

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 MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

Middle School 112/114

7:00 P.M.

7:00PM I. OPENING OF MEETING

Call to order: Superintendent Smidy

BLANDFORD
Terri Garfield
Keri Morawiec

CHESTER
Jeana Briggs
Jason Fogue
Frank Pero

HUNTINGTON
Pegg Dragon
Lisa Goding
Edward Renauld

MIDDLEFIELD

MONTGOMERY

RUSSELL
Sarah Page
Lyndsey Papillon

SECRETARY
Stacy Stewart

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Kristen Smidy, Superintendent
Stephanie Fisk, Assistant Superintendent of
Finance and Operations

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Martha Clark, Comm/Program Coordinator
Jason Finnie, Middle/High Principal
Kurt Garivaltis, Pupil Services Director
Deanna LeBlanc, Curriculum Director
Vanna Maffuccio, Chester Principal
Chris Parker, Technology Director
Andrew Samuelson, Littleville Principal
William Sullivan, Middle/High Asst Principal
Chris Tamburrino, Asst Pupil Serv Director

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Joseph Pisani

OTHERS: Leah Jorritsma

7:05PM II. REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE

A. Chairperson

Nominated: Sarah Page

Mrs. Papillon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morawiec to nominate Sarah Page as Chairperson for the committee.

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

Yeas: Jeana, Pegg, Jason, Terri, Lisa, Keri, Lyndsey, Ed, Sarah

Once a chair is nominated and approved, the meeting will be run by the chair.

B. Vice-Chairperson

Nominated: Jason Forgue

Mr. Renauld made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morawiec to nominate Jason Forgue as Vice-Chairperson for the committee.

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

Yeas: Jeana, Pegg, Jason, Terri, Lisa, Keri, Lyndsey, Ed, Sarah

C. Appointments

- Sick Bank Committee (2 members)
 - Keri Morawiec, Tara Balboni (Mrs. Papillon spoke on her behalf)
- Negotiations Committee
 - Terri Garfield, Lisa Goding, Jason Forgue
- Superintendent's Evaluation
 - Terri Garfield, Keri Morawiec, Tara Balboni, Sarah Page
- Policy Committee
 - Pegg Dragon, Lyndsey Papillon, Keri Morawiec, Sara Page
- Warrant Signing Committee
 - Pegg Dragon, Jeana Briggs, Ed Renauld, Lisa Goding, Tara Balboni,
- Collaborative for Educational Services (CES) Representative
 - Lyndsey Papillon
- Liaisons
 1. Chester Elementary - Jeana Briggs
 2. Littleville Elementary - Ed Renauld
 3. Middle School - Sarah Page, Lyndsey Papillon
 4. High School - Sarah Page, Lyndsey Papillon, Jeana Briggs
 5. Curriculum - Terri Garfield, Pegg Dragon, Jason Forgue
 6. Pupil Services - Lisa Goding
 7. Facilities - Terri Garfield
 8. Legislative - Joseph Pisani

7:25PM

III. PUBLIC INPUT

(Guests attending the meeting may address the committee. There is a three minute time limit per guest)

- Leah Jorritsma is the union representative at Lecrenski Brothers Transportation in Russell. The drivers are calling for a change in the due process policy. They are asking that when a complaint is brought against a driver, it be investigated. No one should be removed because I said they did this or he did that. Last year we lost a 15 year veteran driver. They are asking to allow banned drivers a second chance. They can be supervised by a monitor. Their two requests are due process, and already banned a second chance. We lost two drivers who retired. She lost two cdl drivers 1 driver on medical, maternity leave 0 short 4 drives there are not enough since marijuana has become almost we also lost a bus.
- Mrs. Garfield said bus drivers removed because of incidents, smelled like marigannana - drug test came back clean.
- Complaints to to school or the bus driver
- Mr. Forgue asked who from here would ban a driver.
- Ms. Fisk said Mrs. Burkott would get the first complaint and then it would get to her.. The monitor would be a second set of eyes
- Mrs. Smidy said the current contact has a process.
- Leah Jorritsma said we also have parents undermining bus drivers on bus safety. She also said that bus 152 in the high school crosses with 161 and drives 21 miles extra miles. Is there a better way that is more efficient

7:35PM IV. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

- Joseph Pisani said at the high school, the general consensus is that it didn't feel like the awkward silence on the first day. It felt like the comfortable middle of the school year day. Could be because it's our first normal year back, maybe class sizes are smaller. He showed us the senior parking spots which were painted by seniors. The student council redid their bulletin board. Couple of students asked about a golf club and there is one being done through the after school program. The WIN Program started this year but not everyone got the full WIN Experience because it started with iReady testing. PBIS has started and a pep rally is planned for this year! School spirit is so important. The majority of the things he told us about was just the high school - the other schools didn't get the recognition they needed in the past.
- MS exploratory blocks have started. There is a middle school student council being started.
- Elementary Schools Mr. Samuelson hosted a bubble ceremony. The idea is to think about things they want to be better at. He wants to be able to tell better jokes. Then they blew bubbles an. Read the Chester news letter - wacky science show and a meet and greet the day before school started at chester. MASR has been working over the summer - a student rep training on saturday - delegate big priority is supporting and

lobbying for stuff similarly to what MASC does. Transportation reimbursements only on from western mass.

- Mrs. Smidy introduced the administrators. She also let the committee know that Mr. Lubbers, a former school committee member, had passed away. Donations honoring him went to the Gateway Education Foundation.

7:40PM V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS

7:40PM VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

- A. Policy AC, ACAB (Enc.)
- B. Civics Project Update

- Mrs. Dragon still has the same feelings as the last meeting - Doesn't feel it is appropriate that we support some and we don't support others in name.
- Mrs. Smidy printed the bullying the policy and read read part of it which she believes covers what Mrs. Dragon is concerned about.

Mrs. Papillon made a motion seconded by Mr. Renauld to approve Policy AC.

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

Yeas: Jeana, Jason, Terri, Lisa, Keri, Lyndsey, Ed, Sarah

Nays: Pegg

Mrs. Morawiec made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve Policy ACAB.

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

Yeas: Jeana, Pegg, Jason, Terri, Lisa, Keri, Lyndsey, Ed, Sarah

8:00PM VII. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

- A. Recommendation to accept a donation of \$10,000 from Airgas
- B. Recommendation to accept a donation of \$10,000 from Advance Manufacturing

Donation- this is part of the welding grant

Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to accept the donations of \$10,000 each from Airgas and Advanced Manufacturing.

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

Yeas: Jeana, Pegg, Jason, Terri, Lisa, Keri, Lyndsey, Ed, Sarah

C. Recommendation to accept a donation from Home Depot (about \$2000 in materials)

Mrs. Garfield made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to accept the donation from Home Depot.

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

Yeas: Jeana, Pegg, Jason, Terri, Lisa, Keri, Lyndsey, Ed, Sarah

D. Recommendation to update substitute rates

- Mrs. Smidy said \$130 is more than a para would make in a day and they are in negotiations this year, but remember paras rates include paid days off and we really need subs.
- Ms. Fisk said this keeps us just above area schools.
- Ms. Page asked if we have considered hiring a building sub.

Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morawiec to approve policy GCE and increase the substitute.

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

Yeas: Jeana, Pegg, Jason, Terri, Lisa, Keri, Lyndsey, Ed, Sarah

E. High School Principal notification/approval of list of courses that have an enrollment of 10 or less

- Move to another agenda

F. Recommendation to accept the 21st Century Learning Centers Grant for the Middle School in the amount of \$210,000 and Afterschool and Out-of - School Time (ASOST) for \$100,000

Competitive grant - Steph, martha, steph ceana, ad 5 year.

Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morawic to accept the 21st Century Learning Centers Grant for the Middle School in the amount of \$210,000 and Afterschool and Out-of - School Time (ASOST) for \$100,000.

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

Yeas: Jeana, Pegg, Jason, Terri, Lisa, Keri, Lyndsey, Ed, Sarah

H. Approval of Recommended Changes to the FY 23 School Calendar (Enc.)

- Mrs. Smidy went over the changes: January 2 is a federal holiday. December 22 was a half day and the 23 is off. Now December 22 is a full day and 23 is a half day. We are looking to move open house to March. The Union gave feedback for the open house. Last year we did all of the schools on the same night, and staggered the hours - parents liked it. Proposal is March 9. We also had faculty meeting dates on there and not any other meetings so we removed them.

Mrs. Garfield made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morawiec to approve the changes to the FY '23 School Calendar.

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

Yeas: Jeana, Pegg, Jason, Terri, Lisa, Keri, Lyndsey, Ed, Sarah

8:20PM VIII. CONSENT ITEMS 6/8/2022 (Enc.)

Ms. Dragon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morawiec to approve the minutes of June 8, 2022.

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

Yeas: Jeana, Pegg, Jason, Terri, Lisa, Keri, Lyndsey, Sarah

Abstain: Ed

8:30PM IX. COMMUNICATION

A. School Committee

- Mr. Fogue would like to invite the legislators to the October meeting. He would like them to give a presentation of how they plan to improve our areas.
- Joseph Pisani said he is interning with one of the state representatives and would be more than happy to invite them.
- Mr. Fogue brought up the representative side because they are all inclusive.
- Mrs. Papillon said it was so great to see how many families were out there tonight. We worked so hard on the usage fees last year.

B. Chairperson

- Ms. Page welcomed Lisa Goding to the committee. She said if you are going to miss a meeting please email Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Smidy or her.

C. Superintendent - Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Mrs. Smidy gave an update on the Prek numbers. There are 69 students now. 9th grade went to 44 students after kids went to vocational schools. Kindergarten is at 67 and they have 4 teachers now instead of 3.

- Chester Elementary had a power outage and Principal Maffuccio handled the power very well.
- Constitution day is coming up. There will be a school wide constitution, they will talk about the amendments, digging into women's rights, and get an understanding of what it means to their citizenship. Attended a superintendents meeting where commissioner Riley said MCAS benchmarks are increasing and feedback was not good. How is he going to support rural school districts who are losing students to voke. Superintendent's are organizing a response. It was nice to see all of the superintendent's come together to stand up for the lack of support.

D. Assistant Superintendent

- Ms. Fisk said the financial audit starts next week. New assessment letters have gone out to the towns. A little over \$22,000 divided between the towns will lower assessments. Hopefully in October most of the staffing will be in place and have transfers. Rural school numbers have us receiving about \$80,000 more than we did last year. Posted for our own 7D drivers - we have our para's trained - Lia they need to have trainers.

E. School or District Administration

- Mr. Finnie said Joseph did a great job updating the committee.
- Mrs. Maffuccio said they are in the process of planning for constitution day. PBIS assembly teachers are going to have capes. Perseverance and honesty will be some of the character traits. They are working on the band program, intervention schedule and progress monitoring.
- Mr. Samuelson said ditto PTO's are up and running. Littleville's PTO was prior to this meeting. He had 22 parents show up. Most are preschool and kindergarten parents.
- Mr. Garivaltis said the new energy is fantastic. The committee had supported a visually impaired program and we have accepted our first student from another district and potentially two more.

F. Town Representatives - None

8:40PM X. COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation

- Supt's evaluation meeting before the October school committee.

B. Legislative Liaison

C. Policy Subcommittee

- Policy student dress code, discipline, EOE, will come up at the November meeting.

D. Building Liaisons

8:55PM XI. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

- High school courses
- Bussing

- Mr. Forgue thinks the civics projects need to be more stringent and focused with higher stakes. He would like a quick explanation on how that is coming along.
- Ms. Dragon said Connecticut required community services as well. It's not just the responsibility of the school committee and the superintendent.
- Mrs. Smidy said there is an expectation it will require more.
- Joey encouraged to local elected officials are really there to work for the people at the local level and love hearing from the young people because those are the ones who will be filling their place.

9:00PM XII. INFORMATION
Information

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

Warrant

AP#1095 \$126,802.91	PR#26 \$442,097.40
AP#1101 \$46.54	PR#26.1 \$77,580.59
AP#1099 \$156,638.09	PR#26.2 \$991,335.86
AP#1103 \$54,279.22	PR#26.3 \$9,441.63
AP#1106 \$243,225.22	PR#26.4 \$4,737.40
AP#1100 \$25.18	PR#001 \$61,216.62
AP#1000 \$227,158.52	PR#002 \$110,280.45
AP#1108 \$51,108.51	PR#003 \$161,062.75
AP#1004 \$14,195.82	PR#004 \$164,125.53
AP#1111 \$7,750.24	
AP#1007 \$109,407.13	
AP#1010 \$5.60	

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT at 9 p.m. unless extended by majority vote.

Mrs. Papillon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morawiec to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

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

Yeas: Jeana, Pegg, Jason, Terri, Lisa, Keri, Lyndsey, Ed, Sarah

Respectfully submitted,
 Stacy L Stewart,
 School Committee Secretary

