

Warrant

AP#1022	\$118,931.43	PR#007	\$373,711.28
AP#1023	\$39,848.32		

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

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

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

Absent: Jason

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy L Stewart,

School Committee Secretary