

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, APRIL 8, 2020

Via Zoom (virtual)

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/639529517?pwd=dzJlaENiUUtlcjVhZld6QUNQQVhTUT0>

9

7:00 P.M.

(A PORTION OF THIS MEETING MAY BE HELD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION)

I. OPENING OF MEETING

<u>BLANDFORD</u>	<u>CHESTER</u>	<u>HUNTINGTON</u>	<u>MIDDLEFIELD</u>
Michele Crane	Jason Forgue	Darlene McVeigh	Sarah Foley
Terri Garfield	Martha Otterbeck	Melissa Nazzaro	
	Shirley Winer		

<u>MONTGOMERY</u>	<u>RUSSELL</u>	<u>SECRETARY</u>
Madelyn Austin	Tara Balboni	Stacy Stewart
	Sarah Page	
	Lyndsey Papillon	

<u>CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION</u>	<u>ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL</u>
Dr. David B. Hopson, Superintendent	Megan Coburn, Chs,Lit Principal
Stephanie Fisk, Business & Finance	Jason Finnie, Middle/High Principal
	Deanna LeBlanc, Curriculum Director
	Jeanne LeClair, Communications

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
Brian Forgue

OTHERS: Wayne Precanico, Andy Myers, Ed Renault, Cara Letender, Chris Tamburrino

- Mrs. Crane brought the meeting to order. We are not recording the meeting, Mrs. Stewart will be taking minutes and they will be the official record of the meeting.

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

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

- Brian Forgue said we all have adapted to remote learning. They are keeping in contact and it is going well. They are finding the schedule. They are still working out how AP will work. Teachers are still figuring out google meet. He hopes this is done and over with for the seniors. Had an idea. He would like to look into ways to get student input through school committee and town effects and policies. He would like to move to make a student advisory seat or voting member. He would like to work it out and sell it to the student body at large. How can we get more student input in student policies?
- Mrs. Crane said we will look into it and see how it would work.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITION

A. Discussion and Questions on Operations during the closure of schools under Governor Bakers' State of Emergency.

- Dr. Hopson has shared with the school committee and town officials the MOU with the associations. The website has information about grading, etc. Meals are now Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We need to do something with transportation.
- Ms. Fisk said the big piece is the budget item and where that will leave us for projected revenue. We will have to be creative next year. For the FY' 21 budget, it is likely that our anticipated revenue will be decreased.
- Dr. Hopson said the only ones we are not paying are substitutes and they have filed for unemployment.
- Mr. Forgue asked what is the state recommendation for what we pay the transportation company.
- Dr. Hopson said they are leaving it up to individual school systems. They haven't cleared with DOR that we can pay. Under the law we can't pay for services we are not getting.
- Mr. Forgue assumes they have applied for assistance.
- Ms. Fisk said they can't if they laid off their employees, and they did.
- Mr. Forgue asked if all subs qualify for unemployment.
- Ms. Fisk said yes.
- Mrs. Nazzaro said they laid off their bus drives and billed the full amount. She would have had far less of a problem with that if they kept them employed.
- Dr. Hopson said Lecrenski only has three school systems.
- Ms. Fisk is working with Ron Rix from Westfield to see what we can work out.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Regional Transportation Bid Update

- Ms. Fisk said school committee had given us the go ahead. We signed on March 16. They came back with decent numbers. Dufour had given us \$345 per day Dufour 345.77 cents they were \$1,200 over the bid. Dufour had \$3.45 per mile

and \$35 wait time. Lecrenski 4.00 per mile and \$37 per wait time. They are far below their current prices.

- We can't do anything right now until the DOR gives us flexibility with the law. We will need transportation whenever school starts.
- Dr. Hopson told Mr. Precanico they will have to decide whether they wish to pay or not. We can send out to the towns the information we find out. He said the state has indicated they only pay on our expenses. We would not get reimbursement for what we didn't spend, so our revenue would drop.
- Mrs. McVeigh said if we negotiate a lower amount for this year, our reimbursement for next year would be lower but wouldn't we be putting money into our E and D.
- Ms. Fisk said yes.
- Mr. Forge would suggest we ask Lecrenski what his costs are currently. We can take some of that money to cover unemployment costs.
- Dr. Hopson said we are in a good position, with only Worthington, Westfield and us, we should be able to come up with a reasonable amount.
- Ms. Fisk said we would also be negotiating with van pool and they have not laid off their staff.
- Mrs. Nazzaro asked if there is any arm wrestling or influence we can use with price gouging. She doesn't have any problem with helping companies stay solvent.
- Dr. Hopson said our contract and Worthingtons contract doesn't allow us to pay for routes not complete.

B. Extension of Alternative Learning Days Update

- Dr. Hopson said if we were closed for two weeks. We wouldn't have to make up days. Irrespective of how many days we missed we only have to go to June 17. We don't have to make any changes to our plans.

C. Approval of the following Student Activity Accounts

- Class of 2025
- Class of 2026
- MS School Council

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mr. Forge to approve the student activity accounts.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

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

D. Deletion of the following Student Activity Account

· Class of 2019

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. McVeigh to delete the 2019 student activity account.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

7:30

A. Recommendation to Participate in School Choice 2020-2021

B. Green Community Action

- Dr. Hopson said Josh Garcia approached us to join with Blandford and some of the other communities. It allows us to apply for grant funding for green projects, like replacing our boilers. We will have to draft and adopt fuel efficiencies.
- Ms. Fisk said they are going to hook us up with Lower Pioneer Valley to help us fill it out.
- Mr. Myers said Chester would be willing to participate as well.
- Mr. Forgue asked if it has any impact on the money received at the town level or is this in addition to.
- Ms. Fisk thought a percentage of what they qualify would be earmarked for the school.
- Mrs. LeClair said it increases the total amount you are eligible for.
- Mr. Forge asked if it matters Russell and Montgomery aren't participating.
- Mrs. Leclair said it doesn't matter, as long as some are.
- Mrs. Otterbeck so the towns that are involved will get money as well as the school.

C. Policy Changes – First Reading

IC/ICE - School Year/School Calendar

ID - School Day

IE - Organization of Instruction

IGB - Support Services Programs

IGD - Curriculum Adoption

IHAM - Health Education

IHB - Special Instructional Programs and Accommodations

IHBEA - English Language Learners

JB - Equal Educational Opportunities

JC - Attendance Areas

JCA - Assignment of Students to School

JEB - Entrance Age

JF - School Admission

JFBB-1 -School Choice (Districts choosing not to Participate)

JH - Student Absences and Excuses

JHD - Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
JICFA -Prohibition of Hazing
JICH - Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug use by Students Prohibited
JIH - Searches and Interrogations
JII - Student Complaints and Grievances
JJA - Student Organizations
JJH-R - Student Travel Regulation
JLCC - Communicable Diseases
JRA - Student Records
JRD - Student Photographs
JFABD - Homeless Students Enrollment Rights and Services

D. Delete the following Policies

JLA - Student Insurance Program
JLD - Guidance Program
JP - Student Gifts and Solicitations

- Mrs. Crane said the changes are very minor, grammar, updating sources, etc.
- JEB school entrance age is slightly different entering 1st grade case by case basis.
- Dr. Hopson said it doesn't really change our policy.
- Mr. Crane said it just makes them clearer. She asked everyone to look at them and if you have any questions, to let her or any of the policy members know.
- Dr. Hopson said we no longer need an executive session. The paras didn't get to vote before we left, and the teachers association had some changes. We don't have an agreement anymore.
- Mrs. Crane asked how does that affect the pares.
- Dr. Hopson said the paras decided to join the GEA so the executive committee decided they have input.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS 3/11/2020 (Enc.)

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. McVeigh to approve the minutes of 3/11/2020.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 11 Nays Abstain 1 Absent (Roll Call Vote)

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

Abstain: Madelyn

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. School Committee
- B. Chairperson

- Mrs. Crane is very proud of the district for doing so well and being quick and on top of things. Everyone should be happy with the fact we are learning so many new things. Things are going well from a parent perspective. This is not something you can prepare for.
- Mrs. Otterbeck would like to second that. The Youtube video was well done.
- Andy Myers
- Mr. Precanico had a virtual meeting that went well today.

C. Superintendent

Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Dr. Hopson said we covered most of the items. He gave a hand clap to administrative team the years of working with staff has helped tremendously with this online learning. Every Time we are on a conference call with the state, we find we are about two weeks ahead. Principles have been coming up with grading, assistant principals are following up with students. Thank you to staff and leadership team and thanks for all the positive comments.
- Mrs. Crane asked if we are getting good participation on the meals being picked up.
- Ms. Fisk said a little over 150 meals right now. We are moving to Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and looking at splitting in two shifts in case we need a back up.
- Dr. Hopson said Rich Holtzman from Chester called about Chester folks helping with meals, but currently our adjustment counselors are getting an opportunity to see students, and parents are picking up work.

D. Business Manager - none

E. Administration

- Mrs. Coburn seconded what everyone else has said. Teachers and staff are really stepping up to the plate making sure students are getting what they need.
- Mr. Finnie agreed as well.
- Mr. Duggan signed on at 7:58 p.m.

F. Town

- Towns - Andy towns are looking at ways to hold elections and town meetings.
- Dr. Hopson said Blandford's town meeting is pushed to the end of June and town elections have not been set yet.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation –Next Meeting

- Mrs. Crane said the evaluation committee decided to go ahead with the usual survey. At the May 13 meeting we will have the survey materials ready with two weeks to complete.

B. Legislative Liaison - none

C. Policy Subcommittee

- Was on the agenda under new business

D. Building Liaisons - none

X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

XI. INFORMATION

Information

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

Warrant

AP#1061	\$263,210.75	PR#019	\$405,148.96
AP#1066	\$78,208.76	PR#020	\$403,084.80
AP#1068	\$58,570.36		

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

8:35 or earlier

A. Union Negotiations – Paraprofessionals- not needed

XIII. ADJOURNMENT at 9 p.m. unless extended by majority vote.

Mrs. Garfield made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to adjourn at 8:03 p.m.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy L Stewart,
School Committee Secretary