Approved **Minutes #3/5/2025**

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.

FY '26 Budget Hearing Minutes
Wednesday, March 5, 2025
Gateway Auditorium

7:00 P.M.

7:00 PM I. OPENING OF MEETING & QUESTION TO SEE IF ANYONE IS RECORDING
Call to order: Mrs. Smidy, Superintendent

BLANDFORD	CHESTER	HUNTINGTON	MIDDLEFIELD
	Jeana Briggs	Lisa Goding	
	Brian Forgue		
	Jason Forgue		

MONTGOMERY	RUSSELL	SECRETARY
Peter DeGregorio	Tara Balboni	Stacy Stewart

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION
Kristen Smidy, Superintendent
Stephanie Fisk, Assistant Superintendent

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Kurt Garivaltis, Pupil Services Director
Martha Gendron, Littleville Asst. Principal
Deanna LeBlanc, Curriculum Director
Vanna Maffuccio, Chester Principal
Melissa McCaul, Littleville Principal
Chris Parker, Technology Director
William Sullivan, GRS Principal
Chris Tamburrino, Asst. Pupil Services Dir.
Val Zeh, GRS Assistant Principal

OTHERS: Adair, Tamarin, Andy Myers, Amy Porter, John McVeigh, Keren Leis, Amy Mason, Ann Marie Visconti, Christina Ferrero

7:02 PM II. FY '26 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

- Mrs. Smidy gave a PowerPoint presentation. We are grounding our work through the instructional vision. It is our north star for how we want teaching and learning.

The presentation covered
FY'26 Cost Assumptions
Summary of Proposed FY 'Budget

Revenue Projections
Student Number Comparisons March 2024 to March 2025
Cenuse Percentage Comparisons March 2024 to March 2025
Minimum Contribution Comparison
Total Assessment Comparisons
March 1, 2025 Census
Vocational Student Interest for FY '26 - not hard fast numbers
FY '26 Vocational Information for Gateway Towns
Closing the Gate to Reach goal of 2% assessment increase needs offset with other funding sources
Links and Questions

- Mr. Jason Forgue asked if thirty-five students express interest, what is the percentage of the class we lose.
- Steph we lose about 40%.
- Mrs. LeBlanc asked if the number is doubled if they apply to more than one.
- Ms. Fisk said no.
- Mrs. Goding asked if she could talk more about federal grants.
- Mrs. Smidy said Title I, IIA and IV are all for specific reasons. Title I is literacy and math accessibility, IIA is teacher support, mentoring, etc, and Title IV is tTechnology and initiatives the department identifies. IDEA is about $300,000 PreK is about $60,000; they are entitlement grants.
- Mrs. Smidy said the budget is on GlearGov.
- Mr. Brian Forgue asked about vocational per student provided by DESE. FY 26 vocational
- Mrs. Smidy said the required baseline is how much the state requires towns to pay to regional schools. For example the Blandford is a reduction of 162,784. Then the state pays Blandford $77,000 in addition to reducing the baseline. Then you take $240,370 and divide it by 11 to get $21,852.
- Mr. Jason Forgue asked about the anticipated tuition.
- Mrs. Smidy doesn't know when we will know for sure.
- Mrs. Jason Forgue said even though the state kicks in, it still costs the town money.
- Ms. Fisk said last year they released the vocational tuition rates on April 4.
- Mr. Jason Forgue said given the rising costs everywhere, it could be a larger increase than 1.5% increase.
- Adair asked if the transportation stayed the same?
- Ms. Fisk said our transportation went up 12%.
- Mrs. Smidy said that comparatively we were lower than other areas. Some saw 20-30%.
- Mr. Jason Forgue said our last one was 1%.
- Andy Myers asked about the grant that Gateway got for innovative education ideas.
- Mrs. Smidy said we received a grant from the Barr foundation, in the amount of $400,000 over two years. They are encouraging the district in innovative practices. They pay for site excursions to see innovative programming. Paying for student internships and teacher stipends trying innovative practices. Each school has an amount to foster creative learning. Radical hospitality, making sure people feel highly respected while engaging in innovative learning.
- Andy Myers asked are there any ideas of the tangible results

- Mrs. Smidy said they are using micro practices that increase learning. Protocols about lessons and applying it to real world three why's. Elementary is encouraging productive struggle being taught to persevere, not to look to the teacher for the answer
- Ann marie - with student population
- John balpart for voke is 2
- Andy Myers said the budget process is very complicated. He gave hats off to Ms. Fisk.
- Mr. Jason Forgue talked about the rally in Belchertown. There are cuts being made in South Hadley, one of the towns he works in. Everyone is now doing things that we have already done. It is comforting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m**.**

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy L Stewart
School Committee Secretary