

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016

Littleville Cafeteria

7:30 P.M.

(A PORTION OF THIS MEETING MAY BE HELD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION)

I. OPENING OF MEETING

BLANDFORD

Michele Crane
Terri Garfield

CHESTER

Shirley Winer
Martha Otterbeck
Diane Dunn

HUNTINGTON

Ron Damon
Jeff Wyand

MIDDLEFIELD

Sarah Foley

MONTGOMERY

Anne-Marie Buikus
Madelyn Austin

RUSSELL

Ruth Kennedy
Tara Balboni

SECRETARY

Stacy Stewart

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Joanne Blocker, Director of Academics
Wendy Long, District Grant Writer

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: _____

7:35 p.m. II. PUBLIC INPUT (3 Minute Limit)

- Mrs. Crane opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Mrs. Buikus and Mrs. Austin are recording the meeting.
- Loni Maciver is requesting school committee consider advancing her son to the Kindergarten program. His birthday is September 11, so he misses the cut-off by 10 days. She said that Susan Rhoads said he passed his testing and that he could go either way.
- Mrs. Crane said we will put this on the next agenda for discussion and have Mrs. Coburn here to answer any questions.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked if it had to be in executive session.
- Dr. Hopson said they wouldn't be discussing specifics about the child, so it shouldn't be necessary.
- Mrs. McVeigh said there are a lot of rumors regarding Dr. Hopson's retirement date.
- Dr. Hopson said he has 2.5 years left on his contract. He is not asking for an extension at this time.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked when the school committee would start a superintendent's search.
- Dr. Hopson said the search would start in the fall of 2017.

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

- Brennan Foley said the NHS Induction is being held April 27 at 6:00 p.m. The show choir was awarded Bronz at their competition this past weekend. The band has a competition coming up in Belchertown. The jazz band and show choir have their cabaret coming up. Spring sports have started. They had 36 people show ups for the blood drive. While they didn't meet their goal, it was successful.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS - None

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM
A. Approval of Out of State Field Trip for Seniors – Brownstone Park, CT

Mrs. Kennedy made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve the out of state field trip for seniors to Brownstone Park in CT.

- Mrs. Winer asked what it was.
- Dr. Hopson and Mrs. Balboni explained it was a park that has all kinds of activities including team building, ropes courses etc.
- Mrs. Foley asked if she should abstain from the vote as a parent of a senior.
- Dr. Hopson and Mrs. Crane didn't think it was necessary.

Mrs. Kennedy made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve the out of state field trip for seniors to Brownstone Park in CT.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Anne-Marie, Ron, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Ruth, Martha, Shirley, Jeff, Michele

B. Policy Approval

- ECAF: Security Cameras
- JB: EEO for Students
- JJIF: Concussion
- BEC: Executive Session

Mrs. Kennedy made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve policies ECAF: Security Cameras, JB: EEO for Students, JJIF: Concussion, and BEC: Executive Session.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Anne-Marie, Ron, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Ruth, Martha, Shirley, Jeff, Michele

VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS
A. Grant Approval of Potential Spring/Summer Grants

- Mrs. Long said they are the usual annual grants plus a couple of nutrition grants.
- Move to old Business for next meeting.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS 3/9/16 (Enc.)

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy to approve the minutes of 3/9/16.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 10 Nays Abstain 2 Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Anne-Marie, Diane, Terri, Ruth, Martha, Shirley, Jeff, Michele

Abstain: Ron, Sarah

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy to go into executive session at or before 8:30 p.m. for the purpose of teachers' union negotiations not to return to open session.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Anne-Marie, Ron, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Ruth, Martha, Shirley, Jeff, Michele

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

Mrs. Buikus made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy to have Mrs. Crane send a letter to the towns on behalf of the school committee thanking them for their input and letting them know we will entertain the budget again when revenue comes in in April.

- Mrs. Crane said she had copies of a letter she had drafted after the last meeting. She handed out the letter and gave school committee a few minutes to read it over.
- Mr. Damon commended Mrs. Crane for the letter she wrote.
- Mrs. Buikus thinks we should thank the towns anytime they give input to keep the lines of communication open.
- Dr. Hopson suggested withdrawing the motion since it shouldn't be under communications. He said the letter is being incorporated into the minutes as being drafted and sent.
- There were no objections to the letter. It was signed by Mrs. Crane and will be sent out to the towns either tomorrow or Monday.
- Mrs. Balboni is going to help coordinate food for the retirement function.
- Mrs. Kennedy went to the Andover show choir competition. They put their hearts and souls into it. It was well worth going. She would like to see more supporters.
- Mrs. Foley and Mrs. Garfield are planning on going to the school council meeting in the high school.

B. Chairperson - None

C. Superintendent

- Dr. Hopson said he attended a rural schools organizational meeting at Mohawk. Sixteen schools showed up. Rural schools have 17 % of the students and 65% of the land mass. Everyone is facing declining enrollment, a decrease in Chapter 70 funding, etc. They are in the process of looking for a lobbying organization. They are hoping there can be additional revenue for transportation for rural schools. Wisconsin has additional money given to meet the rural definition which is like \$300 per student. It is too late for this year. It probably won't fall under MARS since not all rural schools are regional schools. It would more likely be MASS.
- Mrs. McVeigh said if there is language she would like to have it as she is attending Rosenberg's breakfast. It is an open session.
- Dr. Hopson said it is so early in the process, so there isn't really any wording. He can put some talking points together. He will email the presentation.
- Dr. Hopson said thirteen firms requested the RFP. He received a call from one whose firm is declining to bid because the timeframe was too short. We are opening them next week. He will contact those who offered to be there.

D. Business Manager - None

E. Administration

- Mrs. Long said we received the team dating violence and intervention grant. It's 10,000 per year for 3 years. She is pulling together a team of guidance counselors, teachers and nurses. Monica Moran from the Domestic Violence Task Force will be working with them. The grant looks at healthy relationships and teen dating violence. It will allow us to bring some outside programs to Gateway.
- Mrs. Long is looking for help. Saturday May 7th Ford of Northampton will be at Gateway for the Drive for your school fundraiser. They bring 8-10 new cars to for people to test drive from 10 a.m. -5 p.m. Gateway will receive \$20 per test drive. There is a cap of \$6,000 which has never been met. There is only one test drive per household.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation

- Will meet prior to the April 27 meeting at 6:30 p.m.

B. Legislative Liaison - None

C. Policy Subcommittee - None

D. Building Liaisons

- Mrs. Otterbeck said the middle school is working on their play.
- Mrs. McVeigh asked for the attachments included on the website with the agenda and posting.

X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

School Committee Evaluation Presentation – Pat Corriera – May 11

XI. INFORMATION

Information

8 Gateway Athletes qualified for states
 Education Foundation Board to plan May fundraisers
 Blood Drive at Gateway March 18
 Spring Sports tryouts
 Superintendent's Corner March 7, 2016
 Reminder 'Basic Rights in Special Education' Workshop
 NHS members lead "Read Across America" Day
 Notice of Destruction of Special Education Records
 Gateway Schools closed for Good Friday
 Gateway takes awards at UMASS Model UN
 "Buddy Bench" wish comes true for Littleville
 Gateway 6th graders feed the hungry
 Preschool Screening on May 10
 Superintendent's Corner Marc 14, 2016

Warrant

AP#1068 \$254,309.41

PR# 019 \$365,727.27

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Union Negotiations
- B. Litigation

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy to go into executive session at or before 8:30 p.m. for the purpose of teachers' union negotiations not to return to open session.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Anne-Marie, Ron, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Ruth, Martha, Shirley, Jeff, Michele

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Foley made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to adjourn at 8:14 p.m.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Madelyn, Tara, Anne-Marie, Ron, Diane, Sarah, Terri, Ruth, Martha, Shirley, Jeff, Michele

Respectfully Submitted,
 Stacy L Stewart,
 School Committee Secretary