

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 8, 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 7:23

CHESTER

Jeana Briggs
Brian Forgue
Jason Forgue

HUNTINGTON

Pegg Dragon
Lisa Goding

MIDDLEFIELD

MONTGOMERY

RUSSELL

Tara Balboni
Sarah Page

SECRETARY

Stacy Stewart

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Kristen Smidy, Superintendent
Stephanie Fisk, Assistant Superintendent

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Deanna LeBlanc, Curriculum Director
Will Sullivan, Middle/High Principal
Chris Tamburrino, Asst. Pupil Services Dir.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Joseph Pisani

OTHERS: Val Zeh, Amy Mason

7:02 PM II. PUBLIC INPUT - None

7:10 PM III. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS

- Mrs. Smidy announced that Val Zeh will be the new Assistant Principal at the Gateway Regional School.

7:11 PM IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

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](#)

Mr. Jason Fogrue made a motion seconded by Mr. Brian Forge to approve all policies as written and presented.

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

Yeas: Tara, Jeana, Nicole, Pegg, Brian, Jason, Lisa, Sarah

Absent: Keri

7:15 PM V. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM

A. Ratification of GEA Unit A (Teachers) and Unit C (Food Service) contracts

- Ms. Smidy said the process was very collaborative.
- There is one change from when we spoke about them last time to now and that is a shift from the GEA union meeting on day one. It is outside of contract time as that has been past practice.

Ms. Daviau made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to Ratify Union A Teachers and Unit C Food Service Contracts covering August 15, 2024 through August 14, 2027

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

Yeas: Tara, Jeana, Nicole, Pegg, Brian, Jason, Lisa, Sarah

Absent: Keri

B. Vote to Approve Revised Calendar (Enc.)

Teachers have three days of professional development. The first student day is August 29 instead of the 28th. New last day is June 13th!

Ms. Dragon made a motion seconded by Mr. Brian Forge to approve the change to the FY '25 school calendar.

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

Yeas: Tara, Jeana, Nicole, Pegg, Brian, Jason, Lisa, Sarah

Absent: Keri

7:20 PM VI. CONSENT ITEMS

A. 4/10/2024 Minutes (Enc.)

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

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 6 Nays Abstain 2 Absent 1 (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Nicole, Pegg, Brian, Jason, Lisa, Sarah

Abstain: Tara, Jeana

Absent: Keri

B. Acceptance of Grants/Donations (Enc.) - Nothing New

- Nothing new.
- Ms. Dragon asked about the different types of grants.
- Mrs. Smidy said federal entitlements are based on demographic data so we just comply with expectations. State Competitive grants we have to apply for and are limited. A continuation grant is if we continue to comply. Private, like BARR doesn't require as many hoops to jump through for compliance. State allocated is similar to entitlement in that it is based on demographics and meeting requirements. Carry over is if the grant was in the previous year, we can carry it over to the next year. One of Ms. Fisk's least favorite things.

7:22 PM VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

- Mrs. Page thanked Joey for going above and beyond especially in terms of rural aid.
- Joseph Piani said the budget put rural aid down to 7.5 million and the senate put it back to 15 million and described it as doubling when they slashed it and then doubled it. Email that rural schools ma website was updated. He congratulated Principal Sullivan for giving his first state of the school at an event. He reflected on progress and what is ahead. Ms. Zeh is going to be the new assistant principal and he is super excited. She radiates positivity. So many students are walking across the stage because of teachers like her and Ms. Luppino. He appreciates all the people who make this school work so well. He got to go to Boston for an event. Members of the youth climate council make a hand tree- members found ways to sneak in recommendations. It needs to include rural communities - At the elementary elementary - gator gallop raised like 750 anya niles who ran into the first place. Walk -and a papillon us states. Graduation is the 31st. Student representations class elections were held on June 3rd. This will be his last student update. There will be two new amazing people at the June meeting. August 6, 2021 was when he received the first email to do this. It has changed his Gateway experience and it has been an honor to represent the fellow students even when the cards are stacked against us. He got to speak with representatives from across the commonwealth.
- Mrs. Morawiec arrived at 7:23 p.m.
- He got to know the administration and learned about love mich cozies. This is the best school committee in the state. You all show up to sports events, community events and not once has he felt like his student voice was not valued. You also advocate for things. Thank you for all you do. He has never been more optimistic for Gateway's future.

7:27 PM VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mr. Jason Forgue went to The Day on the Hill and hung out with Natalie Blais - you know they were going to talk to Senator Mark's legislative director since he has been chosen to head the rural aid. It was disappointing, he said he would be proposing an

amendment. They kept it at \$104 per student. Everyone keeps talking about the revenue - most people turned in their tax returns. The people in the budget office don't feel comfortable making comments about the budget. They did not travel with Mohawk this year. They were disappointed in the MASC recommendations. He spent last Thursday at the rural school council and they had a great representation of needs and then to sit down at the Day on the Hill and MASC didn't include them. Steve Ultrino talked about how his own district has a ten million dollar shortfall.

- Mr. Brian Forgue said his recommendation was to make sure you have a good Superintendent and that you advocate for your district - but you might be hurting another district.

B. Chairperson - Retirement/Recognition Ceremony (June)

- Ms. Page reminded everyone the retirement/recognition reception is before the next meeting from 6-7:00 p.m.

C. Superintendent - Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Mrs. Smidy said teacher appreciation week includes everyone! We used money from Barr to buy gifts this year. Monday we had the Barr planning meeting for the continuation grant that included Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Wright, and Mrs. Fant. We will focus on community and student outreach and be more intentional about getting community feedback.
- Mrs. Briggs asked if we do not have this grant.
- Mrs. Smidy said we have it now for the planning piece. We will be submitting the next piece of the plan - \$200-400 over the next few years. Circuit Breaker, YMCA, Bob Lepage -secretary of career education Sullivan and Kristen- waiving the exploratory year, he agreed we should talk about it and dese says to ask him and he says to ask DESE.

D. Assistant Superintendent

- Town meetings are coming up and she received an email with the senate budget win coming out if we would be reducing assessments. She politely said no. Middlefield approved the budget on Saturday.

E. Administration (Enc.)

- Mr. Sullivan said May 29 is the annual awards ceremony at 8:15 a.m. Breakfast will be catered from Carms at 7:45 a.m.

F. Town Officials - None

7:35 PM IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING (Enc.)

A. Superintendent's Evaluation

- Ms. Page said we are not at 100% yet. She is keeping it open until Saturday.

B. Legislative Liaison

C. Negotiations

D. Building Liaisons

E. CES Update

F. Policy

- Met tonight. They will be providing information on home school options, field trip process, chaperone recommendations, and athletics games during vacation weeks.
- Mrs. Page said homeschooling is a big one. Mrs. LeBlance did a lot of good work pulling options together.
- Ms. Dragon said we haven't really had a policy before.
- Roger Booth sent an email. The Huntington selectboard would like us to weigh in on some conversations happening in town. Hull is looking to expand that would have a zoning and conservation impact in town. The hearing is next week. Selectboard is hoping we take a stand on how we feel about that expansion. They are concerned that if they give permits, they may receive others. There may be others such as blasting at the gravel pit.
- Mrs. Smidy met with Lisa Lynch from Health Center. They had a number of proposals we can discuss at a later date. They are not going to be permitted to have outside patients the rest of the school year.

7:40 PM X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- 4th Quarter Budget Transfers

7:42 PM XI. INFORMATION

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

AP #1080 \$196,965.63	PR #021 \$444,175.88
AP #1082 \$168,544.95	PR #022 \$128,733.52
AP #1084 \$128,733.52	
AP #1087 \$1,502.88	

7:45 PM XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

8:00 PM XIII. ADJOURNMENT by 9 p.m. unless extended by majority vote.

Mr. Brian Forgue made a motion seconded by Ms. Dragon to adjourn at 7:54 p.m.

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

Yeas: Tara, Jeana, Nicole, Pegg, Brian, Jason, Lisa, Keri, Sarah

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy L Stewart
School Committee Secretary