

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, April 10, 2024

Middle School Room 112/114

7:00 P.M.

7:00 PM I. OPENING OF MEETING

Call to order: Sarah Page, Chairperson

BLANDFORD

Nicole Daviau
Keri Morawiec

CHESTER

Brian Forgue
Jason Forgue

HUNTINGTON

Pegg Dragon
Lisa Goding

MIDDLEFIELD

Alex Seid 7:28 p.m.
Tasha Strong

MONTGOMERY

RUSSELL

Sarah Page

SECRETARY

Stacy Stewart

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Kristen Smidy, Superintendent
Stephanie Fisk, Assistant Superintendent

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Deanna LeBlanc, Curriculum Director
Melissa McCaul, Littleville Principal
Chris Parker, Technology Director

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Joseph Pisani

OTHERS: Amy Mason, Eliza Mueller

7:02 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

7:11 PM IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. School Based Health Center Update and Discussion

- Mrs. Smidy said she had to make the decision to pull back on adult patients. It is a lot of work on our security person. School based had some problems with signing in. Some of the MOA was not being followed. Lisa Lynch was hired to be the new school based manager. She met with Ellen to tighten up on protocols. They are working on it.

- Ms. Page asked if we should wait until next year or reinstate again this year.
- Ms. Daviau asked what about the summer.
- Mrs. Smidy said they are not here when students are not here. She hopes to continue to converse again, but it might not happen until next year.

7:15 PM V. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM

A. Approval of Policies (Enc.'s)

- EFD - School Nutrition Program Charge Policy
 - EFC - Universal Free School Meals
 - IKB - Homework Policy
 - All policies listed in the [MASC Policy Newsletter from August/September 2023](#)
- This is a first read this week fore EFD, EFC, IKB, and MASC newsletter August/September
 - Revisit the next meeting.

B. Approval of Last Day of School as June 14, 2024

Mr. Jason Forgue made a motion seconded by Ms. Daviau to approve the last day of school as June 14, 2024.

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

Yeas: Nicole, Pegg, Brian, Jason, Lisa, Keri, Tasha, Sarah
Absent: Alex

- C. Recommendation to Participate in the National School Lunch Program for the FY '25 School Year**
- D. Recommendation to Participate in School Choice for the FY '25 School Year**
- E. Approval of Student Activities Accounts for the FY '25 School Year**
- F. Superintendent requests authorization for the District Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 16 (9), and with the approval of the Chairperson of the Gateway Regional Regional School Committee, to incur temporary debt, (borrow from time to time) in anticipation of revenue to be received from and source for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024. This is for short term borrowing in case assessments are not received on time, etc.**

Mr. Jason Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morawiec to approve of C-F.

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

Yeas: Nicole, Pegg, Brian, Jason, Lisa, Keri, Tasha, Sarah
Absent: Alex

G. Approval of Alternative Student Representative to the School Committee

- Joseph Pisani said this would allow whoever is in this seat, they are sick or can't be here there would be an alternative. There would be a main student representative and an alternate.
- Some have two, and some have an alternate.
- Mr. Jason Forgue asked how that person would be chosen.
- Joseph Pisani has been talking to Dr. Sullivan and Mrs. Smidy about it. Last few years it has been a student council representative. Incoming 10 -12 the student body should vote. Any elected position, they need to sign off on a form they need to be responsible
- Mr. Jason Forgue asked if they would be nominated and they would check.
- Joseph Pisani said when he was nominated he had to get five signatures, then they could make a speech and then there would be a vote. There would be a first choice and second choice.

Mr. Brian Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Goding to approve an alternative Student Representative.

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

Yeas: Nicole, Pegg, Brian, Jason, Lisa, Keri, Tasha, Sarah
Absent: Alex

7:35 PM VI. CONSENT ITEMS

A. 3/13/2024 Minutes (Enc.)

Mr. Brian Forgue made a motion seconded by Ms. Daviau to approve the minutes of 4/10/2024 as written.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 7 Nays Abstain 1 Absent 1 (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Nicole, Pegg, Brian, Jason, Keri, Tasha, Sarah
Abstain: Lisa
Absent: Alex

B. Acceptance of Grants/Donations (Enc.)

Mrs. Morawiec made a motion seconded by Mr. Brian Forgue to approve the grants and donations presented tonight.

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

Yeas: Nicole, Pegg, Brian, Jason, Lisa, Keri, Tasha, Sarah
Absent: Alex

7:38 PM VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

- Joseph Pisani said we are heading into spring, we are a week before April break. He thanked Eliza Mueller for working on tonight's update. March 26 there was Joint Ways and Means Hearing at the statehouse. We didn't get the usual gateway crew, due to short notice. He was able to provide testimony. Today is the one year anniversary of our group going to do that. April 5 was back to the state house with Cynthia Papillon and Mrs. Wing for student government day. Elementary has been in the thick of MCAS and finished yesterday. In Chester, the hilltown community ambulance was helping the preschool and their Community Helper Unit. Gator gallop 5k & walk will be April 27th to support Littleville field day. Middle school has a talent show coming up which is being put on by the PTO.. High school will be hosting a lip sync battle. Prom is May 24th at the log cabin and the cost is \$80. Junior and senior classes voted to allow sophomores to attend this year.
- Mrs. Morawiec asked if we anticipate the cost being an issue.
- Joseph Pisani said yes. There are flyers going up if people wish to make a donation, they are welcomed and encouraged.
- Mr. Jason Forgue asked if anyone can make a donation.
- Joseph Pisani said yes, but it must be cash or a check given to Ms. Jennings. Spring Fling is May 29th. There will be an inflatable obstacle course being made possible for free by the Air National Guard. Spirit week was this week. Trivia club was on As Schools Match Wits on March 2. He is optimistic and excited for Gateway's future from a student leadership perspective. May will be his last meeting. He will be here in June.

Mr. Seid arrived at 7:28.

7:43 PM VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mr. Jason Forgue signed up to be part of MASC rural schools committee first meeting is on May 2. He and Mr. Brian Forgue will be at Day on the Hill.

B. Chairperson - Retirement/Recognition Ceremony (June)

- Ms. Page will send out a sign up for the retirement recognition ceremony before the June school committee meeting. 6-7:00 p.m.
- Ms. Page said we need an executive session.

Mr. Jason Forgue made a motion seconded by Ms. Daviau to go into executive session at or before 7:45 p.m. for the food services and teacher negotiations not to return to open session.

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

Yeas: Nicole, Pegg, Brian, Jason, Lisa, Keri, Alex, Tasha, Sarah

C. Superintendent - Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Report in packet, safety upgrades - house budget was published and cut rural aid to 7.5 million, next is senate, joint, then governor. House included an increase in per pupil line and zeroed out transportation. The Legislative Committee for MASS asked for both her

and Cheryl Stanton to volunteer and picked a non-rural school superintendent. John Cabral, Superintendent of Taunton Schools testified at a hearing and adequately spoke about how much it helped Taunton and it was unfair that rural schools didn't get any.

- Mr. Jason Fogue said Paul Mark gave a presentation and the governor was there. The fact that they showed up and then didn't support it is infuriating. Joseph Pisani is helping establish something for youth. People who were there said the words rural school aid, not increase, 60 million or support were with those three words. It was nice to see some of these people in the same room. When the topic of rural schools was brought up that is when most hands shot up with questions. Sheryl Stanton, Senator Lewis, Senator Mark, Senator Velis, Senator Cyr.

D. Assistant Superintendent - None

E. Administration (Enc.) - None

F. Town Officials - None

7:50 PM IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING (Enc.)

A. Superintendent's Evaluation

- Ms. Page said evaluation materials will be released by Friday. You have until the May 8 meeting to complete the evaluation. She will have a month to get the data together for a report in June. If you have questions, reach out to her or Mrs. Smidy.

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B. Legislative Liaison - None

C. Negotiations - None

D. Building Liaisons - None

E. CES Update - None

F. Policy

- Policy to meet in May.

7:55 PM X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

7:58 PM XI. INFORMATION

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

AP #1074 \$292,366.88

PR #019 \$434,000.80

AP #1079 \$81.21

PR #020 \$428,224.89

AP #1076 \$155,517.50

8:00 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 Food Services & GEA if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares.

8:30 PM XIII. ADJOURNMENT by 9 p.m. unless extended by majority vote.