

## **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 12, 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**

Jeana Briggs  
Brian Forgue  
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**

Deanna LeBlanc, Curriculum Director  
Vanna Maffuccio, Chester Principal  
Melissa McCaul, Littleville Principal  
Chris Parker, Technology Director  
William Sullivan, Middle/High Principal  
Chris Tamburrino, Asst. Pupil Services Dir.

##### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Joseph Pisani

OTHERS: Val Zeh, Amy Mason, Alexis Batra, Joseph Pisani, Peter DeGregorio

#### **7:02 PM II. PUBLIC INPUT**

- Peter DeGregorio is our new Montgomery School Committee representative.

#### **7:10 PM III. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS**

#### **7:11 PM IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**

A. Approval of Policies - No Policies

#### **7:15 PM V. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM**

A. 2026-2027 Spain & Costa Rica Trip Proposal

- Mrs. Batra. Explained the trips she is planning to Spain and Costa Rica. Spain is 2026 and this Spain trip has them visiting a few more places. It will include students from 10th grade and above who are in Spanish, 2, 3, & 4. The Spain trip cost is \$3,469.00 and Costa Rica trip cost is \$3,599.00
- Joseph Pisani got a scholarship, he just had to make a video about how traveling would affect him. Mrs. Batra continues to stay with EF because she feels safe and they are very responsive. You have the option to purchase insurance.
- Theo DeAngelis-Pade said the food was good.
- Costa Rica would be for 2027
- There was discussion about adding a third Country of travel staying in the current price range. Mrs. Batra would look into it and get back to the committee.

***Mr. Jason Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to approve a trip in 2026 and 2027 within the cost parameters discussed above.***

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

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

#### **B. Approval of Superintendent's FY '24 Evaluation Summary**

- Ms. Page said we did not have 100% participation.

***Mr. Brian Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to approve the Superintendent's FY 24 Evaluation Summary.***

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

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

#### **C. FY '25 School Committee Meeting Schedule**

***Mr. Jason Forgue made a motion seconded by Mr. Brian Forgue to approve the FY '25 School Committee Meeting Schedule.***

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

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

#### **D. Approval of Fourth Quarter Budget Transfers**

- Ms. Fisk said longevity payments in the same year, a MOA is signed for the bargaining units. The rest is mainly subs, health insurance waive which goes into Opeb, out of tuition special education, and salaries.

***Mrs. Morawiec made a motion seconded by Mrs. Balboni to approve the FY '24 Fourth Quarter Transfers.***

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

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

#### **E. Approval of Chester Elementary School Improvement Plan**

- Mrs. Maffuccio said there is a lot of information and evidence of the work they have done. There is a link at the bottom that compares data.
- Ms. Page said maybe have the building representatives to make sure we are staying on top of it. She likes that it is a 3 year plan. Elementary schools sometimes take a long time to show growth.
- Mrs. Smidy asked if this was required and silence means it is approved. You would only have to vote if you were against it.
- Ms. Page would feel better voting on it. Especially connecting the building representatives.

***Mr. Brian Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morawiec to approve the Chester Elementary School Improvement Plan.***

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

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

- Mr. Brian Forgue was talking with Chester's public safety committee and asked if Mrs. Smidy or our facilities director are part of the mitigation planning.
- Mrs. Smidy said we were asked, we said we would be a resource but not on the committee.
- Mr. Jason Forgue said some of the mitigation plan would involve utilizing the school. Has anyone approached the school?
- Mrs. Smidy said Huntington has, but they are a year ahead of Chester.

#### **7:20 PM VI. CONSENT ITEMS**

##### **A. 5/8/2024 Minutes**

***Ms. Dragon made a motion seconded by Mr. Brian Forgue to approve the minutes of May 8, 2024.***

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

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

Abstain: Tasha

##### **B. Acceptance of Grants/Donations**

FY '25 grants BARR grant the first part of the 2 year \$400,000 grant. Second grant \$58,000 summer asoas grant - free summer programing - contracting with the YMCA

***Mr. Jason Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morawiec to approve the proposed grants.***

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

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

## **7:22 PM VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE**

Theodore DeAngelis-Page gave the update. He is our new Student Representative and Ana Holmes is the alternate.

- Gateway hosted the great east festival on June 7th and were awarded gold and then they went to six flags. There was a Macbook raffle and Jefferey Antonelis won. As of next year there will be a cell phone policy reform. Student council helped. Students had a strong opinion for pouches in all classrooms and access at lunch and passing period.
- High School - recognized Grace Renauld for participating on Mass Star, working in leadership workshops with other sophomores around the state. High School gators are still working hard and taking final exams, but disliked having them the last week. Wish it was filled with fun activities.
- Mr. Jason Forgue asked if he thinks they would show up
- Theodore DeAngelis- said for things like spring fling.
- Mr. Jason Forgue asked what % are actually taking finals.
- Theodore DeAngelis Page said in his algebra class 12 people took it and 4 were exempt.
- Mr. Jason Forgue said we set it up this way for the purpose of having finals.
- Ms. Dragon said that was a request for half days for finals week. If it is not happening we need to revisit it. You have to have a certain number of bodies in school in order for it to count.
- Baseball and softball made states. Baseball not since 2016. They both lost.
- Spring fling was great this year with the obstacle course from the Air national guard and Herrell's ice cream
- The fundraiser car wash was yesterday which raised over \$600
- Middle School Step up is Friday June 14th. 7th grade went to the Franklin Park Zoo on 6/10. 8th went to High Meadows. There will be camp over summer Monday-Thursday with a weekly field trip. High school students can be hired as outdoor explorers.
- Elementary - Littleville field day last friday. The EEC and NHS students from the high school helped out. Littleville had a spirit week. Chester held it's 5th grade step-up on 6/10 and the new Chester playground had a ribbon cutting ceremony.
- Joseph Pisani said Theodore DeAngelis- Page and Ana Holmes won a contested election by incoming 10-12 graders. You have two of the best students to be in these roles. Both are incredibly out spoken students
- Theodore DeAngelis-Page talked about how great Joseph Pisani was for coaching him over the last year. Thank you.

## **7:27 PM VIII. COMMUNICATIONS**

### **A. School Committee**

- Ms. Page thanked everyone who came to the retirement reception.
- Ms. Page said we need an executive session.

***Mr. Jason Forgue made a motion seconded by Mr. Brian Forgue to go into executive session at or 8:00 p.m pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements - approval of executive session minutes: 11/8/23, 3/13/24, 4/10/24, not to return to open session.***

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

**B. Chairperson** - Retirement/Recognition Ceremony (tonight 6-7:00 p.m.)

**C. Superintendent** - Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Mrs. Smidy thanked the committee for the evaluation.
- Growth and change is difficult and emotions may be challenged at times. It may feel uncomfortable. As an organization we need to be better for our students. We will need school committee support to keep us on track.
- Every student is going to go on at least one school visit. Hopefully two in order to gather information like the staff did. There is a Kentucky trip in October paid for by the BARR foundation. Looking for parent/caregiver students. Lexington and Louisville are two schools that they would visit.
- Ms. Dragon and Mrs. Smidy attended a Huntignton zoning meeting - but please look closely at those notes.

**D. Assistant Superintendent**

- Ms. Fisk said the auditorium AC units were struck by a storm, we are still waiting for the parts and a crane.
- Ms. Fisk said the 12 passenger van we ordered was built and shipped and it was put in their lease fleet and we are another 8 weeks out.
- Ms. Page said the state of the lunchroom was included in your packet..

**E. Administration** (Enc.) - none

**F. Town Officials** - none

- Mrs. Briggs said Chester was not part of the Amy Mason's Celebration and none of the high school students attended Chester field day.
- Mrs. Daviau is the liaison from Chester and she said it would be nice to have high school students in the elementary schools..
- Mrs. Smidy said we will have paid posted positions for high school students.

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

- A. Superintendent's Evaluation - none
- B. Legislative Liaison - none
- C. Negotiations - none
- D. Building Liaisons - none
- E. CES Update - none
- F. Policy - none

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

**7:42 PM XI. INFORMATION**

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

AP #1088 \$92,023.50  
AP #1090 \$1,437.88  
AP #1092 \$244,421.92  
AP #1095 \$5,259.72  
AP #1097 \$192,799.78

PR #023 \$516,027.84  
PR #024 \$449,328.42

**7:45 PM XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements - approval of executive session minutes: 11/8/23, 3/13/24, 4/10/24 (Enc. SC only)

***Mr. Jason Forgue made a motion seconded by Mr. Brian Forgue to go into executive session at or 8:00 p.m pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements - approval of executive session minutes: 11/8/23, 3/13/24, 4/10/24, not to return to open session.***

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

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

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

***Mr. Jason Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Morawiec to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.***

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

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Stacy L. Stewart  
School Committee Secretary