

**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, MARCH 27, 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 Forgue  
Martha Otterbeck  
Shirley Winer

HUNTINGTON

Darlene McVeigh  
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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: Meghan Crane, Peter Spotts, Jodi Cabral-Croke

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

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**III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT**

- Meghan Crane said she is designing the spring fling shirts. Student Council’s blood drive was last Friday. They just finished a showcase competition. The freshmen are winning. Spring sport’s has started. The Best Buddies prom is next Friday. Gateway night at the Springfield Thunderbirds is coming up. The Cabaret is tomorrow night. New NHS members were notified. The induction is April 10 at 6 p.m.

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**IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITION**

**A. KEVS Foundation – AED Donation – Susan Canning**

- Susan Canning, director of KEVS foundation along with Megan Believeau, committee member gave a brief overview of the Kevs Foundation. Kevs Foundation is a non-profit created to raise awareness of sudden cardiac arrest in young adults. We lose a student 1 every three days in this country. They survive on donations. One donation will replace an AED that is no longer working and another is for school-sponsored events such as on the athletic fields. A law requiring them on the field was passed in 2017. The one bill pending at the state house is a video that helps students recognize signs and symptoms of cardiac arrest and how to respond.
- Mrs. Balboni asked how you know where all the AED’s are.

- Jodi Cabral-Croke said there is a protocol that the coaches sign off on. They bring it on the field and then return it.
- Susan Canning said on the foundation website there is a training that the district may want to have the staff watch.
- Mrs. Otterbeck asked about outside places, tournaments, ski areas, etc.
- Susan Canning said not all of them have them, but Blandford for instance has three of them. Laws are becoming more stringent. She has started heart screenings that any student can go to. The Keys Foundation Facebook page lists all the events.

## V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

### A. Approval for Superintendent to attend 2020 AASA Conference

*Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve the Superintendent's attendance at the 2020 AASA Conference.*

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

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

## 7:30 VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

### A. Policies – Updated (minutes enc.)

- KBA – School-Parent/Guardian Relations Goals
- KBBA – Non-Custodial Parent's Rights
- KBE – Relations with Parent/Booster Organizations
- KCD – Public Gifts to the Schools
- KDB – Public's Right to Know
- KDD – News Media Relations/News Releases
- KE – Public Complaints
- KHB – Advertising in the Schools
- KI – Visitors to the Schools
- LDA – Student Teaching and Internships

### B. Policies Deleted

- KJA – Relations with Booster Organizations
  - KEB & KEB-R – Public Complaints about School Personnel
  - KEC – Public Concerns/Complaints about Instructional Resources
- Mrs. Crane said this is the end of the list. The ones that are being deleted have been consolidated with others on the list. The policies have minor changes.

### C. School Committee Goals

- Mrs. Crane said she, Dr. Hopson, and Mrs. Long updated them. If anyone has any questions or would like anything added to let her know.

## VII. CONSENT ITEMS 3/13/19 (Enc)

*Mr. Fogue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Winer to approve the minutes of 3/13/19.*

*Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 8 Nays Abstain 2 Absent 1 (Roll Call Vote)*

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

Abstain: Martha, Aaron

Absent: Tara

## XIII. COMMUNICATIONS

### A. School Committee

- Mrs. Otterbeck said the talent show was a ton of fun and they did an excellent job. There were 17 performers; anything from singing, stand up comedy to music.
- Mrs. McVeigh said she sent the rural commonwealth letter to our legislative delegation. It also needs to go out to Don Humason and Smitty Pignatelli. They are asking to have a sit down meeting in Boston with our legislators to explain the impact; the lack there of for school funding and its impact on municipal budgets.

They are trying to attack this issue from both fronts; impact on students and ability for small rural towns to move forward. It limits our funding for town projects. She will keep the committee apprised of the date. She also thanked Ms. Fisk for helping with one of the Huntington students who was severely injured in an auto accident. They have just been cleared to go back to school and is in a wheel chair. They had a productive discussion on some of the options. Paying the parents a mileage rate was one option. She is also trying to get the contract from Chester to see what is in it. There is also another Huntington student who recently broke both legs.

#### **B. Chairperson**

Representative to Attend Collaborative Meetings

- Mrs. Crane worked on a letter with Mrs. Long and Dr. Hopson for lobbying for various budget issues. We cannot use school resources to send it out. She is going to try to get it on the parents of Gateway students Facebook page. A reminder that school committee members must use personal emails.
- Mrs. Balboni said the idea is to get it in the hands of everyone.
- Mrs. Crane said because we voted to join the collaborative we need to start thinking about who wants to attend the meetings. It is the fourth Wednesday of the month. We can do that in July with the rest of appointments during reorganization. She asked everyone to start thinking about it. It might be an interesting meeting to see what other school districts are dealing with.

#### **C. Superintendent**

Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Dr. Hopson said we need an executive session.

*Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to to into executive session at or before 7:45 p.m. for the purpose of union negotiations: Secretaries and Custodians, to return to open session.*

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

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

- Dr. Hopson shared language and talked to DESE and DOR. Chester has come up with a different way to come up with assessments for next year. Chester paid \$17,000 of Russell's assessment last year. It comes to \$341 more for Chester and \$341 less for Russell.
- Mrs. Papillon thinks it might backfire because it is going to go up later.
- Dr. Hopson there has been no decision made because DESE or DOR has to make that decision.
- Ms. Fisk said the DOR and DESE don't communicate well. DOR probably doesn't even know DESE said it was okay for Chester to give Russell the donation.
- Mrs. McVeigh said the committee should take a vote acknowledging the transfer happened. Chester caused that problem last year and to go and change that mucks things up even more.
- Ms. Fisk said the way they worded the article was that it would come from free cash.
- Mrs. McVeigh said doesn't agree with getting the school committee involved in this. We should go with what we voted on as the alternate assessment. We would be setting a precedent. We are going to have to work hard. It is a good method. It was good last year and it is good this year.
- Dr. Hopson met with rural school coalition and put together a proposal to the state to ask for \$100,000 to help put in a position to look at transportation. There would most likely be someone at UMASS or Franklin County.
- Dr. Hopson said we went through the whole insurance process. Tomorrow is the first meeting with the PEC committee to handle the refund or savings.

#### **D. Business Manager**

- Ms. Fisk said next month the auditors will be here for the audit reports. We will have transfers, and transportation bid 1-year extension. She had her first meeting last Friday for the transportation study in Boston.
- Mrs. Austin asked if she was able to have input.
- Ms. Fisk said this meeting was more informational for the legislators.

#### **E. Administration - None**

#### **F. Town**

- Mrs. McVeigh has been working very hard to get representation from all towns at the next facilitated discussion meeting. She would be willing to go to a Montgomery meeting. Hopefully Russell will show up.
- Dr. Hopson has Mike Morrissey's questions and permission to share them tomorrow night.

Went into executive session at 7:45 p.m.

Returned to open session at 7:50 p.m

***Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. McVeigh to approve the secretaries and custodians 2019-2020 contracts.***

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

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

## **IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING**

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

B. Legislative Liaison - none

C. Policy Subcommittee - none

D. Building Liaisons

- Mrs. Winer and Mrs. Crane met with Mr. Garivaltis. This is year three for him and he has things a little more under control.

## **X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

### **Future Agenda Items**

## **XI. INFORMATION**

### **Information**

Gateway Assistant Superintendent Stephanie Fisk appointed to special commission

Gateway moves to new lunch payment system

Foundation board to meet

Baseball, Softball tryouts, registration announced

Superintendent's Corner March 8, 2019

Reminder about Gateway Night at Thunderbirds hockey game

Gateway boys address gender-based violence

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

### **Warrant**

AP#1067 \$155,296.56

PR#019 \$401,144.64

AP#1072 \$41.41

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

**or earlier**

***Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to to into executive session at or befor 7:45 p.m. for the purpose of union negotiations: Custodians and Secretaries, to return to open session.***

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

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

### **A. Union Negotiations: Secretaries, Custodians**

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

***Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.***

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

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

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Respectfully Submitted,  
Stacy L Stewart,  
School Committee Secretary