

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, October 9, 2024

Middle School Room 117/119

7:00 P.M.

7:00 PM I. OPENING OF MEETING & QUESTION TO SEE IF ANYONE IS RECORDING

Call to order: Ms. Fisk, Assistant Superintendent

BLANDFORD

Nicole Daviau
Keri Morawiec

CHESTER

Jeanne Briggs
Brian Forgue
Jason Forgue

HUNTINGTON

Pegg Dragon
Lisa Goding

MIDDLEFIELD

MONTGOMERY

Peter DeGregorio

RUSSELL

Lyndsey Papillon

SECRETARY

Stacy Stewart

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Stephanie Fisk, Assistant Superintendent

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Martha Gendron, Littleville Asst. Principal
Vanna Maffuccio, Chester Principal
Melissa McCaul, Littleville Principal
Chris Parker, Technology Director
Chris Tamburrino, Asst. Pupil Services Dir.
Val Zeh, GRS Assistant Principal

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Theodore DeAngelis-Page
Ana Holmes, Alternate

OTHERS: Amy Mason, Chris Mosher

7:05 PM II. REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE

A. Chairperson

Mrs. Briggs nominated Mr. Jason Forgue as chairperson seconded by Mrs. Morawiec.

Ballot Vote:

Mr. Jason Forgue: Nicole, Jason, Peter, Brian, Pegg, Lyndsey, Keri, Jeanne

Once a chair is nominated and approved, the meeting will be run by the chair.

- Mr. Jason Forgue took over the meeting as Chairperson

B. Vice-Chairperson

Ms. Dragon nominated Mrs. Morawiec as Vice Chair seconded by Mrs. Papillon.

Ballot Vote:

Mrs. Morwiac: Jason, Keri, Nicole, Lyndsey, Peter, Jeana, Brian, Pegg

7:10 PM III. PUBLIC INPUT - None

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

7:15 PM IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS - None

7:20 PM V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Notification of list of classes with numbers less than 10 - Update (Enc.)

- Two additional classes have been added since the last meeting.

7:25 PM VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM

A. Skills USA field trip(s) request for approval, Kelly Bartolo (Enc.)

Ms. Daviau made a motion seconded by Mr. Brian Forgue to approve the Skills USA Trip.

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

Yeas: Jeana, Peter, Nicole, Pegg, Brian, Lisa, Keri, Jason

Abstain: Lyndsey

B. Boston Field Trip request for approval, Chris Mosher

- Chris Mosher is taking an overnight trip to Boston. This is the third year taking this trip. He is coordinating with Explorica for April 16 and 17th. The price is \$460 for initial students signing up. Last year's cost was \$415. 68% of students have signed up which is down a little. There is still an option for students to sign up with a slightly higher price. Last year we had district funding that isn't available again so he sent out a questionnaire. Two families requested \$320 and there are also families willing to help out. There are enough donations to cover the cost of those families. Next year he is hoping to line up some sort of grant or funding mechanism. He is open to suggestions, maybe the GEF.
- School Committee members also suggested middle school PTO next year.
- Mrs. Goding asked about asking the families who didn't sign up why they didn't sign up.
- Chris Mosher didn't hear anyone say there were financial reasons for why they weren't signing up.
- Right now 18 are staying back. There will be two 8th grade teachers to stay back with those students.
- Mrs. Papillon said fall applications for learning are not due until Friday. If the need is there maybe we can grant it, even if the trip isn't until the spring. And if you don't use the money that okay.

- Mr. DeGregorio said two families donated.
- Chris Mosher said one family donated on the questionnaire where he asked if people would be willing to help out.
- Mrs. Briggs suggested contacting the PTO.
- Mr. Mosher said they moved up the deadline by one month from last year.
- Mrs. Goding said there might be businesses willing to donate.
- Chris Mosher said he will explore other options because the price went up.
- Mr. Jason Fogue said the funding you mentioned was cultural council based. Every town is required to have a cultural council. They are always looking for places to donate the money. There are people designated in each town
- Mrs. Daviau said the number of requests outnumbered the amount of money Blandford received.

Mrs. Morawiec made a motion seconded by Ms. Dragon to approve the Boston Field Trip.

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

Yeas: Jeana, Peter, Nicole, Pegg, Brian, Lisa, Keri, Lyndsey, Jason

C. Acknowledgment students from Germany traveling to Gateway

- Mr. Jason Fogue said about four dozen German students will be participating in some band events. They arrive on the 17th and several families have offered up their homes. As of right now a generous family in Middlefield has offered their house for 15 students. Transportation is an issue, the bus can't transport all of them so Lecrenski has volunteered a bus to pick up the other 4 students.
- For those who can help with transportation, food or drinks, anything families are willing to help. Mr. Jason Fogue said he would send out a list of suggestions from Beth Guertin.
- The concert is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m.

D. Acknowledgment of charter school change request from Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter School to DESE, Determine action items, if any (Enc.)

- Mr. Jason Fogue requested their coverage area and if there is anything you want to raise back to them.
- Ms. Fisk said they are looking to make the catchment area smaller and include transportation. Our students can still go. Nothing changes for our students. If their catchment area went to Westfield our students could get on a bus there.

7:35PM VII. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Approval of 9/11/2024 Minutes (Enc.)

Mr. Brian Fogue made a motion seconded by Ms. Dragon to approve the minutes of 9/11/2024.

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

Yeas: Jeana, Peter, Pegg, Brian, Lisa, Keri, Lyndsey, Jason

Abstain: Nicole

B. Acceptance of Grants/Donations (Enc.)

- Backpacks filled with helpful items
- Check Donation for GSA activities

Ms. Dragon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morawiec to approve the grants and donations listed for tonight.

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

Yeas: Jeana, Peter, Nicole, Pegg, Brian, Lisa, Keri, Lyndsey, Jason

C. Approval of First Quarter Budget Transfers (Enc.)

- Ms. Fisk said ninety-nine percent are salary adjustments because the GEA settled their contract after budget adoption. Will have another staffing update in January.

Mrs. Morawiec made a motion seconded by Mrs. Papillon to approve the first quarter Budget transfers.

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

Yeas: Jeana, Peter, Nicole, Pegg, Brian, Lisa, Keri, Lyndsey, Jason

- Mr. Brian Fogue asked about the decrease in therapeutic services.
- Ms. Fisk said it decreases in one area and increases in another.

7:40 PM VIII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

- Theodore DeAngelis- Page said Barr foundation visits for each grade is still being worked on. 8th graders went to HCC and 9th and 10th graders will visit a four year college 12 life skills. A sister to Barr hosts a special event, which he would describe as a cocktail party for high school students summit for students to talk about empowerment of student voice.
- There was a threat that was not made for our high school, but could have been. The administration handled it well but students took advantage of school as 34% were absent that Friday.
- German exchange students visiting 17 to 23. Shadowing students. He has a pen pal too.
- Freshman elections took place. Congratulations to Shane Plant on his presidency. Senior class fundraisers included: sMum and little caesar and the upcoming duck race at the Granville Craft Fair. Juniors sold baked goods at the Huntington Craft Fair. Open house is tomorrow, stop by to see what we are up to. There will be a Barr foundation table. Semi formal will be on October 25th this year. It is put on by the student council and they are adding a photo booth and a pep rally too. Career and college fair on October 16. The 6 students who received the spots to be Barr interns were Ana Holmes, Erica Madru, Vendella Keier, Tricia Thieme, Jesse Balboni and Amelia Stewart.

- Boys varsity senior night is October 15th against the pioneer valley panthers. Girls senior night is on the 16th against Franklin Tech.. Cross country is doing great. Boys and girls are preparing for western mass. Boys ran a half marathon at their practice.
- Middle school will be changing their exploratory blocks at the end of the month. Highlights of exploratory blocks were the Dakin fundraiser and wooden airplanes made by the woodshop. 8th grade is going on their overnight Boston trip in April. 7th grade is collecting tickets for a popsicle event. 6th grade used pumpkins for a hands on math project. Littleville attended an assembly hosted by Neds mindset mission - never give up.
- Chester was one of the 57 of 1827 schools that were recognized by DESE for their high achievement and ambitious growth for the MCAS accountability system. Second grade went on a walking field trip. They are participating in Girls on the run for grades 3-5 and Boo bash is on the 18th.

7:45 PM IX. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mrs. Briggs said the whole thing with Mrs. Page is devastating with the disservice that it is going to bring to students and staff.
- Mrs. Papillon and Mrs. Balboni agree.
- Mr. Jason Fogue also gave a heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Page. We made a good team on school committee and he will greatly miss her in these meetings.
- Mr. Jason Fogue said in the admin report it said the town of Chester used the elementary school. He personally apologized to Mrs. Maffuccio if he added any stress to her day. Chester had a vote about the electric light department. It came across as if he was blaming the school and he wasn't. The police chief did great. There are some things that need to be cleaned up by the school such as posting. An emergency vehicle probably couldn't have gotten in..

B. Chairperson

- Mr. Jason Fogue congratulated all of the schools for the work they have done to make improvements in MCAS scores.
- We are having problems with our local representation. The afterschool grant we talked about last meeting. A meeting took place and neither Paul Mark or Nick Boldyga showed up. We are still waiting for rural aid. We are working together with Amherst, Hadley, Lee, Martha's Vineyard. Goes up to 35 students per square mile. We got a huge million dollar increase. The more we can stay on them the better off we will be.

C. Superintendent - Central Office Update (Enc.) - None

D. Assistant Superintendent - None

E. Administration (Enc.) - None

F. Town Officials - None

7:55 PM X. COMMITTEE REPORTING (Enc.)

A. Superintendent's Evaluation

- Was scheduled to be tonight, but will be rescheduled.

B. Legislative Liaison

- Mr. Brian Fogue said they both gave the excuse of not having the zoom link. On the good news Kristen has an email drafted to give to Senator Mark and Baldiga on the 21st

or the 4th when they meet with the Chester selectboard about the water problem. The Selectmen are also going to bring up the afterschool program. If there are any members who want to go it is a public meeting. FY 26 has the potential to be even harder than FY25 and we can't afford to lose rural aid.

- C. Negotiations** - None
- D. Building Liaisons** - None
- E. CES Update** - None
- F. Policy** - November 13, 2024

8:00 PM XI. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

8:05 PM XII. INFORMATION

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

AP#1016	\$57,892.10	PR #005	\$409,756.19
AP#1020	\$328,680.36	PR #006	\$466,388.69
AP#1024	\$57,068.04	PR #007	\$459,763.42
AP#1030	\$54.04		

8:10 PM XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

8:10 PM XV. ADJOURNMENT by 9 p.m. unless extended by majority vote.

Ms. Daviau made a motion seconded by Ms. Dragon to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

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

Yeas: Jeana, Peter, Nicole, Pegg, Brian, Lisa, Keri, Lyndsey, Jason

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy L. Stewart,
School Committee Secretary