

**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, MARCH 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

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  
Deanna LeBlanc, High/Middle Assistant Principal

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: Mike LaFleur, Andy Myers, Peter Spotts, Stephanie Conway, Ruth Kennedy, Jeri Beauregard, Cara Letendere, Chris Tamburrino

- Mrs. Crane opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Peter Spotts is recording the meeting

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

---

**II. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT**

- Robert Austin said the clocks and bells are back. Winter sports are over. Spring sports sign ups are in process. The Cabaret is the 28th, the show choir show down is the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the middle school talent show is the 15<sup>th</sup>. High school auditions are tomorrow. Robert and his friend Caiden will MC it. St. Paddy's Spirit day is on Friday, March 15. Spring fling preparation is going on.

---

**III. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITION**

**A. Collaborative for Educational Services – Bill Diehl**

- Bill Diehl, president of Collaborative handed out a folder with a description of the collaborative. They started out developing programs for special education students and then helping districts implement them. The packet includes a services overview, their mission, their-five year strategic plan with four goals, a list of

Hampshire county districts with what they are taking advantage of, what the teachers have gone to over the last few years, and other services Gateway receives from them.

- Dan Hayes, Shutesbury school committee member also on the collaborative said the selling point is you receive a discount and a voice. The collaborative works with the district to solve their needs or connect them with others who can help solve their needs. They help with physical therapy, professional development in ELL, reading, social justice, 504 training, and legal counsel services. The collaborative was instrumental in giving the legislator's data and information on question 2; how charter schools would impact other school districts.
- Bill Diehl said the collaborative has become a spokesperson for small rural school districts. It is an ideal time to re-join. Legislation was voted by the house and the senate to elevate collaboratives in the commonwealth.
- Mrs. Crane asked about our representation. If we do join we have to vote to have a representative attend meetings.
- Dan Hayes said their meetings are from 6:30-9:00 p.m. and meet every other month. Sometimes they have subcommittees that meet more often. The board has a fiduciary responsibility and they evaluate Bill.
- Mrs. McVeigh said so the board is responsible for setting the budget. When is it approved?
- Bill Diehl said it is presented in May and voted on in June.
- Mrs. McVeigh said the fees are set based on the October 1 figures. What is the average fee?
- Bill Diehl said \$3.50 a student. They have to prove to DESE they are cost effective.
- Dan Hayes said you have to make sure the customer is satisfied. There is constant reflection on the programs they have. They have to be competitive. They strive to be better.
- Mr. Forgue said there is no money from the state, but you have a contract with the state.
- Bill Diehl said they have grant contracts with the state, but no line item. There was never money from the state in MA. NY and CT have line items from the state. They don't answer to DESE they answer to the districts.
- Mrs. Nazzaro said every other month, are the meetings in Northampton or do they move around.
- Dan Hayes said one is in Northampton and one is in Greenfield.
- Mrs. Foley had to go for her SEI endorsement and they are in her mailbox quite a bit.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked about the social justice training.
- Bill Diehl said they did a self-study; they have staff very well trained in those areas. School districts have increasing incidents. They helped Easthampton. It could be professional development or listening sessions.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked who gives them the ideas and support.
- Dan Hayes said the conferences are very focused with students participating. Students talked about poverty and the impact.
- Mr. Myers asked about the Mt. Tom Academy.
- Bill Diehl said it is a school for students who have trouble adjusting to their schools. Some have issues and some are bored and can take extra courses. It's held at HCC.
- Dan Hayes said it was a way to get kids through high school and the district gets credit for the graduate.

#### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**

##### **A. Reschedule of Half Day Cancelled due to Weather – New Date March 19**

*Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to reschedule the half-day on March 19, 2019.*

*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

##### **B. School Calendar 2019-2020**

*Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Nazzaro to approve the FY '20 School Calendar.*

*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

##### **C. Draft Regional Agreement**

***Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to approve the Regional Agreement.***

- Mrs. McVeigh said we plan to put the regional agreement before the towns in May and June. There is a notation on the DESE website that states new or amended agreements must be approved prior to December 31. We will vote on it this year, but it will become effective FY 20/21.
- Dr. Hopson said that is DESE's process right now.
- Mrs. Crane asked do you think it will apply to us.
- Dr. Hopson said they gave us two years to do it.
- Mr. Forgue said he has only been to some of the meetings. Not every town is as represented as others. What happens when one town is against it?
- Mrs. Crane said we would try again.
- Mrs. McVeigh said we asked the MARS team to put together the summary of changes. Collectively we should invite all select boards to a meeting (March 28 next facilitated) and spend the meeting answering questions and concerns the select board members have. Then we have done everything we can.
- Mr. Forgue agrees and thinks that we have done that already and they haven't come. He was at a meeting last night and there were concerns. They didn't like lease for free portion. It struck him that the people who had concerns weren't at a lot of the meetings.
- Ms. Fisk said we used to lease the schools for a \$1. That's the history.
- Dr. Hopson said we can't enter into a lease one-sided. If a town doesn't agree we can't lease a building.
- Mrs. McVeigh said that is the part that hasn't changed.
- Mrs. Papillon said she Mrs. Balboni, and Mrs. Page felt the same way about a meeting they invited Mrs. McVeigh to two weeks ago. As they go they share information. The facilitated part is a problem solving process; it is frustrating when those towns don't participate. It is so frustrating when we have worked so hard.
- Cara Letendre asked if the wording for the warrant articles had been sent to the towns.
- Dr. Hopson said no, school committee has to vote first.
- Mrs. Crane said we as a body need to agree to this.
- Dr. Hopson went over the synopsis. School committee designated a group to work on the regional agreement and send the suggestions to the committee. Once the committee approves it it then goes on to the towns and DESE for approval. He asked Attorney Russell Dupere if this was going at the rate it should and he said yes. The towns should send it to legal council to look at and get one legal opinion for several towns. It was a unanimous vote at the last facilitated discussion meeting.

***Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to approve the Regional Agreement.***

***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

**D. Potential Joining of the Collaborative for Educational Services**

***Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to join the Collaborative for Educational Services.***

- Mrs. Winer still has questions. She doesn't think we shouldn't join, but she doesn't quite understand it.
- Dr. Hopson said they get their money from the fees of members, charging for services, and grants. He said we left when we had the budget crisis, and not that many teachers participated in the professional development, but now they have increased their services.
- Mrs. Foley asked Mr. Garivaltis for his thoughts.
- Mr. Garivaltis said for the special education portion, we are fortunate to have the skills for special education here. There professional development is rock solid.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked if Attorney Russell Dupere has looked at the contract.
- Ruth Kennedy asked if the \$3.50 per student is all the students the towns are responsible for.
- Dr. Hopson said it is the students on our census.
- Mr. Forgue asked if we are eligible for all the services.
- Dr. Hopson said yes, but there is a fee. We would save 20%.
- Ms. Fisk said the purchasing services portion is going to help pay for it as well.

***Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to join the Collaborative for Educational Services.***

*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

**7:30 V. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**

**A. High School Band/Choir Overnight Field Trip to New York City**

**B. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Band/Choir Day Field Trip to New York City**

*Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to waive the two meeting rule to vote on both field trips.*

*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

- Mrs. Papillon asked what the difference is between trips.
- Mrs. Beauregard said the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders go down for an activity and see a performance. The high school is actually a competition and a Broadway production. They are going to see King Kong for the set design and the function of the gorilla. They will also see Ellis Island, Statue of Liberty, 911 museum, and to see some sets. She has quite a few going. This is an overnight from April 26-28. They leave at 5:00 a.m. on the 26<sup>th</sup> and arrive back at 10:00 p.m. on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to approve both field trips.*

*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

**C. Approval for Superintendent to attend 2020 AASA Conference**

- Dr. Hopson said went as a rep a few years ago when he was the president of the executive board. As a member of the executive team there is more for him. It is in San Diego next year.
- Move to next meeting for a vote.

**7:30 VI. JOINT BUDGET SESSION WITH TOWN OFFICIALS**

**A. FY '20 Budget Adoption**

- Dr. Hopson said there is not a lot to say as we've been working together on this.
- Ms. Fisk did put together a statutory verses alternative assessment comparison.
- Dr. Hopson said the 1.79% increase is based on some rural school aide. Hopefully we will get it.
- Mrs. McVeigh said so we would be presenting to the towns the budget and the assessment method we vote on tonight. If we go with the 1.97% increase and the towns all approve that and the legislature can't make up their mind, once we get the revenue numbers if we are under what we projected there will be a gap. The school committee would have to back and make cuts.
- Dr. Hopson said yes or we would have to go back to the towns.
- Mrs. Crane asked Dr. Hopson and Ms. Fisk how confident we are we will receive the funding.
- Dr. Hopson said it's always a crap table. There are 3 chapter 70 reform bills out there. We did get rural school money last year. Whether we get chapter 70 in the formula or Senator Hinds' bill, none of the current chapter 70 reform acts address hold harmless schools. For once there are a large number of legislators who won't get help. Also, this month's revenue is actually up.
- Mrs. McVeigh said at the budget hearing we didn't discuss what the cuts would come from.
- Dr. Hopson said cuts would not come from positions that we already have people in.
- Andy Myers asked if the census is ready and if it has had an effect since January.
- Mrs. Stewart said yes it is ready, but it is not much different.
- Mrs. Papillon asked about the language for the budget. Will the towns will be sent the language.
- Andy Myers would suggest we have some discussion about the options. Presenting the towns with the alternative method, they should know if it doesn't pass that we can go back. When we send out the assessments there should be some direction on what happens.
- Dr. Hopson said maybe he and Andy can put something together. Russell could go up substantially. Under the statutory method it could go down and under the alternative it could go up. It could wipe out any loss in any given year.

- Mrs. Balboni said the reminder is that it gives them the opportunity to plan.

***Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to approve the 2000 account total \$8,255,428 - instructional.***

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

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

***Mrs. Garfield made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to approve the 3000 account total \$1,730,451 - other school services.***

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

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

***Mrs. Nazzaro made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to approve the total FY '20 budget \$16,569,437.***

***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. Fogue made a motion seconded by Mrs. McVeigh to approve assessments based on the alternative method.***

***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

## **VII. CONSENT ITEMS 2/13/19, 3/6/19 (Enc.'s)**

***Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to approve the minutes of 2/13/19 with corrections.***

***Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays Abstain 2 Absent (Roll Call Vote)***

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

***Mrs. Nazzaro made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to approve the minutes of 3/6/19.***

***Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays Abstain 2 Absent (Roll Call Vote)***

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

## **VII. COMMUNICATIONS**

### **A. School Committee**

- Mrs. Papillon said the middle school band performance was well attended.
- Mrs. Balboni said on May 8 we will hold our retirement ceremony. She volunteered herself and her Russell reps. to help out. Keep your eye out for an email.

### **B. Chairperson**

Yearbook Ad – All paid for.

### **C. Superintendent**

Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Dr. Hopson said we need an executive session. He said our high school Spanish teacher is leaving due to health issues. We are 97 percent certain that a teacher from another district will be going on the Costa Rica Trip. Mrs. Stewart also volunteered to go if needed.

### **D. Business Manager**

Transportation Study Appointment Information (Enc.)

- Ms. Fisk talked about her new appointment on the study for student transportation. They need to have a report by December. There are 11 members on the committee.

#### **E. Administration**

- Mr. Garivaltis said they just finished the tiered focus audit. The exit interview was Monday. There are some areas of commendation and a couple of tweaks. He will believe it when he sees it. At this point it was a positive exit interview.
- Mr. Finnie went to the follow up NEASC meeting. The person who led the review realized our report is stuck in his cue, so we won't see the recommendations/final report until July.
- Mr. Forgue said we have 3 of our students participating in junior districts at UMASS on Saturday.

#### **F. Town - None**

*Mrs. Nazzaro made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to go into executive session at or before 8:45 p.m. for the purpose of Union Negotiations; Custodians and Secretaries, not to return to open session.*

*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

### **IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING**

**A. Superintendent's Evaluation** - Next Meeting 4/24/19

**B. Legislative Liaison** - None

**C. Policy Subcommittee**

- Policy is done. There will be a list coming for next time.

**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**

Superintendent's Corner February 25, 2019

High school offering ASVAB exam

New Half day scheduled for March 19

Gateway Night at Thunderbirds hockey game

Retired grandmother knits blankets and mittens for preschool classroom

Red Cross Blood Drive at Gateway

March School Committee meetings

Goal: one parent per grade level for special ed workshop

Middle School Talent Show on March 15

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

#### **Warrant**

AP#1065 \$60,883.20

PR#018 \$339,749.46

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

**or earlier**

*Mrs. Nazzaro made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to go into executive session at or before 8:45 p.m. for the purpose of Union Negotiations; Custodians and Secretaries, not to return to open session.*

*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

A. Union Negotiations: Secretaries, Custodians

---

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

*Mrs. Page made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to adjourn 8:35 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