

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.

JOINT BUDGET/REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 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

CHESTER
Jason Fogue
Martha Otterbeck
Shirley Winer

HUNTINGTON
Darlene McVeigh
Melissa Nazzaro

MIDDLEFIELD
Sarah Foley

MONTGOMERY
Madelyn Austin

RUSSELL
Sarah Page
Lyndsey Papillon

SECRETARY
Stacy Stewart

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
Robert Austin

OTHERS: Joe Kearns, John Baldasaro, Jim Duggan, Andy Myers, Josh Garcia, Amy Porter

- Mrs. Crane opened the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

7:05 p.m. **II. PUBLIC INPUT FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA (3 Minute Limit) - None**

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

- Robert Austin said reindeer games was hosted without incident and seniors came out on top. Mid-terms are happening right now. Students are moving into the second semester where they will have different electives. The semi-formal is planned for next Friday, January 25. Tickets are on sale until this Friday, January 18. Girl’s basketball is 5-2 and has a game this Friday. Boys haven’t had any wins yet.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Request Letter of Support from MASC Regarding Claw Back Support

- Mrs. Crane handed out the letter she drafted. She also had the legislative information from Mr. Myers. She didn’t get to into too much detail. If it is okay we can vote on it and send it out.
- Dr. Hopson was contacted by Smitty Pignatelli’s office. He told his aide to contact Mr. Myers with questions.

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Nazzaro to approve the letter of support from MASC regarding claw back support.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 8 Nays Abstain Absent 2 (Motion Carried)

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

Absent: Darlene, Martha

7:30 V. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. GEA and MTA Fund Our Future Campaign – Jim Duggan

- Mr. Duggan read the information handed out in the packet.

Mr. Otterbeck arrived at 7:15 p.m.

- He asked for us to consider sending it to the media as well as the legislators.
- Dr. Hopson asked what the MTA is looking at for tweaking the foundation formula.
- Mr. Duggan is not quite sure. He cannot articulate it well enough. He has heard the question where is the money going to come from? Their plan is to put pressure on the legislature to figure it out. He thinks it might be heavier taxes on those with higher incomes.
- Dr. Hopson said under the report from the legislature over a billion dollars added gives Gateway nothing. They may have calculated it differently.
- Move to Old Business for a vote at the next meeting.

B. Policies – Minutes

- JHD – Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
 - JICH – Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug use by Students Prohibited
 - JII – Student Complaints and Grievances
 - JJE – Student Fundraising Activities
 - JLCB – Inoculations of Students
 - JLCC – Communicable Diseases
 - JLCD – Administering Medicines to Students
 - JQ – Student Fees, Fines, and Charges
- Mrs. Crane said there are minor changes to each one. They are plowing through.

7:30 VI. JOINT BUDGET SESSION WITH TOWN OFFICIALS

A. FY '20 Line Item Budget

- FY 20 Line Item Budget – information will now be on cleargov.
- This will go out to school committee and those who have been coming from the towns. The line item budget will go up publicly at the point where people will be asking questions before voting at meetings.
- Ms. Fisk talked about budget. It looks like there will be a 0% increase for health insurance. The residential placement came in at one of the lower facilities. The green shows where people have had a question. If you click on it, it will give you the question and the answer. It doesn't change the numbers. School Committee should receive an email from Cleargov for everyone to set up their own password. The community will have access once it goes live.
- Mrs. Crane asked about stabilization accounts. There is \$10,000 in compensated absences.
- Dr. Hopson said we kept them down because the towns wanted us to keep the budget down.
- Mr. Myers liked the format from last year. Started at minimum and gave them options for adding items.
- Dr. Hopson said vocational, curriculum, and preschool are the additions.
- Mr. Baldasaro said Chester is going to be difficult. The select board is fighting with the assessors. Our evaluations went down so our tax rate is going up \$1.60 to over \$21.

Mrs. McVeigh arrived at 7:41 p.m.

- Dr. Hopson said OPEB is going to be the one he would fund. If there is any extra money it would make sense to put in there.
- Mr. Baldasaro asked about sharing the economic developer.
- Dr. Hopson said we have put 20% of the salary in the budget.
- Mr. Baldasaro thinks she has done a great idea.
- Mrs. Foley asked with the revamps done to elementary PE does that mean we aren't replacing one retiring. How does that look.

- Dr. Hopson said we could have Megan write something up. But we have been working on the schedule and there are places we don't need as much. This spring we will do some work on a math person. Our main concern right now is curriculum.
- Mrs. McVeigh said their tax went up 83 cents. 54 cents is the increase for assessment revaluation.
- Mr. Garcia said Blandford's tax rate went down 36 cents.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS 11/14/18, 12/12/18 (Enc.)

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve the minutes of 11/14/18.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 8 Nays Abstain Absent 2 (Motion Carried)

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

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve the minutes of 12/12/18.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 10 Nays Abstain Absent (Motion Carried)

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

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mrs. Foley said the seniors are starting to get information on the Disney Trip.

B. Chairperson

Yearbook Ad

- Mrs. Crane is collecting \$14.00 from each member for the yearbook ad. She said Mrs. Long will get them something. Check should be made payable to GRSD.

C. Superintendent

Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Dr. Hopson said the joint collaborative MARS meeting is on January 24.
- Mrs. McVeigh has reserved Stanton Hall.
- Mrs. Nazzaro won't be there.

D. Business Manager - None

E. Administration - None

F. Town - None

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation - Next Meeting 1/9/19

- Met tonight. Their management meeting February 13th.

B. Legislative Liaison - None

C. Policy Subcommittee – Next Meeting 3/6/19

- Mrs. McVeigh asked about Policies – coaches and teachers with allergies– in their policies they have policies to address those specifically. Should we consider a policy for that.
- Dr. Hopson said in some cases the MASC policies are more generic –and the plan or procedure is more in depth. He will look into it.

D. Building Liaisons

X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

XI. INFORMATION

Information

GEF thanks donors for support on Giving Tuesday
Gateway winter sports season openers

Gateway bands and choirs announce winter concerts
 100% success for Gateway musicians!
 First Quarter honor roll for High School
 Middle School Effort Awards announced
 Chester 2nd Grade leading Food Drive
 Holiday break coming up for Gateway Schools
 Red Cross Club pet collection for Westfield Animal Shelter
 Gateway musicians selected for Junior District Music Festival
 Superintendent's Corner December 7, 2018
 Gateway students serve and plan for senior residents
 Superintendent's Corner December 14, 2018
 "Love on a Leash" program rewards 'pawsome' readers
 Education Foundation seeks business sponsors
 Meet Brandon Lanpher, the newest member of the HCA team
 "Breakfast in the Classroom" changes the school day

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

Warrant

AP#1041	\$34,713.92	PR#012	\$364,498.20
AP#1044	\$27,374.00	PR#013	\$373,599.68
AP#1049	\$62.34	PR#014	\$346,994.24
AP#1048	\$205,242.44		

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Austin made a motion seconded by Mrs. Nazzaro to adjourn at 8:04 p.m.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,
 Stacy L Stewart,
 School Committee Secretary