

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 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 Fogue
Shirley Winer

HUNTINGTON

Darlene McVeigh
Melissa Nazzaro
Aaron Welch

MIDDLEFIELD

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

Deanna LeBlanc, High/Middle Assistant Principal

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: Andy Myers, Ruth Kennedy, Dan Jacques, Joe Kearns

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

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

- Robert Austin said the girl's basketball team had their senior night and they won. They are undefeated and their next game is Monday. Friday is the boy's basketball senior night. The boys won their first game in a couple of years. Wrestling is doing well. Middle school had their play and it went very well. Rehearsals for high school play start the week after winter vacation. "Big Fish" is the play. The middle school talent show is coming up soon. Auditions were supposed to be today. Student council is starting the next showcase showdown and the theme is children's books.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. GEA and MTA Fund Our Future Campaign

Mrs. Papillon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to support the GEA and MTA Fund for our Future Campaign.

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

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

B. Policies

- a. JHD – Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
- b. JICH – Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug use by Students Prohibited
- c. JII – Student Complaints and Grievances
- d. JJE – Student Fundraising Activities
- e. JLCB – Inoculations of Students
- f. JLCC – Communicable Diseases
- g. JLCD – Administering Medicines to Students
 JLCD-R - Procedures/Protocols to implement JLCB. These protocols are what we are currently using as required by the state but at the last meeting, we had a request to include these in the policy book.
- h. JQ – Student Fees, Fines, and Charges

Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to approve policies A-H.

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

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

7:30 V. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Field Trips

- a. 7th Grade Trip to Ellis Island & Statue of Liberty
- b. Model UN Overnight to UMASS

Mr. Fogue made a motion seconded by Mr. Welch to suspend the two-meeting rule to vote on field trips.

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

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

Mrs. Garfield made a motion seconded by Mrs. Winer to approve the field trips presented.

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

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

B. Reschedule of Half Day Cancelled due to Weather

- Dr. Hopson said we had to cancel one of the half days of professional development due to weather. We have staff that need to finished escalation and CPR training. We are looking to schedule it on March 19.

C. Policy JICFB – Bullying

D. Policy JFABE – Educational Opportunities for Military Children

- Dr. Hopson said these are policy changes that are required by DESE that have not been changed by MASC yet, but we are in the review, so we are proposing the changes now. These are two of the items that need to be changed. If we can vote now it will be done before they come again and won't be part of the plan.

Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to waive the two-meeting rule to vote on policies C & D.

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

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

Mrs. Nazzaro made a motion seconded by Mr. Welch to approve policies C & D.

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

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

E. School Calendar 2019-2020

- Dr. Hopson said the only change is the two half days in January. They have been moved to the fall so everyone can have professional development. The last two years we have missed days due to weather.
- Mrs. Balboni asked if the teachers have seen this.
- Dr. Hopson said yes. They had two options. This is the one they chose.

F. Draft Regional Agreement

- Dr. Hopson said we have finally agreed at the MARS meetings. It is time for the school committee to vote in March. If there are any questions, there are a lot of people in this room who have spent time picking away at the words. Collaboration over the past couple years has really paid off.
- Mrs. Crane said it is really important for people to take a look at this and make sure you are ready to vote.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked if it includes the wording from the last facilitated discussion. She asked for a word copy.
- Dr. Hopson will send the copy to everyone direct.
- Mrs. Crane said we will have weighted votes now. The way the committee is elected is not going to change.

G. Potential Joining of the Collaborative for Educational Services

- Dr. Hopson said we were members many years ago. They have been trying to get us to join for a while. It has gotten to the point where the professional development is expensive enough to make it worth it for us to join. We would be able to have say in how the collaborative moves forward. One of the committee members would sit on the board along with Dr. Hopson. We have to make at least three of the six meetings. We would have to vote to join and who will attend the meeting. He said Bill Diehl the director would be happy to come and meet with us in March.
- Mr. Forgue asked if we do all our professional development with them
- Dr. Hopson said no, but we have paid to do professional development with them. It is becoming harder to find the professional development for arts, etc.

Mrs. Nazzaro made a motion seconded by Mr. Forgue to go into executive session at or before 8:30 p.m. or earlier for the purpose of Union Negotiations: Secretaries, Custodians, and Paraprofessionals, to return to open session.

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

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

7:30 VI. JOINT BUDGET SESSION WITH TOWN OFFICIALS**A. FY '20 Budget**

- Dr. Hopson asked if there are any questions about the budget. He understands the towns cannot afford a 3.75% increase. He received an email that Hinds' has filed legislation for rural school money at \$400 per students. If we anticipate getting \$157,000 in rural school aid, it brings it down to around 2%. If we don't get rural school aid we are short. We would look at things that don't have people in them yet - curriculum, chapter 74 teacher or communications. No one wants to cut those. If we get it we are golden, if we don't it could be worse.
- Ms. Fisk said it looks like it could be in the grant form on the DESE page. It is better to put it in now and anticipate. It could also be in chapter 70. If we can agree it is a little odd of a year for their budgeting, we can continue to look at our revenue stream and our assessments. Hampshire County voted for the 0% premium increase.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked how much does that come to.
- Dr. Hopson said about \$90,000 in curriculum, \$20,000 in Public Information, and \$50,000 in the early childhood.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked if it includes benefits.
- Ms. Fisk said no, but there will be changes between now and then and potentially what we talk about in executive session.
- Dr. Hopson said as you can see the projected assessments really don't make a lot of sense in terms of evening it out. It could be an 18% swing based upon statutory assessments. You will have to vote on how you are going to send out the budget assessments.
- Dan Jacques asked if we adopt the new regional agreement do we still have to do this.
- Dr. Hopson said yes, you could never get rid of the statutory method.

- Mrs. McVeigh asked how much are we reimbursed for preschool students.
- Ms. Fisk thinks it is around \$4,000 for all students both full day and half day.
- Ms. Fisk said on page 2 chapter 70 first came out at \$20. We think it is going to go to \$25 per student. Last year it was \$50. She is not sure it will get to 50. The next set of numbers will come out the end of April.
- Dr. Hopson said MASS is recommending that the minimum per student aid is \$100. We will be fortunate if we know before the end of June.
- Mrs. Crane asked if we have anything new on claw back.
- Andy Myers said at the last MARS meeting Dr. Hopson introduced a new method, and that was legislation to take claw back money out of pothole money. We need to get one of our legislators to file legislation.
- Dr. Hopson said both MASS and MASC are on board to support that.
- Mrs. Crane asked if we have an idea on how they feel about this.
- Dr. Hopson said Mr. Myers followed up and they thought this was easier than taking on MSBA. If we get this it would be a bonus this year. It would make sense to fund some of those things we have not been able to fund.
- Mr. Myers would advocate investing some of that in the high school to bring families in. He asked about the census.
- There was discussion about vocational school and the deadlines.
- Ms. Fisk said these revenue numbers will change right up through June.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked about regional transportation.
- Ms. Fisk said there has been a decrease.
- Mrs. McVeigh said the reason for the decrease is because we cut a bus.
- Ms. Fisk said yes.
- Mr. Fogue said in terms of claw back, he is all about going after the pothole money. He asked if we are still pursuing the MSBA.
- Dr. Hopson said MSBA has made their decision and it is no.
- Ruth Kennedy asked if Worthington has been paying their assessment.
- Ms. Fisk said yes.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS 1/9/19 (Enc.)

Mr. Fogue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to approve the minutes of 1/9/19.

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

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

Abstain: Tara, Terri, Aaron

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mrs. McVeigh said all of the information we have sent her has been forwarded to the rural schools initiative since the school budget represents such a big piece. It is an issue facing other residents of the towns, seniors, fire departments, roads, etc. They are reaching out to Michael Buoniconti for setting up a joint discussion. She said it is nice to see three students from Gateway are going to Boston.
- Dr. Hopson said the 2292 act for funding for rural schools - pushing that would be the next step. The students go the week after February break.

B. Chairperson

Yearbook Ad

- Mrs. Crane reminded members she was collecting \$14.00 each. Checks can be made to GRSD. The ad is done.

C. Superintendent

Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Dr. Hopson said we got approval for part A of vocational program. They are working on part B over February break. He has an online meeting with CELT – small school rural data dashboard. A bunch of people from other states have been able to do this so data is all in one place. You have to be a small school to be a part of it.
- Mrs. Balboni has a question about the chapter 74. She asked if we going to promote that the same way vocational schools promote the crap out of their programs.

- Mrs. LeBlanc said that is one of the steps. That information is already out to 7th and 8th grade students. Guidance counselors are meeting with the middle school after vacation.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked if the chapter 70 is reimbursed.
- Ms. Fisk there is a special increment.
- Ruth Kennedy asked if it is data on students.
- Dr. Hopson said it is the data that the state already collects.
- Mrs. LeBlanc said our information is in several different places and this pulls it all together.
- Mrs. Nazzaro asked if the \$157,000 doesn't materialize this year and that teacher doesn't get funded, what happens to the Chapter 74 program.
- Dr. Hopson said you wouldn't be able to have to the program. If we were short \$30,000 the leadership team would take a look at things and say we need to cut here.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked if we have an idea of how many students are interested.
- Mrs. LeBlanc said we had 84 responses. 51% were interested in learning 26% would take that.

D. Business Manager

- Ms. Fisk said if we can save enough money in transportation again we would purchase another van. Then we will be reaching out to the towns to see if they could use it for vocational transportation.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked if current employees are driving the van.
- Ms. Fisk yes. All paraprofessionals hired now are required to get a 7D license. Our transportation coordinator works half day and then drives the other half. Someone in-house will be able to train for 7D eventually. We should have 3 available.

E. Administration

- Mrs. LeBlanc said they are working on the safe and supportive schools grant and middle school math. Three separate teams have been formed.

F. Town

- None

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation - Next Meeting 2/13/19

- Met tonight for their middle of the year management meeting.

B. Legislative Liaison

- None

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

- Next meeting is before the public hearing.

D. Building Liaisons

- None

X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

KEVS Foundation – Susan Kanning – AED Donation – March 27

XI. INFORMATION

Information

Sophomore serves environment while hiking
 Updated athletic information on Gateway Website
 Holiday, two half-days coming up for Gateway
 January School Committee meetings
 Superintendent's Corner January 4, 2019
 "Cheaper by the Dozen" at Gateway in February
 Superintendent's Corner January 11, 2019
 Parent input sought for Tiered Focused Monitoring at Gateway
 Superintendent's Corner January 18, 2019
 Foundation Board to meet
 Gateway Gamers Night January 25, 2019
 Littleville art show, musical on January 24, 2109
 Cheaper by the Dozen: a play on increasing domestic product
 Gateway Model UN members take top awards at first conference
 Superintendent's Corner, January 25, 2019

Gateway grows peer support for tech-savvy teachers
 Winter sports Senior Nights coming up!

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

Warrant

AP#1051	\$93,373.75	PR#015	\$358,925.14
AP#1054	\$54.94	PR#016	\$381,484.87
AP#1055	\$169,064.48		
AP#1058	\$45,537.26		

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

Mrs. Nazzaro made a motion seconded by Mr. Forgue to go into executive session at or before 8:30 p.m. or earlier for the purpose of Union Negotiations: Secretaries, Custodians, and Paraprofessionals, to return to open session.

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

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

A. Union Negotiations: Secretaries, Custodians, Paraprofessionals

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Forgue 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, Jason, Terri, Melissa, Sarah P., Darlene, Lyndsey, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

Respectfully Submitted,
 Stacy L Stewart,
 School Committee Secretary