

**GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

The Gateway Regional School District will provide an exemplary education that challenges all students in an instructional setting appropriate to their needs.

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

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Wednesday, May 11, 2022**

**Middle School Room 112/114**

**7:00 P.M.**

**I. OPENING OF MEETING**

Sarah Page called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Those in attendance:**

**BLANDFORD**

Terri Garfield  
Keri Morawiec

**CHESTER**

Jeanne Briggs  
Jason Forgue

**HUNTINGTON**

Pegg Dragon

**MIDDLEFIELD**

**MONTGOMERY**

Michael Lafleur  
Michael Morrissey

**RUSSELL**

Sarah Page  
Lyndsey Papillon

**CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION**

Kristen Smidy, Superintendent  
Stephanie Fisk, Assistant Superintendent

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**

Deanna LeBlanc, Curriculum Director

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Joseph Pisani

OTHERS: Mike Sullivan

**II. PUBLIC INPUT - None**

### III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT - Joseph Pisani gave an update of events.

- The May 6th & 7th production of Clue was awesome and better than the cast expected. It was well attended and nice to be able to use the auditorium for a production.
- Best buddies 5K was on May 6. They had over 200 people there. It really showcased Gateway's unity as a student body and staff.
- The music department concert will be tomorrow at 6:30 p.m.
- Boomer (therapy dog) is awesome. Students comment he is the favorite part of the day.
- The prom is on May 20th.
- Student Council is preparing for the upcoming Spring Fling and Awards Day
- MCAS and finals are coming up.
- Nicole Hannigan has done an incredible job with the student council. Nicole and her mom have kept the student council running.
- The front sign has been changed.
- The sense of unity and togetherness with the student body and staff could not be stronger right now. School spirit is up. It is the end of the year, and it is exciting. We have a very nice school, and it is exciting to be in the groove of things.

### IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Sullivan, Superintendent Smidy's coach, gave a brief overview of Kristen's performance. He can say with confidence and enthusiasm that Kristen is doing a great job with the new superintendents' induction program. The tools include things like taking the time to talk to everyone and get to know the district, having a thoughtful entry plan, coming up with findings/impressions of the district, sharing those findings with the leadership team and then making recommendations to the school committee regarding their focus for the next 3-5 years. Kristen is following that timeline very well. Kristen is further along than most of the new superintendents in her cohort. Mr. Sullivan and Superintendent Smidy meet at least twice per month. The induction program is for three years. Her attendance has been great and she has been highly engaged in the program.

### V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

- A. Home Depot grant approval - \$3,047.91 - this is for building raised garden beds for the after school and summer programs

Jason Forgue moved, seconded by Lyndsey Papillon to approve the Home Depot Grant for \$3,047.91

***Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0 (Roll Call Vote)***

Yeas: Jeana, Pegg, Jason, Terri, Mike L., Keri, Mike M., Lyndsey, Sarah

- B. Approval of MOU with Westfield State University - Superintendent Smidy explained that this is so the district can use the WSU space in case of an emergency.

Pegg Dragon moved, seconded by Keri Morawiec to approve the MOU with Westfield State University.

***Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0 (Roll Call Vote)***

Yeas: Jeana, Pegg, Jason, Terri, Mike L., Keri, Mike M., Lyndsey, Sarah

- C. Superintendent's Evaluation - Sarah Page indicated that the evaluations will close this weekend. There have been 10 responses for the evaluation so far.

- D. Review of Two Meeting Rule Vote

Keri Morawiec moved, seconded by Lyndsey Papillon to rescind the two meeting rule, excluding policy readings.

Deanna Leblanc asked about the two meeting rule for policy reading. Is it worth differentiating policy? Mike Morrissey stated that you could put it on the agenda, and have a discussion. If the policy committee isn't ready they can move it to the next meeting.

Jason Forgue asked about separating out policy votes from this. When you lay it upon the table, you can bring it up again. If you take no action, it kills the motion. It is two thirds of the members present. Pegg Dragon commented about tabling a vote, and if tabling the vote didn't pass, then the committee would have to take a vote on the article.

Mike Morrissey suggested language for future agendas to include "discussion and potential vote" to be clear about the committee's intentions while also being inclusive.

***Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0 (Roll Call Vote)***

Yeas: Jeana, Pegg, Jason, Terri, Mike L., Keri, Mike M., Lyndsey, Sarah

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM**

- A. 3rd Quarter Transfers (Enc.)

Jason Forgue moved, seconded by Keri Morawiec to approve the third quarter transfers, as presented.

***Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0 (Roll Call Vote)***

Yeas: Jeana, Pegg, Jason, Terri, Mike L., Keri, Mike M., Lyndsey, Sarah

## **VII. CONSENT ITEMS 4/13/2022 Minutes (Enc.)**

Mike Morissey moved, seconded by Jason Forgue to approve the 4/13/2022 minutes.

***Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 6 Nays 0 Abstain 3 Absent 0 (Roll Call Vote)***

Yeas: Pegg, Jason, Terri, Mike L., Mike M., Sarah

Abstain: Jeana, Keri, Lyndsey

**VIII. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. School Committee

Lyndsey Papillon attended the Clue performance, and it was fantastic. This Saturday night is Trivia night at Strathmore Park. They are hoping this is a big fundraiser for the Gateway Education Foundation. May 22 is the Littleville Craft Fair in the side parking lot of the main complex. The freshman class is also having a duck race fundraiser the same day. The committee will be getting an invitation from Mr. Finnie to attend graduation. The awards banquet is June 1.

Jason Forgue made another plug for the concert tomorrow night.

B. Chairperson

Sarah Page reminded the committee that the district needs a GEF representative and a CES representative. Sarah said that CES needs to be approached about the possibility of remote participation. Superintendent Smidy will contact Todd Gazda to see what the options are. There is a retiree reception prior to the next school committee meeting. Stacy will order the retirement gifts, and put together a list of retiree service information. Stacy will notify retirees of the event.

C. Superintendent

Superintendent Smidy let the Committee know that William Sullivan signed on as the new High School Assistant Principal.

D. Assistant Superintendent

Assistant Superintendent Fisk gave a brief overview of the Senate budget that was released. Regional transportation reimbursement increased from 80% to 85%. The \$60 (\$30 additional) per student has been added to Chapter 70, and can be carried over to FY '24. The 3rd quarter report was in the packet.

E. Administration

Deanna LeBlanc let the committee know that the selection committee chose Amplify for the K-3 ELA curriculum, and grades 4-8 will use Wit and Wisdom.

F. Town Officials

Mike Morrissey informed the committee that Montgomery failed to elect two school committee members. They will ask for a letter of interest and introduction after the July meetings. Jason Forgue stated that Chester has to do the same.

## IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING

- A. Superintendent's Evaluation - Information will be provided at the next meeting.
- B. Legislative Liaison - Lyndsey Papillon gave an update. MASC sent out a member survey asking about programs and training. It is only a 5-question survey, and it is important for them to have this feedback in order to plan what types of training school committees are looking for. There is a Division 5 meeting in June at Smith Voke and Lyndsey will do her best to attend.
- C. Policy Subcommittee - The policy committee met tonight and will bring forward information at the next meeting.
- D. Building Liaisons - Jeana Briggs reminded the committee that Chester on Track is May 21. Chester PTO will have two fundraising booths at the event. Reeghan Morawiec organized a movie night which was a very successful fundraiser.
- E. CES Update - none

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

Superintendent Smidy informed the committee that the district received a summer learning grant for \$100,000. This will be placed on the next agenda for a vote.

Gateway High School is looking for one or two school committee members to sit on the Carmel Scholarship selection committee. Keri Morawiec responded to the guidance secretary via email that she can make it.

## XI. INFORMATION

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

AP #1068 \$219,634.19

PR #019 \$400,610.08

PR #19.1 \$109.83

## XII. ADJOURNMENT at 9 p.m. unless extended by majority vote.

Jason Forgue moved, seconded by Lyndsey Papillon to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

***Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0 (Roll Call Vote)***

Yeas: Jeana, Pegg, Jason, Terri, Mike L., Mike M., Lyndsey, Sarah

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Fisk  
Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations  
Filling in for Stacy Stewart