

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, JANUARY 8, 2020

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

Melissa Nazzaro

MIDDLEFIELD

Sarah Foley

MONTGOMERY

Madelyn Austin

RUSSELL

Sarah Page
Lyndsey Papillon
Lyndsey Papillon

SECRETARY

Stacy Stewart

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Jason Finnie, Middle/High Principal
Kurt Garivaltis, Pupil Services Director

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Brian Forgue

OTHERS: Andy Myers, Mike LaFleur, Jeri Beauregard, Shelby, Cara Letendre

- Mrs. Crane opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.
- Shelbi Macri is recording the meeting.

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

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

- Brian Forgue said reindeer games took place before the break. Seniors won. The break was good. Students are in the midst of mid-term season. Model UN is going to Cambridge for a conference and as schools match wits is sending two or three teams to the next match in Chicopee. Student council is working on the semi-formal. They are also working with Mrs. Clark to come up with new activities.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITION

A. 2nd Semester Field Trips – Overnight Model UN Conference at UMASS

- Mr. Finnie said this is same trip as last year. One change they are trying to avoid staying off campus. They are looking for approval for Friday March 13-15. He is not sure how many students are attending, however, there are a total of 14 in the group.
- Move to next meeting for a vote.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Superintendent's Search Recommendation

- Mrs. Crane said you were given the outline in the packet.
- Dr. Hopson has asked Glenn Koocher to put in writing what MASC will provide for technical assistance such as job descriptions, questions, etc. that is free. There is no cost until you use their services. The committee needs to decide if they want to do it themselves with technical assistance, which you won't need till the fall, or if you hire a search firm in which case you have to go through that process this spring.
- Mrs. Otterbeck asked what the cost is.
- Dr. Hopson said the last search in Pittsfield was about \$12,000.
- Mrs. Foley asked what do they do we can't do.
- Dr. Hopson said they will come up with the job description. MASC and MASS will put the advertisement on their website. They will put together a nice flyer.
- Mrs. Page asked if it is something that we may be able to do in-house with Mrs. LeClair
- Dr. Hopson said yes.
- Mrs. Foley asked if we get different candidates with those firms.
- Dr. Hopson said not necessarily, but they do keep a data base and contact superintendents who they think will be a good fit for the position. You are in a good position. There are forty something openings right now.

Mrs. Garfield made a motion seconded by Mrs. Nazzaro to support the recommendation of the superintendent's evaluation subcommittee to do a search ourselves. (potentially utilizing MASC is some way)

- Mr. Forgue asked if we could get a list of what is free and what is not.
- Mrs. Crane and Dr. Hopson said, use some of their questions, create a job descriptions, and they will post it on their website.
- Dr. Hopson said as you go through the process and we come to a point we are stuck we may be able to pay for help.
- Mr. Forgue asked what we budgeted.
- Ms. Fisk said nothing. We are hoping to use rural school aid. She was anticipating \$15,000 on the high end.
- Dr. Hopson said if you do the search yourselves, and he spreads the word you will hit most of the area.
- Mrs. Nazzaro asked if we talked about the interview process.
- Dr. Hopson said under Mass General Law once you get your finalists it becomes public. But not before that. He would suggest you set up a committee when you reorganize. You control, who participates, staff, students, community. Then school committee does the interviews, you can have public sessions, etc. This committee controls what that looks like.
- Mrs. Nazzaro asked how many of us have some experience in the HR/hiring area.
- Mrs. Garfield and Mr. Forgue both have experience.
- Dr. Hopson said the final vote is only school committee.
- Mrs. Nazzaro said so the screening committee doesn't have to be made of only school committee, it can be community members.
- Dr. Hopson said you have to have people who know that there are certain questions you cannot ask.
- Mrs. Crane said we need to keep that in mind, those with young kids in the district to step forward and participate in the process.

Mrs. Garfield made a motion seconded by Mrs. Nazzaro to support the recommendation of the superintendent's evaluation subcommittee to do a search ourselves. (potentially utilizing MASC is some way)

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

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

B. Field Trip Ethics Statements

- Performing arts trip to NYC – Cost is \$135.00 for admission and bus fair for Beth Guertin and Jeri Beauregard
- 8th grade trip to Philadelphia and Washington DC – Cost is \$345.50 for accommodations, meals, admission, trip insurance and gratuities for Hannah Sullivan.

Mrs. Nazzaro made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve the following: As the appointing official, as required by G.L. c. 268A, s. 19 I have reviewed the particular matter and the financial interest identified by the above municipal employees, Beth Guertin and Jeri Beauregard. I have determined that the financial interest is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the municipality may expect from the employee.

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

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

- Dr. Hopson said if you are a parent, who works for the town and you receive \$50 or more you need to file the disclosure forms with the town.

7:30 VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS - None**VII. JOINT BUDGET SESSION WITH TOWN OFFICIALS****A. FY '21 Budget – Line Item Budget**

- Dr. Hopson said you all have the line item budget so he will open things up for discussion.
- Ms. Fisk said we haven't opened up the revenue piece yet. It will come out on the 22 or so when we receive the state budget. We should get \$30 more per student. There will be a change in the towns' minimum contributions. Census numbers from March 2019 to January 2020 are as follows: Blandford 116 now 114, Chester 156, 138, Huntington was 277.5 now 294, Middlefield was 38 now 35, Montgomer was 68 now 72, and Russell was 237 now 220. They will change again when we get to March.
- Dr. Hopson said the biggest change in minimum contribution is the new formula. We don't know what it is going to be yet. Those numbers Ms. Fisk gave you are for if we use the statutory method. Vocational numbers will be a big change in minimum contribution. We won't know until the House I budget comes out.
- Ms. Fisk said the second piece is that at the same time revenue comes out, so does charter and choice. Our charter revenue should be reduced. We had four students last year and now we only have three. Choice numbers are down a little. For both those assessments, choice and charter students can go anytime they want. There is no deadline. If those two hold, the gleargov budget is initial, it would be very nice as it would bring the budget down to less than 2% assuming we receive \$225,000 in rural school aid. If we don't get it we have to come up with it another way or reduce the budget.
- Andy Myers asked for the total student count.
- Ms. Fisk said it is down. It was 840 and now it's 833.
- Mrs. Crane said the way we get to cleargov is through the website and the link.
- Cara Letendre looked for the presentation Ms. Fisk did last time and couldn't find it.
- Dr. Hopson said it was under presentations to school committee.
- Andy Myers said at the last meeting the estimate to towns is about 4%.
- Dr. Hopson said yes, the budget is down. It is 3% to the towns. We will have a better understanding after the next meeting.

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS 12/11/19 (Enc)

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to approve the minutes of 12/11/19.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays Abstain 1 Absent (Roll Call Vote)

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

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mrs. Papillon said at open house, the 7th grade ELA in their visual literacy class had students pick areas in Gateway to showcase. She would like to have them come here.
- Dr. Hopson said it sounds like a nice a student presentation. Maybe turn it into a slide show.
- Mrs. Nazzaro said this year the younger students in the middle school are on the ski team. Mrs. Page's son competed in his first race last night. They all did very well. It was really great.
- Mrs. Otterbeck asked about revisiting the wellness center. She has received a lot of questions from teenage adolescent boys.
- Ms. Fisk said students use it during the day and staff at night. Coaches use it with teams during the seasons.
- Dr. Hopson said coaches cannot use it with the students during the off season.
- Ms. Fisk suggested they put something together.
- Mrs. Crane asked would we have to invest in new equipment.
- Ms. Fisk said yes.

B. Chairperson – School Committee Ethics Follow-up, Yearbook Ad

- Mrs. Crane reminded everyone to complete their ethics exam. She is also collecting money for the yearbook ad and it is \$14.00 per person.

C. Superintendent

Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Dr. Hopson said we are in the midst of negotiations with paraprofessionals and hopefully we will bring something back by the end of the month.

D. Business Manager

- Ms. Fisk said bus bids will be available on Friday, so if you know anyone who is interested let them know.

E. Administration - None**F. Town - None****X. COMMITTEE REPORTING****A. Superintendent's Evaluation –Next Meeting 1/8/20, 2/5/20**

- Superintendent's evaluation met tonight. Their next meeting is February 5 where they will hold their yearly management 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#1038	\$46,650.47	PR#012	\$377,573.17
AP#1040	\$174,374.46	PR#013	\$265,045.19
AP#1044	\$63.58	PR#014	\$354,846.13

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

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck adjourn at 7:58 p.m.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy L Stewart,

School Committee Secretary