

**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, November 9, 2022**

**Middle School Room 112/114**

**7:00 P.M.**

**7:00 PM I. OPENING OF MEETING**

Call to order: Sarah Page, Chairperson at:

**BLANDFORD**

Terri Garfield  
Keri Morawiec

**CHESTER**

Jean Briggs  
Jason Forgue

**HUNTINGTON**

Pegg Dragon  
Lisa Goding

**MIDDLEFIELD**

Tasha Strong

**MONTGOMERY**

**RUSSELL**

Sarah Page  
Lyndsey Papillon

**SECRETARY**

Stacy Stewart

**CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION**

Kristen Smidy, Superintendent  
Stephanie Fisk, Assistant Superintendent

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**

Martha Clark, Comm/Program Coordinator  
Kurt Garivaltis, Pupil Services Director  
Andrew Samuelson, Littleville Principal  
William Sullivan, Middle/High Asst. Principal  
Chris Tamburrino, Asst. Pupil Services Dir.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Joseph Pisani

**OTHERS:**

- No one is recording the meeting.

**7:05 PM II. PUBLIC INPUT**

Guests attending the meeting may address the committee on topics not on the agenda. (There is a three minute time limit per guest)

**7:10 PM III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT**

- Joseph Pisani gave us an update. Elementary - Chester held their Boo Bash which was put on by the PTO. There were seventy-five people in attendance. They have held the first of many capping ceremonies. This month is the superpower of respect. Next month's word is responsibility. Dr. Dostal is leading team building activities - giant cup tower. Highling working to Littleville - nursery rhymes - mother goose characters. Human body, Math attributes of pumpkins. The middle school memory book is strong as well as the high school yearbook. Students submit artwork. Outdoor team building for 7th with next level adventures. They have had the bathroom door panel competition making restrooms more decorative. High School - student council working hard planning spirit activities and a Friendly's fundraiser, a canned food drive, and the homecoming celebration happened. Student council hosted a pink out day for breast cancer awareness. Advisory vice principal vocal group is meeting with Mr. Sullivan. They have talked about some new ideas. The pep rally was a massive success with cheering and class colors. The entire school celebrated sports teams, band programs, etc. There was a sense of community and togetherness grades 6-12. Quick update on MASR. They met in Marlborough. Topics were what's happening in hallways and classrooms. 70 students showed up. They lead a focus group about turning ideas into actions. It's great to talk about them but it's better to do something. Bi-laws passed as well as a resolution about standardized testing reform. It was amended and they engaged in the process; perfect parliamentary procedure. They are in support of taking away the requirement for ESL students to pass an English MCAS in 10 grade to graduate with English being their second language.
- Mr. Forgue asked if there was there an alternative
- Joseph Pisani said the resolution was to have them look into other ways - maybe portfolio pathways. Also looked into curriculum reforms, a Chapter 70 lobby and supporting transportation reimbursement. He is really excited about our first year back going so well. APAC meetings students are making their voices heard.

#### **7:15 PM IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS**

- Mrs. Smidy announced two retirees, Linda Coffey, Accounts Payable and Ginny Lee, STEM Teacher.

#### **7:20 PM V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**

##### **A. Collaborative for Educational Services Request for Approval for Establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund (Enc).**

- Mrs. Smidy said the information we received addressed some of the concerns. There is no plan to increase any fees or cost of services at this time. (see kristen for his answers) if so the board would have to vote on it.
- Mr. Forgue said it said there wouldn't be any increases in fees, but there was no mention of decreasing them either.
- Mrs. Smidy said they need 25 to vote for it in order for it to pass. So far 23 have approved it and one has voted no. Norris voted no. He did mention the free services.
- Mrs. Papillon asked who knows about the plc and free services and do we participate in any of them.

**Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon for the Collaborative for Educational Services Request for Establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund.**

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

Nays: Jeana, Pegg, Jason, Terri, Lisa, Keri, Lyndsey, Tasha, Sarah

- Mr. Forgue doesn't see any wrong doing in the capital account. He likes approval of it, but not necessarily the 5 million in funding.

**7:30 PM VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM**

**A. Approval of FY '23 1st Quarter Transfers (Enc.)**

- Ms. Fisk said all but one are salary transfers - staff shifting. New staff, contracted staff or therapeutic services and special ed increments. We will most likely have these every quarter this year.

**Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morawiec to approve the FY '23 1st Quarter Transfers.**

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

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

**B. Approval of PBIS Student Activities Account**

- This is to accept donations and deposit money raised for incentives after school.

**Mrs. Papillon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morawiec to approve the PBIS Student Activities Account.**

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

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

**C. Approval of donations (Northampton Public Schools \$2,500. and Hood Milk Cartons)**

- Ms. Smidy said we were asked by Northampton to engage in science and reading and we took over the management and paid for it up front and they are donating the cost for their teachers participation.
- Hood milk cartons were donated to Chester elementary for their tree tapping project.

**Mrs. Morawiec made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve donations (Northampton Public Schools \$2,500, Hood Milk Cartons)**

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

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

**D. Approval of grants (TAG for \$15,000, Raytheon for Robotics \$1660, STEM Internship for \$59,500, HVAC upgrades for \$100,000, ASOST for \$80,000, MIIA safety grant - up to \$10,000)**

- Mrs Smidy said they don't offset our operating costs but they add huge opportunities ASOST will allow us to not charge for wrap around. Grant length is after school and out of school for one year, but it's a continuation grant if we meet the requirements.
- TAG is for chronically underperforming. It's for professional development for staff, stipends and consulting work.
- Robotis to get the robotics program off the ground.
- STEM - provides for paid internships to be placed in towns - \$15 per hour for students plus 20% administrative costs for payroll etc. Chester is doing a water operator internship.
- HVAC is for updating windows and doors and heating and ventilation in the welding department, plus it includes sensors on air handlers so we know when filters need to be changed.
- MIIA safety grant is for the replacement of ladders and mats for playground and training.
- Management of these grants takes a lot of time and she is grateful for what everyone is doing. She recognized Mrs. Clark, Mrs. LeBlanc, Ms. Fisk, Mr. Garivaltis.
- Mrs. Briggs is so happy with the school and the experience her kids have had.
- Mrs. Papillon said her new selectmen is so impressed with the gator bites - Gloria sent it out to the town.
- Ms. Dragon gets the community letter from Huntington. She suggested doing something like that, so everyone gets it. They send four a year. Maybe some of our information can be added to the Huntington newsletter.

***Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morawiec to approve the Grants: (TAG for \$15,000, Raytheon for Robotics \$1660, STEM Internship for \$59,500, HVAC upgrades for \$100,000, ASOST for \$80,000, MIIA safety grant - up to \$10,000)***

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

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

**E. Approval of District Strategy Plan (Enc.)**

- Mrs. Smidy said this developed after the entry plan finding to guide our work in areas we are doing well and maintaining and where we need to improve. It is broken down into three priorities. She hopes it will bring transparency with the community about what we are working on and why we are working on it. It will guide decisions. Teachers gave feedback, both verbally and in writing. All district staff have seen it. She is looking for school committee approval to allow us to roll it out publicly.
- Ms. Dragon asked what is SWIS data collection for behavior.
- Mrs. Smidy said it stands for school wide information system used for monitoring behavior.
- Ms. Dragon asked if we inform the parents about what th
- Mr. Forgue said the selectboard asks what is the strategy plan for student retention.

- Mrs. Smiday said these will help but she needs to articulate it more.

***Mrs. Morawiec made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve the District Strategy Plan.***

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

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

**F. Information sharing regarding the new discipline law (Enc.)**

- Memo from the dupere's about what the new law entails, This is to support keeping kids in schools. Each school is looking to update their code of conduct. That reflects this law. Goes into effect yesterday.

**7:50 PM VII. CONSENT ITEMS 10/12/2022 Minutes (Enc.)**

***Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morawiec to approve the minutes of 10/12/2022.***

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

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

Abstain: Terri

**7:55 PM VIII. COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. School Committee**

- Mrs. Balboni and Mrs. Papillon met with their Russell selectboard - on the regular agenda ongoing reporting- One big thing is the MSBA payback and when that is resolved those savings. Is that a larger discussion?
- Ms. Fisk said when we do the budget presentation in December the first one they will have options. They can debt exclude the roof project or use that \$200,000 to put into the capital stabilization and the bonding money would do the same. They would have to net out the Worthington payback. They tried to drive home their presence at the upcoming budget meetings. We should reach out to the selectboard.
- Ms. Fisk said it won't come into play until FY 25.
- Mrs. Papillon mentioned again that DESE is unhappy we were unable to come up with a regional agreement. Two of them said we technically have a regional agreement.
- Mrs. Papillon said the school calendar; the half day without listing it is confusing. She asked if we could list them too.
- Mrs. Papillon said the 7th grade team building is something GEF approved and provided the funds for. Giving Tuesday is coming up.. The class of 2025 has two fundraisers scheduled. On is an online pasta fundraiser - they have a \$1,000 goal. They are also doing a fundraiser at the Littleville Craft Fair selling cocoa. The class of 2026 is doing something at the craft fair. Student council is hosting a fundraiser at Friendly's. NHS holiday help's gofundme and the boot drive is on the 12th from 9-2.

- Mr. Forgue asked if we could revisit the bullying policy at an upcoming meeting. There was a statement made in a previous meeting that zero bullying incidents were reported. That is incorrect. What does that mean?
- Ms. Goding asked about the Raffle tickets that are going around. She was under the impression it was PTO sponsored. What are they for?
- Mrs. Morawiec said they have always gone out and Anne Fisk organized everything.
- Mr. Samuelson said he is looking into it. He doesn't think there is anything shading going on, it just needs some clarification.

#### **B. Chairperson**

- Ms. Page received a request from the GEA to have a virtual option. She doesn't have a strong opinion as to where we should head. Westfield televises theirs and she is glad we don't do that.
- Mrs. Smidy said virtual option 2023, live streaming option where people can listen and watch. The comment was made at their monthly meeting.
- Mrs. Papillon said Agawam does it and every person has a microphone.
- Mr. Forgue said ESSAR funds were given money for that. He said if we can participate online, they should be able to participate online.
- Mrs. Papillon said in order to keep the integrity of the meeting it will take a lot.
- Mrs. Goding asked if the barrier was convenience?
- Ms. Page said yes.

#### **C. Superintendent - Central Office Update (Enc.)**

- Mrs. Smidy said we had our first round of lockdown drills this past Monday. She has been to five out of six selectboards and is still having trouble getting to Montgomery.
- Mrs. Smidy said her mentor Michael Sullivan drafted the rural schools report and he is getting calls from legislators. He is getting documents ready to get to the newly elected officials. It may be a time to advocate to the newly elected officials.

#### **D. Assistant Superintendent (Enc.)**

- Ms. Fisk said she has nothing in addition to the new report.

#### **E. Administration (Enc.)**

- Nothing new other than what is in the report

#### **F. Town Officials - None**

### **8:00 PM IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING (Enc.)**

#### **A. Superintendent's Evaluation (Proposed Goals Enc.)**

- Mrs. Smidy put the goals in the packet. It is just a draft, so let her know if you have feedback.
- Mr. Forgue and Ms. Dragon met with Mrs. LeBlanc. The admin report summarizes everything and there are more grants coming we need to approve. The level at which she speaks is so exciting, the enthusiasm and energy is heartwarming.

#### **B. Legislative Liaison**

- Legislative Liaison - seniors fundraisers happened at shortstop - prom committee has started to meet looking at a couple venues, Mrs Batras and any students that can attend are visiting the log cabin. Junior and senior and 9-12 semi
- Packet of the candidates answers was included - will be important to look at. Not all precincts have reported. Is it possible to invite those that have been elected - They should and want to meet us where we are.
- Ms. Fisk said in the past we had invited several districts and towns and had multiple legislators. especially question 1 that is transportation funding - If they are invited - he would invite other members of the student council to ask questions.
- Lisa that should be done swiftly.
- Mr. Forgue and Mrs. Smidy were at the Connecticut Valley Superintendent's Roundtable. It was overwhelming sitting down discussing how to make sure representatives understand our needs..
- A MASR resolution could be just because the school has a vocational program, doesn't mean another can't have one in a certain radius.

### **C. Policy Subcommittee**

- Mrs. Smidy said the policy committee is working on homework, attendance and discipline and dress code.

### **D. Building Liaisons**

- The middle school is starting work with Mr. Sullivan and staff regarding code of conduct.
- Mrs. Briggs said the dance was the Chester PTO's first with Mrs. Maffuccio. She put in a ton of work for our little dance, it is a huge staple and their profit was \$830 for their two-hour dance.

### **E. CES Update**

## **8:10 PM X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

## **8:15 PM XI. INFORMATION**

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

AP #1031	\$229,521.83	PR #009	\$421,794.81
AP #1033	\$53,442.87	PR #010	\$454,177.04
AP #1037	\$42.82		

## **8:20 PM XII. ADJOURNMENT by 9 p.m. unless extended by majority vote.**

Jason made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morawiec to adjourn at 8:32 p.m.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Stacy L Stewart,  
School Committee Secretary