

**GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2017**

**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  
Shirley Winer  
Martha Otterbeck  
Diane Dunn

HUNTINGTON  
Ron Damon  
Aaron Welch

MIDDLEFIELD

MONTGOMERY  
Madelyn Austin

RUSSELL  
Tara Balboni  
Lyndsey Papillon

SECRETARY  
Stacy Stewart

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL  
Wendy Long, District Grant Writer

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: \_\_\_\_\_

- Mrs. Crane opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.
- The reporter is recording the meeting.

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

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**III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT - None**

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**I V. REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

- Mrs. Otterbeck stepped in as chair to run the chairperson nominations and vote.
- Mrs. Otterbeck said the first order of business was to vote for a chairperson. She then asked for nominations.

**A. Chairperson**

*Mr. Damon nominated Mrs. Crane as Chairperson*

*Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to have the secretary cast one vote for Mrs. Crane as Chairperson.*

*Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to have the secretary cast one vote if there is no competition for any of the votes.*

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Diane, Lyndsey, Martha, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

***Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to have the secretary cast one vote for Mrs. Crane as Chairperson.***

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Diane, Lyndsey, Martha, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

Mrs. Crane took over the meeting again.

**B. Vice-Chairperson**

***Mr. Damon nominated Mrs. Otterbeck as Vice-Chairperson***

***Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to have the secretary cast on vote for Mrs. Otterbeck as Vice-Chairperson.***

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

Yeas; Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Diane, Lyndsey, Martha, Aaron, Michele

Absent: Shirley

- C. Secretary (Stacy Stewart)**
- D. District Treasurer (Deborah Kuhn)**
- E. Legislative Contact**
- F. Counsel for the Committee (Dupere Law Office)**
- G. Negotiator for the Committee (Dupere Law Office)**

***Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mr. Damon to have the secretary cast one vote for each: Secretary (Stacy Stewart), District Treasurer (Deborah Kuhn), Counsel for the Committee (Dupere Law Office), and Negotiator for the Committee (Dupere Law Office).***

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Diane, Lyndsey, Martha, Aaron, Michele

Absent: Shirley

***Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to cast one vote for Mrs. Papillon as Legislative Contact.***

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Diane, Lyndey, Martha, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

- H. Sick Bank Committee (2 members) – Mr. Damon, Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Balboni (Alt.)**
- I. Negotiations Committee – Mr. Damon, Mrs. Balboni, Mrs. Winer, Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Austin**
- J. Superintendent’s Evaluation Committee – Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Garfield, Mrs. Winer, Mr. Welch, Mrs. Balboni**
- K. Policy Committee – Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Garfield, Mrs. Crane, Mr. Welch, Mrs. Otterbeck (Alt.)**
- L. Warrant Signing Committee – Mrs. Balboni, Mr. Damon, Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Crane, Mr. Welch, Mrs. Winer**

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**V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS - None**

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**7:35 - VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS - None****8:00 - VII. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS****8:30 p.m.****A. School Committee Goals/Strategic Planning**

- Dr. Hopson said the leadership team will be adding the information for the other tabs.
- Mrs. Balboni said now that we have some goals in place, are we going to have a meeting again.
- Mrs. Crane said she doesn't know, as this year we are going to try to communicate more with our towns' people.
- Mrs. Otterbeck said it might be helpful to spend a little of time at a meeting or two to see where are with goals. This will make sure we are not missing anything.
- Mrs. Balboni thinks that is a good idea.
- Mrs. Winer said the hard goals are going to be around the communications with the towns. She understands it is hard to find things on the website.
- Dr. Hopson said parts of the goals under the school committee and budget tabs have quarterly checks. It isn't a bad idea to get a report. You will be able to see where you stand with policy. You could set up to have reports on a quarterly basis.
- Mrs. Crane is going to look at the meetings where we don't have budget. She said to be prepared to approve them after you look at them.
- Eric McVeigh from Blandford said within those goals if they don't have a clearly defined metric, should start with a metric. It could be something as simple as meeting twice a month with your select board.

**B. MASS/MASC Joint Conference Attendance – November 1-4(Enc.)**

- Mrs. Papillon is willing to do Friday and Saturday.
- Mr. Welch is also interested in attending.

**VIII. CONSENT ITEMS 6/21/17, 6/28/17 (Enc.)***Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve the minutes of 6/21/17.**Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 7 Nays Abstain 2 Absent (Roll Call Vote)*

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Diane, Lyndsey, Martha, Shirley

Abstain: Aaron, Michele

*Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve the minutes of 6/28/17**Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 8 Nays Abstain 1 Absent (Roll Call Vote)*

Yeas: Madelyn, Ron, Diane, Lyndsey, Martha, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

Abstain: Tara

**IX. COMMUNICATIONS****A. School Committee - None****B. Chairperson - None****C. Superintendent**

Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Dr. Hopson said he would let Ms. Fisk update the committee on the income side of the budget.
- Assessment letters went out.

**D. Business Manager**

- Ms. Fisk said revenue is exactly what the joint committee sent up. It will go up \$30 more per student, which we budgeted for. Chapter 70 was the version from the House and Transportation was from the Senate. We don't have to amend them right now. We need to make sure when the governor signs the minimum contribution it is the same or lower.
- Mrs. Papillon said the last time we said the towns were going to get two sets of assessment letters.

- Ms Fisk said yes, they did send out both, and she emailed the towns to give them heads up that one was the 1/12<sup>th</sup> version and one was the school committee adopted version.
- Mr. Damon asked for a rough guess in terms of advertising for the school choice ads. He is suggesting we re-advertise again in August. If some are on the fence they may commit.
- Dr. Hopson said school choice is one of those things were even though we've asked to have a deadline the state won't set one.
- Mrs. Balboni said we should consider advertising on social media. Westfield has a lot of unhappy parents and they are looking for better options. Communications talked about doing a meme.
- Mrs. Winer asked what is going on in Westfield.
- Mrs. Balboni said they are reconfiguring, which has added more commuting. Parents are concerned about the quality of education. We are running a tighter ship academically especially at the middle school.
- Mrs. Crane asked what if we don't have room.
- Dr. Hopson said on school choice ads you only advertise for what is open.
- Mr. Welch asked if students from Westfield have to provide their own transportation.
- Dr. Hopson said yes.
- Ms. Fisk said if there is room on a bus, if the parent can get their child to the last stop where we transport, they may be able to ride a bus.
- Mrs. Balboni said Dr. Hopson talked about potentially getting a bus near the Granville line.
- Dr. Hopson said yes, Beech Hill Road. We have two students coming from Granville.

**E. Administration - None**

**X. COMMITTEE REPORTING**

**A. Superintendent's Evaluation**

- The next meeting will be held August 23 at 6 p.m. in the Superintendent's office.

**B. Legislative Liaison - None**

**C. Policy Subcommittee - None**

**D. Building Liaisons**

- Mrs. Crane hasn't really done much with liaisons. It worked for a while and then didn't seem to work. She is wondering if we should put the liaison thing aside for a while.
- Mrs. Winer never got any notices from schools to know what was going on.
- Mrs. Crane is say maybe we need to move and change as our priorities are change. We have a group of parents who attend a lot of activities.
- Mrs. Papillon said she was a Littleville liaison and she attended a lot of the events at night, but it was hard to get there during the day. Mrs. Coburn did reach out to them but she was not always able to make it.
- Mrs. Balboni got more invites the first year than the second.
- Mrs. Otterbeck said she is more likely to go if she knows something is going on.
- Ms. Fisk said she had good feedback from the facilities staff. They appreciated having a liaison a lot.
- Mrs. Crane said we will put this on again next time. Think about what you might want to participate in.

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

**Future Agenda Items**

**XII. INFORMATION**

**Information**

Bus Routes on Gateway Website

Fourth term honor roll for high school

Wrap Around closed July 3 and 4

Superintendent's Corner June 22, 2017

Kopacz selected for Camp Shepard Scholarship

**Warrant**

AP#1096 \$135,820.98

PR#26 \$368,669.01

AP#1100 \$530.73

PR#26.1 \$850,987.67 (lump sum)

AP#1097 \$55,062.72

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

A. Litigation: Kennedy, et al. v. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, et al. - No.:HSCV2014-00210

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**XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

*Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to adjourn at 7:54 p.m.*

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

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Ron, Diane, Lyndsey, Martha, Aaron, Shirley, Michele

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Respectfully Submitted,  
Stacy L Stewart,  
School Committee Secretary