

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, May 10, 2023

Middle School Room 112/114

7:00 P.M.

7:00 PM I. OPENING OF MEETING

Call to order: Sarah Page, Chairperson

BLANDFORD

Terri Garfield
Keri Morawiec

CHESTER

Jeana Briggs
Jason Fogue

HUNTINGTON

Pegg Dragon
Lisa Goding
Edward Renauld

MIDDLEFIELD

MONTGOMERY

RUSSELL

Tara Balboni
Sarah Page
Lyndsey Papillon

SECRETARY

Stacy Stewart

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Kristen Smidy, Superintendent
Stephanie Fisk, Assistant Superintendent

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Martha Clark, Comm/Program Coordinator
Jason Finnie, Middle/High Principal
Mark Folta, Interim Littleville Principal
Kurt Garivaltis, Pupil Services Director
Deanna LeBlanc, Curriculum Director
Vanna Maffuccio, Chester Principal
Melissa McCaul, Student Support Leader (Lit)
Chris Parker, Technology Director
William Sullivan, Middle/High Asst. Principal
Chris Tamburrino, Asst. Pupil Services Dir.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Joseph Pisani

OTHERS: Alexis Batra, Brian Fogue, Gloria Farrell

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. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS

- Brian Fogue announced he will be the new Chester School Committee Representative as of the first of July! He also went to the Association of School Committee day on the hill. It was a good time.

7:15 PM IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Policies

- ADDA Background Checks,
- BB School Committee Legal Status,
- BBBE-E Schedule of Regular Term Expirations By Town,
- DB-R Budget - Apportionment of Expenses,
- DBG Budget Adoption Procedures,
- DBJ Regional School District Transfer Authority,
- DD Grants, Proposals and Special Projects,
- DEC Federal Funds Supplement Not Supplant Policy,
- DGA Regional School District Authorized Signatures,
- DH Regional School District Bonded Employees,
- DI Fiscal Accounting and Reporting,
- DIE Regional School District Audits,
- DJE Procurement Requirements,
- DK Regional School District Payment Procedures,
- KCD Public Gifts To The Schools

Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morawiec to approve the Policies as provided.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays Abstain Absent 1 (Roll Call Vote)

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

B. Updated FY '24 School Calendar Approval

- Mrs. Smidy said on November 7 we have had a full day off the last two years. Teachers were given a \$200 stipend and it was the 183rd contractual day. It will be a half day for students and a fall berkshire professional development day and staff that want to collaborate with their colleagues. It saves \$21,000 without the stipend and counts as a school day. May 8 was a typo and deleted. Last day has shifted to June 10 if there are no snow days.

Mrs. Morawiec made a motion seconded by Mr. Forgue to approve the updated FY '24 School Calendar.

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

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

C. Approval of FY '23 3rd Quarter Budget Transfers (Enc.)

- Ms. Fisk said most are staffing shifts - long term subs this year - teaching staff not being hired at the beginning of this school year. Subs are up in general over the 3-5 year average.

Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morawiec to approve the 3rd Quarter FY '23 Budget Transfers.

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

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

7:25 PM V. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM

A. International Trip Proposal - Alexis Batra

- Alexis Batra said after the trip to Costa Rica, it was such a great trip, she thought why not plan every year instead of every other year. Land in Barcelona and end in Madrid and fly out of Madrid. Safety procedures in place, there is insurance if anything happens. There is also extra insurance. February vacation of 2024. EF tours has an automatic payment plan, fundraising pages, etc.
- Mr. Renauld asked who the trip is open to?
- Alexis Batra would like to open it up to everyone. She would like to keep it to Spanish students this time and maybe open it up another trip. She is looking for approval for the potential trip to Spain in 2024 for the Spanish classes 10th grade and up and Costa Rica in 2025.

Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to approve the trip to Spain in 2024 and Costa Rica in 2025.

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

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

B. Bullying Plan Approval (Enc.)

- Mrs. Smidy said there is a task force working on the bullying plan and prevention. Shifts are being made to align it more with the state. This is the final draft.
- Mr. Forgue said we are going to go from 0 to quite a bit more. Are we prepared to explain that?
- Mrs. Smidy thinks it will be logical to the commissioner because 0 is not logical. He said he would reach out if he had questions.
- Mr. Forgue asked when it's reported.
- Mrs. Smidy said at the end of the school year. It won't be zero this year. The next step will be to update the forms over the summer.
- Ms. Dragon asked if it's possible to share some of the increased general areas bullying occurs. The type of incidences that are reported.
- Mrs. Smidy said it's a power struggle between peers that is repeated; Peer conflicts
- Ms. Dragon asked how often is education part of the bullying program. She sees it as a crucial part of the plan rather than punishment. Has it helped?
- Mrs. Smidy said it has been, especially on the bullying task force. We want the curriculum to be more robust. The students we have followed up with this year, we have made it individualized.
- Mrs. Goding asked why they need to opt in to join the training rather than opt out.
- Mrs. Smidy said 10 percent are compelled to do it.

- Joseph Pisani said people can't opt out of the anti bullying curriculum, but the other requires them to miss class time. He also said they have begun to go into 7th and 8th grade classrooms and talk about respect.
- Ms. Dragon asked how many seniors did this training and are now leaving.
- Joseph Pisani said like 3.

Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Goding to approve the Bullying Plan.

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

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

C. Marian Hazzard Pollinator Mini-Grant Approval - \$2,000

- Martha Clark called it Ag in the classroom. The original was \$500, then another that was up to \$2,000. It will be six units over six weeks - design, create and build a pollinator garden behind our vegetable garden. The kids will plan it. The grant has been approved.

Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to Approve the Marian Hazzard Pollinator Mini-Grant.

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

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

D. Health Form Update Notification (Enc.)

- Kristen updated based on DPH regulation -they don't need to be approved, but was recommended to the school committee so they could see what we are asking parents to fill out.

E. School Physician Notification and Approval

- Mrs. Smiday said we need to move this to the next meeting. Dr. Cheung is staying at the health center -but transitioning to a new position. so we need to find a new school physician.

F. Approval of 527 Summer Extended Learning Grant - \$100,000

- Mrs. Smidy said we received it last year, and we are looking to continue it.

Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve the Summer Extended Learning Grant.

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

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

G. Recommendation to accept the donation from Senator Mark and Representative Boldyga for Staff Appreciation week

- Mrs. Smidy said we need to accept the donation from Senator Mark and Boldyga and Graduation flowers from Sabrina Kanner.

Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve the donation of Coffee and Donuts from Senator Mark and Boldyga and Graduation flowers from Sabrina Kanner.

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

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

7:45 PM VI. CONSENT ITEMS 4/12/2023 Minutes (Enc.)

Mrs. Dragon made a motion seconded by Mr. Forgue to approve the minutes of 4/12/2023.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 7 Nays Abstain 3 Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Jeana, Pegg, Jason, terri, Lisa, Ed, Sarah

Abstain: Tara, Keri, Lyndsey

7:50 PM VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

- Joseph Pisani said he has half of a report tonight. Today was a great day and he was taken aback by our community. We had an amazing crowd to support the baseball and softball teams. The coaches gave wonderful speeches explaining what the seniors are going to be doing. All of the School Committee is invited to graduation. A concert is coming up and NHS induction is coming up. It is teacher appreciation week so if you see a teacher be sure and thank them. Gateway has been in the Country Journal several weeks in a row. It speaks to the compassion and dedication of the staff. A lot of work has been done by a lot of people. In Jim Duggan's words: Once a gator always a gator. Students leaving Gateway have the potential and ability to do anything. The play was amazing. He and Nevaeh Judson are having post play depression. It was a fun play to perform in.
- Missy McCaul was on the jv field and they could hear the shouts and cheers.

7:55 PM VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mrs. Briggs said she is so grateful for Ms. Smidy Mrs. Maffuccio. They are so involved, since September the PTO has raised \$5,400. Thank you on behalf of the entire community and PTO..
- Joseph Pisani had conversations with many people who were excited that Mrs. Smidy and Mr. Sullivan were at the games today.
- Mrs. Goding said Trivia night is this Saturday at strathmore. If you can't make it you can always donate.

B. Chairperson - Retirement/Recognition Ceremony (June)

C. Superintendent - Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Mrs. Smidy said her report is in the packet. It was teacher appreciation week and we recognized everyone.
- She said that Pat Tutwiler was receptive when she spoke about rural aid. Highlighted if you took several school districts you would have large square miles and less students then 9,10,11,and 12th grades in Lynnfield eld where he was superintendent.

D. Assistant Superintendent

- Ms. Fisk said April revenue for the state is lower, they don't believe they will do 9C cuts. (can cut state funding at any time: transportation, state grants, etc.) It may impact how they look at next year's budget and rural aid funding of 15 million.
- Mr. Fargue said no one can explain why the revenue is less. It feels like it is the perfect time to drop it right before the ways and means committee.

E. Administration (Enc.)

- Mrs. Smidy said the vision program has gotten some nice press.
- Mr. Garivaltis said we are looking at a student from southwick. He also said that Mrs. Smidy advocates for programs and services as well.
Gloria Farrell talked about Gateway spirit - once you are a gateway gator you are one or life she has 3 students.

F. Town Officials

- Gloria Farrell talked about Gateway spirit. She can relate to: once you are a Gateway gator you are one for life she has 3 students who were successful here at Gateway.

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

A. Superintendent's Evaluation

- Ms. Page said you have until Sunday. If you have not gotten to it yet.

B. Legislative Liaison

C. Negotiations

D. Building Liaisons

- Ms. Garfield met with Ms. Fisk about buildings and grounds and grounds. Recent expenditures in the facilities - epoxy floors, they are low maintenance, no tiles coming up or waxing or rewaxing and it's durable. Next year we are looking at a water heater replacement at Littleville and we are exploring propane options. Painting of the rooms and hallways will commence the day students are released from schools. Looming in the future which is not going to be great news is the big project of roof replacement. Looking at a combo of solar and roofing panels - right now we are using net metering.
- In 2024 the SBA payback will be done. So in FY '25 the mortgage is paid off. Safety and security will be mostly intercom. We are lucky to have state of the art buildings and fields.

E. CES Update

F. Policy

8:15 PM X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

8:20 PM XI. INFORMATION

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

AP #1069 \$120,761.26	PR #019 \$413,521.01
AP #1073 \$293,180.08	PR #020 \$427,180.08
AP #1076 \$88,769.56	PR #021 \$435,058.31
AP #1080 \$57.80	PR #022 \$447,567.51
AP #1083 \$58,996.54	PR #023 \$439,118.93
AP # 1087 \$38.23	

- Went into executive session at 8:25 p.m.

8:25 PM XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Paraprofessional Association if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares.

Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morawiec to go into Executive session at or before 8:25 p.m. pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Paraprofessional Association if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares return to open session.

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

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

8:35 PM XII. ADJOURNMENT by 9 p.m. unless extended by majority vote.

Mrs. Briggs made a motion seconded by Mr. Forgue to adjourn at 8:52. P. M.

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

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