

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.

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

JOINT BUDGET/REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 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
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
Megan Coburn, Chs,Lit Principal
Jason Finnie, Middle/High Principal
Kurt Garivaltis, Pupil Services Director
Darlene Rehor, Elementary Assistant Principal

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: Bret Hartley, Ed Quinn, Tasha Hartley, Mike LaFleur, Andy Myers, Peter Spotts, Kim Sakaske

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

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

- Brian Forgue said the middle take off of Project 351 met recently and they are holding a food drive on November 9 and 16. Boys' soccer lost their first tournament game 2-0, and girls are playing their 2nd tournament game tonight. As schools match wits was recorded and Gateway won. It will depend if they made it to the top 8 for them to move on. They should know in a couple of weeks. He suggested the roof needs some work in some places. There is a leak in the girls' bathroom and Mr. Duggan's room.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITION

A. Rural Schools

- Dr. Hopson put the information in the central office update and asked if there were any questions. They have someone in the department of education that deals specifically with rural school education. Our rural schools group is now a 501c3; he will suggest some of the ideas to them. He was not the only superintendent from Massachusetts. Mike Buoniconti from Mohawk was also there.
- Mrs. Crane read the report. She said it is really long, but really interesting.

A. Booster Field

- Dr. Hopson said Booster field has been started. We ordered loam before the plant closed. They power raked the field yesterday and will spread the loam over the next week or so, if the weather holds, they will hydro seed.
- Mr. Forgue mentioned in email if it was only informational why was it on the agenda.
- Dr. Hopson said if we have it public he would like to give people the opportunity to air their business, The decision was to wait until the spring. The second piece is it shouldn't have come up at the second meeting.
- Mrs. Crane said it was a judgment call on her part. She thought it was important to hear their concerns.
- Dr. Hopson said there was a need for the meeting and it did change the course of the decision.
- Mr. Forgue said the rest of the questions pertained to the cost. It is above the \$10,000 mark.
- Dr. Hopson said they were for different services.
- Mr. Forgue said our cost is a little over \$3,000 for the loam and the hydro-seed. As someone who has hydro-seeded, did we comparison shop.
- Ms. Fisk said that it was the lowest one from all the comparisons.
- Dr. Hopson said you asked about putting it under new business. The school committee looks at policy and budget. You have already adopted the capital plan and extraordinary maintenance.
- Kim Sakaske said she was only concerned if they were getting more money.
- Dr. Hopson said they just put the cost into the estimate. They will do it on regular time.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. School Committee Goals Update

- Mrs. Crane said it is early along, but she thought she would share the goals.

7:30 VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommendation for the Gateway Regional School Committee to approve the September 25, 2019 revised and amended agreement of the Collaborative for Educational Services.

(Move that the Gateway Regional School Committee approves the September 25, 2019 revised and amended Agreement of the Collaborative for Educational Services).

- Move to old business for a vote at the next meeting.

B. GCE - Substitute Policy (Enc.)

- Ms. Fisk said we increased the sub rate in hopes to get some more subs. Our sub rate was a little lower than surrounding schools. The new rate will be a flat rate of \$100 per day.

Mrs. Nazzaro made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to waive two-meeting rule to vote on the substitute policy.

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

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

- Mr. Forgue asked what the current rate is.
- Ms. Fisk said the current rates are \$65 for non certified, \$70 for certified, and \$75 for retired Gateway teachers.
- Mr. Forgue asked how it affects the budget.
- Ms. Fisk said if there isn't a sub, there are teachers covering for other teachers.

Mrs. Nazzaro made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to approve the changes to the substitute policy GCE.

- Mrs. McVeigh asked how many hours does a sub teacher work.
- Ms. Fisk said 6 hours.

- Mrs. McVeigh said the rates are not comparable to the teachers.
- Dr. Hopson agrees but it still puts us above surrounding schools.
- Mrs. McVeigh said your LPN's and aides see kids throughout the day. \$30 is a lot when your teachers are making less than \$20 per hour.

Mrs. Nazzaro made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to approve the changes to the substitute policy GCE.

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

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

Abstain: Sarah F.

- Ms. Fisk said we will make this effective this coming Monday.

C. IJOA – Field Trip Policy Revision

- Dr. Hopson said one of our local school systems got all the proper permission, got points for the trip she went on and was fined \$7,000 for not disclosing it. If teachers take more than \$50 for a field trip, they need to file a disclosure form before they plan and then another one before they go on the trip. It will be in the policy and on the field trip forms. All staff has seen this. The school used a travel company. Generally the chaperones get a free trip so the kids essentially pay for it. It was a shock to many superintendents. The only real problem was that the paperwork wasn't filled out. There is a mix, some teachers think they should get the trip for free and others feel that everyone should pay to go on a trip.
- Move to next meeting for a vote.

VII. JOINT BUDGET SESSION WITH TOWN OFFICIALS

A. Principal Presentations – FY '21 Budget

- Mrs. Coburn gave an elementary PowerPoint presentation.
- Mrs. Balboni asked if there was overlap on the IEP and social emotional page.
- Mrs. Coburn said there is overlap with IEP's and social emotional numbers. The RTI numbers are a little lower than they were last year.
- Mr. Finnie gave his High/Middle School PowerPoint presentation.
- Mrs. Winer asked if the new things we are trying are having positive effects.
- Mr. Finnie said we have seen some behavior issues, if we haven't built interventions into the schedule. We need to start directly addressing these behaviors.
- Mrs. Winer does this interfere with academics.
- Mr. Finnie if you have students with these behaviors they are not ready to be learning.
- Ms. McVeigh said at some point would we be pulling parents in and working with them. How do we get parents to participate?
- Mrs. Coburn said the CPAC has been putting on training and workshops for parents to let them know what is happening.
- Mr. Garivaltis said we can't mandate, but we do provide opportunities. He has had two different speaker series on children and discipline. Mrs. LeBlanc spoke with them on what PBIS is. We will have parent cafes that will be happening on social emotional learning, what we are doing, and how it can carry over into the home. We have had a pretty impressive response.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked if we have conversations with individual parents whose kids are on IEP's.
- Mrs. Coburn said our school adjustment counselors do a great job of reaching out to parents to let them know what is going on in the school with their children. A lot of times if we are struggling parents are struggling at home.
- Mr. Forgue said we are not looking for additional staff.
- Mr. Finnie, not currently.
- Mr. Forgue asked if there are staff that are planning on leaving the district we will need to replace.
- Mr. Finnie we are still working on it.
- Andy Myers said Chester will be starting their budget process next month.

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS 10/23/19 (Enc)

Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve the minutes of 10/23/19.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas: 8 Nays Abstain 3 Absent (Roll Call Vote)

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

Abstain: Sarah F., Darlene, Lyndsey

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mrs. Foley said the girls lost 1-0.
- Mrs. McVeigh said the girls' coach is retiring at the end of the season.
- Mrs. Austin said NHS is doing the boot drive for toys for tots.

B. Chairperson – School Committee Ethics Requirements

- Mrs. Crane talked about the ethics training and disclosure statements.

C. Superintendent - None

Central Office Update (Enc.)

D. Business Manager

- Ms. Fisk said the quarterly report was in the packet. There is nothing major right now. We just lost a staff member to an interim staff position. We have received all assessments in except for Middlefield. Audit fieldwork has been done. We are waiting on the Hampshire County Retirement amount. The student activity audit was done. E & D was certified at \$765,
- Mrs. Papillon said the middle school is collecting old cartridges, old cell phones, etc. They are recycling the metals.

E. Administration - None

F. Town - None

X. COMMITTEE REPORTING

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

- Superintendent's evaluation met tonight and they will have something regarding the superintendent search for the next meeting.

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

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

Warrant

AP#1028	\$176,918.86	PR#009	\$403,918.86
AP#1032	\$76,407.37	PR#010	\$379,340.28

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy L Stewart

School Committee Secretary