

**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 23, 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  
Shirley Winer

HUNTINGTON  
Melissa Nazzaro

MIDDLEFIELD

MONTGOMERY  
Madelyn Austin

RUSSELL  
Tara Balboni  
Sarah Page

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  
Jeanne LeClair, Communications  
Darlene Rehor, Elementary Assistant Principal

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES  
Brian Forgue

OTHERS: Brian Otterbeck, Christ Tamburrino, Kristina Cortis, Kim Sakaske, Mike LaFleur, Krissy Prysbyla, Peter Spotts

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

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**III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT**

- Brian Forgue said PSAT’s happened. There was an HCC college trip to see the zombie apocalypse demonstration. Senior night for girls’ soccer was held and they won 4-0. As schools match wits is November 2 at Westfield University against Southwick. The enterprise club is hosting their game night in the auditorium tonight.

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**IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITION**

**A. Economic Development Shared Position Review**

- Mrs. LeClair said Gateway has made it easy for her to join the community. Mrs. Long has been great training her and she has transitioned to the second floor.

Mrs. Balboni arrived at 7:07 p.m.

- Mrs. LeClair is here two days a week. The interns have been great, posting on social media. The Key Communicator paper is the first thing communications council and committee is working on. They have unified both meetings. The communications subcommittee comes out of the MARS group and communications council has been around for a couple of years. The more we can communicate with each other the better the conversations go. Her goal for the key communicator is for it to be issued at least monthly at the town halls and to key members primarily those active in town committees. So when things come up at town meetings, people will have accurate information. The first one is about the regional agreement. She is hoping to get this out early November. There is a quick guide on back that has acronyms, and school committee dates.

Mrs. Nazzaro arrived at 7:11 p.m.

- Mrs. Page asked if a version of this could go home in red folders. It might reach a little further. It will target more than just the same townspeople.
- Mrs. LeClair also suggested we offer PBIS tickets for going to school committee and town meetings for the older kids. We won't reach 100%, but hopefully 5% of them will spread the word.

## **B. Technology Update**

- Ms. Fisk said the update was in the packet. If you have questions, please ask Dr. Hopson at the next meeting or send him an email.

## **C. Assessments – MCAS**

- Mrs. LeBlanc started the PowerPoint presentation which was included in the central office update.
- Mr. Garivaltis spoke about subgroups; students with disabilities and ELL's. The focus is on getting them in general education settings. Staff was trained last year on social emotional learning curriculum. This year it included K-5 and 6, 7, 8. Still strategizing on how to do that in 9-12. We have about 30 ELL's. We also provide specialized training in instructional strategies. This happened at the elementary and high school levels last year and middle school this year.
- Mrs. Winer asked how we determine it is working.
- Mr. Garivaltis said achievement is not just measured by MCAS. Are students happy – the whole child. That is happening. Staff is happy. We will be looking at the achievement level in the next few years.
- Mrs. Coburn has been looking at data between the two buildings. Writing across the board was an area of weakness this year and last year it was strength. The buildings had very different strengths and weaknesses in the area of Math. Science last year extended STEM to K, 1, and 2. STEM teachers went to a summer training and a few weeks ago boxes arrived with a lot of great material. They are applying them to real world situations. They are investigating why a lake isn't doing well.
- Mr. Finnie said 6<sup>th</sup> grade was involved in that as well. We are seeing the transition from the Legacy test to MCAS test. Looking at data and adjusting practices, and instructional strategies.
- Mrs. Balboni said in regards to the legacy was the older version easier or harder in terms of the standards and them not meeting up.
- Mr. Finnie said the number is different in math. Before it was the same.
- Mrs. Cortis asked for an explanation of a universal screener.
- Mrs. LeBlanc said a test given to find out what someone's baseline is in a certain area. Vocabulary, listening comprehension, etc.
- Mr. Finnie said they are using it to inform an intervention period in the middle school.
- Mrs. Cortis sees a peak at elementary and then dips at middle school.
- Mrs. LeBlanc said overall state –wide, the MCAS scores dip in middle school
- Mr. Finnie said students go from multi-subject classrooms to individual subject teachers.
- Mr. Garivaltis said before the student with needs was pulled out and now they are in the classroom getting the help with their peers.
- Mrs. Nazzaro asked is the system able to fluctuate and continue or will you be able to compare apples to apples.
- Mrs. LeBlanc thinks in three years you may be able to compare apples to apples, but they are trying to keep it as close to the graduation requirement as it was.
- Mr. Finnie said when the state made changes in the past they just held schools harmless.
- Mr. Fogue said in three years we may be able to compare apples to apples. In three years when you can compare they will change it?

- Mrs. Garivaltis said that is what we are trying to do with the universal screeners.
- Mr. Forgue is still concerned, is there a way to try to predict where the state is going.

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## V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

### A. FY '20 Budget Transfers

- Ms. Fisk said we are still waiting for the supplemental budget. We should have it the last week in October.

*Mrs. Winer made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve the FY '20 Budget Transfers.*

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Jason, Terri, Melissa, Sarah P., Shirley, Michele

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## 7:30 VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

- Brian Otterbeck said the travel team is not longer, so booster field is the only way for the booster club to make an income. If you take booster field and do what you did with the other field the booster club will have no income. If the trenches were done properly in the install we wouldn't be in the situation. The kids come to Gateway to play on that field and hear their name yelled on the field. The booster club won't be able to do anything for the seniors if they are not generating revenue from food sales.
- Mrs. Balboni said we made that decision because Mr. Bonenfant said it was unsafe. The school committee is not saying we want to.
- Mr. Otterbeck said the installation of the system was put in wrong. He was told booster is safe right now because they filled the trenches. He wants to make sure they don't do what they did with the other field. How many school committee members come down and supports the kids.
- Mrs. Crane asked if he wants the permanent fix or temporary fix.
- Mr. Otterbeck said if they put the irrigation system in correctly, we wouldn't be here. The temporary fix is fine. They put the right level of dirt on it now. He wants it to be over seeded on the irrigation and go with the way it is. If we go in and do what you did to field 3 we won't have a field and it will hurt the booster club.
- Mrs. Crane said so you don't want the permanent fix.
- Mr. Forgue said we didn't vote on the irrigation and we didn't take a vote to temporary fix it.
- Mrs. Cortis said we had a complaint so the AD had to shut everything down, and it was brought to school committee and has gotten escalated. The field was never unsafe, but the AD had to do something because of the liability issues. Is the field safe or is it not was the question. We have played 4 or 5 games on the field. We should be able to close the books on this.
- Mrs. Crane said we are not voting this time and we didn't vote last time.
- Ms. Fisk said it is not going to be solved tonight. Let's move it to the next agenda.
- Brian Forgue asked if filling in the trenches will make the field safe.
- Mr. Otterbeck said it is safe now.
- Mrs. Garfield asked when these next games are.
- Mr. Otterbeck said Thursday and Friday. The boys have the best team they have had in a long time because they pulled out of the traveling team.
- Mr. Forgue said it was not on the agenda last meeting or this meeting so how does it get on the agenda.
- Mrs. Crane said this topic will come up on the agenda at the last meeting.
- Mrs. Balboni said at the next meeting we will have played a lot more games, so we will know how the field holds up.
- Mr. Otterbeck said every referee walks the field at the beginning of every game.
- Mr. Forgue said there are other improvements that can be made on other fields as well.
- Ms. Fisk said field renovations are on the capital plan.

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## VII. CONSENT ITEMS 10/9/19 (Enc)

*Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Nazzaro to approve the minutes of 10/9/19.*

*Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 7 Nays Abstain 1 Absent (Roll Call Vote)*

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

Abstain: Jason

## VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

### A. School Committee

- Mrs. Austin said Friday night is “boovie” night after the game.
- Mr. Forgue said Chester elementary is also holding their “boo-bash”.

### B. Chairperson

- Mrs. Crane said the next evaluation subcommittee meeting is November 13. There will be a subcommittee meeting and it is a joint subcommittee with communications council on November 20.

### C. Superintendent - None

Central Office Update (Enc.)

### D. Business Manager

- Ms. Fisk said the auditors finished review of the finances last week.

### E. Administration

- Mr. Finnie said the chapter 74 EEC program, with the hard work of everyone working to make the recommended changes is off for approval.

### F. Town - None

## IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING

### A. Superintendent’s Evaluation –Next Meeting 11/13/19

### 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

Students impacted by biased questions may retake MCAS  
 Homecoming Weekend open to all!  
 Optometry Office opens with over 100 students enrolled  
 Gateway Senior Nights coming up’  
 Support the Gateway Education Foundation while shopping!  
 Penny Social on November 15  
 Send your Gateway photos in!  
 Gateway students half-day Oct 22  
 Pre-schoolers finish “Pete the Cat” studies

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

### Warrant

AP#1025	\$129,353.90	PR#008	\$378,564.31
AP#1029	\$57.85		

8:35-9 p.m. XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION  
 or earlier

## XIII. ADJOURNMENT

*Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Page to adjourn at 8:11 p.m.*

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Jason, Terri, Melissa, Sarah P., Shirley, Michele

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Respectfully Submitted,  
Stacy L Stewart,  
School Committee Secretary