

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, June 14, 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 Forgue

HUNTINGTON

Pegg Dragon
Lisa Goding

MIDDLEFIELD

Tasha Strong

MONTGOMERY

RUSSELL

Tara Balboni
Sarah Page

SECRETARY

Stacy Stewart

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Kristen Smidy, Superintendent
Stephanie Fisk, Assistant Superintendent

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Martha Clark, Comm/Program Coordinator
Jason Finnie, Middle/High Principal
Deanna LeBlanc, Curriculum Director
Vanna Maffuccio, Chester Principal
Melissa McCaul, Student Support Ldr. (Lit)
Chris Parker, Technology Director
William Sullivan, Middle/High Asst. Principal

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Joseph Pisani

OTHERS: Margaret Driscoll, Patty Healy, Linda Coffey, Brian Forgue, Scott Caron

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

A. Acknowledging Terri Garfield’s SC participation

- Ms. Page recognized Mrs. Garfield for her services.
- Mrs. Garfield said it has been an honor and privilege to serve on the school committee.

- Ms. Page said Mrs. Garfield is going to pick out a book to be donated to the school library.

B. MASBO Award Presentation for Stephanie Fisk

- Margaret Driscoll Executive Director for MASBO was at the meeting to present Ms. Fisk with the Friend of Masbo Award. Ms. Fisk has been a member of MASBO for years and has also been a past president. She is receiving this award because of her significant contribution to the education of students in her school district and her assistance to MASBO has been above and beyond.

7:15 PM IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Superintendent Evaluation-Review and Vote to Accept (Enc.)

- The superintendent’s annual evaluation review was in the packet. We had 100 % participation.
- Mrs. Briggs said it was well organized and easy to rate.
- Ms. Page said it was nice to have fewer categories and they made the rating percentages clearer. The comments will be sent to the evaluation committee that starts in the fall

Mr. made a motion seconded by Mrs. Garfield to approve the Superintendent’s FY’ 23 Evaluation Summary.

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

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

7:25 PM V. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM

A. School Physician Update

- Mrs. Smidy said we are still trying to make progress with the Hilltown Community Health Center. There is an unwritten agreement. We provide space and they provide services. There have been questions about if we will proceed. It allows us med delegation for field trips if a nurse can’t go. Also meds that are in the school. We should approve a school physician.
- Mrs. Goding asked if it was included in an agreement.
- Mrs. Smidy said we have an agreement that outlines our agreement, but the school physician part is not included. She said it would be nice if we could use them, and she hopes that they do, but if they don’t we will go with someone else.

B. Approval for superintendent to attend out of state conferences during FY ‘24

- School committee approves out of state travel to conferences for the superintendent. She would like to go to the School Business Officials conference in October with Ms. Fisk. There are also opportunities with the Barr Foundation that are out of state visits. She is also looking at the New England Association of School Superintendents conference.

Ms. Dragon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Goding to approve out of state conference travel for the superintendent for the FY 24 school year.

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

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

C. Boys State Discussion and Potential Vote

- Mrs. Smidy said it's an amazing opportunity to explore town government.
- Brian Forgue said they have governmental courses and hold moc elections. The year he went, they sent two folks to a secondary conference in Washington DC. It's a week of government politics and athletes that are involved in the community.
- Mrs. Smidy said the American Legion contacted us with extra seats. We asked them if we could use it for girls' state and they said no. Currently the Gateway Education Foundations funds girls. We spoke with Attorney Dupere and we can decide that if we continue to allow the legion to fund boys we have to fund the girls or make it more like a scholarship and boys would have to apply. We can't require staff to participate in the selection of boys state and not girls state. As a district we are required to support both equally. This was brought from the staff.
- Mr. Forgue said at least for now we should remove staff participation and make it a scholarship process, work it into the budget, or raise money to support both sides.
- Joseph Pisani said he personally chose not to go to boys' state - to provide civics opportunities for those who don't go. A discouraging factor was that the girls were not supported.
- Mrs. LeBlanc asked how this impacted our non binary students because it is very binary oriented.
- Brian Forgue said the year he went there was a transgender female who decided not to go.
- Mr. Forgue suggested we remove staff in the short term and continue to look into it.

D. Approval of Innovations Pathways Grant for \$25,000

- This is a planning grant to look into the viability of this to occur. Pathways of DESE; career is one and college is the other. This one is for career and technical education; to see if it is viable for us.

Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to approve acceptance of the Pathways Grant for \$25,000.

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

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

7:45 PM VI. CONSENT ITEMS 5/10/2023 Minutes (Enc.)

Mrs Balboni made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morawiec to approve the minutes of 5/10/2023 as written.

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

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

Abstain: Tasha

7:50 PM VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

- Joseph Pisani said we are making progress. We are a constantly evolving community. We have had quite the year. Gateway is regularly featured in the news - pennysaver, country journal. It lets the community know we are getting things done. We have had the strongest advocacy from politicians. We are not going to stop until we get to 60 million. Students feel safe. Students are going right into the workforce in welding, early childhood, and water treatment operations. One of his favorite Shirley Chisholm quotes; if they don't give you a seat at the table bring your own folding chair. More and more seats at the table are offered. He gave a shout out to Mrs. Wing. He was able to walk with best buddies - school is cool in a fun way and what is for lunch tomorrow. We have a lot of work as a community but we have a process. Perfect is nearly impossible. What holds Gateway together is resilience - graduation went well even after it was destined to not work. This class has the most resilient human beings, they spent half of high school online and endured the loss of a class member. If we need to keep that at the core. As Lizzo would say "in case nobody told you today you are special and I am so glad you are with us."
- Mrs. Smidy said we have newly elected members Nicole Daviau from Blandford, Sarah Page was re-elected, and Alex Seid from Middlefield.
- Mrs. Page said we need executive session Executive session no later than 8:10 Not return to open session

Mr. Forgue made a motion seconded by Mr. Morawiec to go into executive session

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

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

7:55 PM VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Ms. Dragon would like to have us say the pledge of allegiance prior to starting the meeting.
- Mrs. Goding asked if there is a reason why meetings don't start until 7:00. Could they be earlier?

B. Chairperson - None

C. Superintendent - Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Mrs. Smidy said all towns approved the budget. The suggested date to inform staff being reduced due to budget is tomorrow. They were notified this week.
- Joseph Piani said Willow Hicks in the middle school ADL suggested when we celebrate for seniors who go to college we should do the same for the military and the workforce.

D. Assistant Superintendent - None

E. Administration (Enc.) - None

F. Town Officials - None

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

- A. Superintendent's Evaluation
- B. Legislative Liaison
- C. Negotiations
- D. Building Liaisons
- E. CES Update
- F. Policy

Moved into executive session at 7:59 p.m.

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 #1085 \$1304,878.04	PR #024 \$475,122.27
AP #1088 \$5,857.25	PR #024.1 \$5,899.80
AP #1089 \$83,387.00	
AP #1092 \$65,207.49	

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 & Non-Union Personnel - Superintendent's Contract when 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 Mr. Morawiec to go into 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 & Non-Union Personnel - Superintendent's Contract when an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares at or before 8:10 p.m. not to return to open session.

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

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

8:25 PM XII. ADJOURNMENT by 9 p.m. unless extended by majority vote.

Mrs. Garfield made a motion seconded by Mr. Forgue to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy L Stewart
School Committee Secretary