

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2016

**Room 214/216 Jr. High School
7:30 P.M.**

All those attending the school committee meeting should sign in at the security booth.

(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
Tara Balboni
Heather Morgan
Lyndsey Papillon

SECRETARY
Stacy Stewart

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Joanne Blocker, Director of Academics
Megan Coburn, Chs,Lit,Ms Principal
Jason Finnie, High/Jr. High Principal
Sara Laing, Chs,Lit, Ms Assistant Principal
Wendy Long, District Grant Writer
Anthony Sabonis, High/Jr. High Assistant Principal
Alice Taverna, Pupil Services Director

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: Attorney Russell Dupere

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

- Mrs. Crane opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.
- Mrs. Buikus, Mrs. Austin, and the reporter are recording the meeting.

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

- Brennan Foley wanted to work and talk about the high school and promote what goes on. He made a video showing the departments, clubs, and sports offered at Gateway. The video was played. Graduation is June 3rd. Eight seniors just got back from Disney. It was hot, humid and fun. Cirque was the highlight of the trip for him.. Spring fling was last Friday. They had volleyball, face painting, marshmallow guns, popcorn, cotton candy etc. Senior exams end on Friday. The awards ceremony is Wednesday. This year the spirit trophy is going to the freshmen. The sports banquet is next Tuesday. The senior banquet is next Wednesday.
- Mrs. Crane thanked Brennan for updating us and adding to our meetings.
- Brennan said Anna Pless is lined up for next year.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS

A. National School Lunch Program

- Mrs. McCaul said we have to vote whether we want to participate or not. We actually have to approve it because that is where our money comes from. They are using less processed foods with lower sodium and fat levels. The new term is clean. The café is using more produce and is still involved in farm to school program. She just received the last apple shipment. The Café is receiving entitlement dollars from the Department of Defense. She will double her budget with the DOD Program. It runs from October through April. We received an extra \$800 bonus. Our numbers are up for direct certifications for SNAP, transitional assistance and Medicaid. We are in the nearly eligible category. You have to have 40% of your school have direct certifications. The new child authorization bill is going to up the eligibility factors to 60%.
- The paid lunch equity bill says we have to charge kids accordingly. She has to increase lunch prices this year in order to stay in compliance. As far as the realignment of schools, the elementary schools are fine. The change will be here in the high school. They will go from three lunches to two lunches. This will result in reduced staff hours.
- We have a loose charging policy. Computerized bills are sent out to parents on Fridays. We can't carry bad debt from one year to the next year.
- The wellness policy implementation committee is in its 10th year. We have gone from candy bar sales to fruit sales, plant sales, candle sales, etc. We are on the right track.
- Mr. Wyand asked the amount of our unrecovered debt.
- Mrs. McCaul said 5-12 we are down to \$300. Elementary is at \$700. Chester was a bit better this year.
- Ms. Fisk said the café can't carry it. We would carry it in the general fund.
- Move to unfinished business

7:45 V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM

A. Recommendation to Award Special Education Transportation Contract to Lecrenski for 2016-2017.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve the Recommendation to Award Special Education Transportation Contract to Lecrenski for 2016-2017.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 13 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

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

B. FY '17 School Committee Schedule

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mrs. Dunn to approve the School Committee Schedule.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 13 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommendation to Accept School Choice for the 2016-2017 School Year.

- Mrs. Crane said this is housekeeping business.
- Most come from Worthington and Westfield
- Move to unfinished business.

B. Superintendent requests authorization for the District Treasurer or Assistant District Treasurer under provisions of M.G.L., Chapter 71 Section 16 (9) and with the approval of the Chairperson for the Gateway Regional Committee, to incur temporary debt (borrow from time to time) in anticipation of revenue to be received from any source for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016. This is for short-term borrowing in case assessments are not received in time, etc.

- This allows the treasure to borrow money if revenue doesn't come in on time.
- Ms. Fisk said we haven't had to do it in 20 years or so.
- Mr. Wyand asked, so you didn't have to use it for Huntington's late payment.
- Ms. Fisk said no.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS 5/11/16 (Enc.)

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Otterbeck to approve the minutes of 5/11/16.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 13 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

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

Mrs. Winer made a motion seconded by Mrs. Foley to go into executive session at or before 8:30 p.m. for the purpose of Litigation: Kennedy, et al. v. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, et al. - No.:HSCV2014-00210, not to return to open session.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 13 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

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

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS
A. School Committee - None

B. Chairperson

- Mrs. Crane thanked everyone for helping Mrs. Balboni with the retirement ceremony.

C. Superintendent

Central Office Update

- Dr. Hopson said replacing Ms. Taverna is proving is more difficult than we thought. We had 9 applicants and elected to interview 5. We only interviewed one because the other four dropped out before the interview. We have re-posted the position.
- The budget passed last week, but we have a small potential problem. Two children might have to go to out placement which could cost \$260,000. We are working on it.

D. Business Manager

- Ms. Fisk said they are gearing up for summer projects.

E. Administration

- Mr. Finnie said we are finalizing the structure of the schedule. In June there will be a meeting welcoming all the middle school and 7th and 8th graders.
- Mrs. Long said the digital connections grant is sending a team from DESE to see the things we did throughout the grant. We improved the wireless network in the building and put Chrome books in action.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING
A. Superintendent's Evaluation

Evaluation Survey Update

B. Legislative Liaison - None

C. Policy Subcommittee - None

D. Building Liaisons

- Mrs. Winer said if she had a schedule of what was going on in Chester she might go more.

X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA
Future Agenda Items

XI. INFORMATION
Information

Education Foundation Board to meet
 Donors put Foundation over \$6,000 on Valley Gives Day
 Sandy Hook Promise Leader visits 'Bucket Filling' school
 "Hampshire County Law Day" at Gateway High School
 Superintendent's Corner May 9, 2016
 Staff Honors Reception May 25
 Berkshire Bank surprises Gateway's Joanna Arkoette
 Sports Banquet tickets now available
 Two Gateway vocalists perform "Phantom" with Broadway cast
 Finalists for Golden Achievement Award Announced

Warrant

AP#1084 \$104,293.55

PR# 023 \$392,246.86

AP#1086 \$136,920.02

9:00-10 p.m. XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

or earlier

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

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Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 13 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Otterbeck made a motion seconded by Mr. Wyand to adjourn at 8:44 p.m.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 13 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

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

Respectfully Submitted,
 Stacy L Stewart,
 School Committee Secretary