Approved **Minutes #3/12/2025**

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.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 12, 2025
Gateway Auditorium

7:00 P.M.

7:00 PM I. OPENING OF MEETING & QUESTION TO SEE IF ANYONE IS RECORDING
Call to order: Mr. Forgue, Chairperson

BLANDFORD	CHESTER	HUNTINGTON	MIDDLEFIELD
Keri Morawiec	Jeana Briggs	Lisa Goding	Alex Seid
	Brian Forgue		
	Jason Forgue		

MONTGOMERY	RUSSELL	SECRETARY
Peter DeGregorio	Tara Balboni	Stacy Stewart
	Alicia Hansen	

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION
Kristen Smidy, Superintendent
Stephanie Fisk, Assistant Superintendent

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
Theodore DeAngelis-Page

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

OTHERS: Patty Healy, Misty Robitaille, Wendy Long, Amy Mason

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)

- Misty Robitaille said what happened in the classroom was the last straw for her. Today two students came into the classroom and lost control, throwing and pushing desks, all the students were hiding behind the desk with the teacher. She is begging Mrs. Smidy to go spend time in the classroom. She hears everyone doing things. But it is not helping. She advocates for Chester and the teachers. She felt upset and let down by

the school. Please spend some time there. The kids that are misbehaving day after day should earn to go to six flags. If you are bad you get to go play basketball with Mr. Folta.

- Mr. Jason Forgue asked if there was any other public input.
- Mrs. Briggs said you guys don't care. I told her not to come.

7:17 PM III. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS

7:19 PM IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Second read of policies:
   1. JKAA Physical Restraint
   2. IHBG Home Schooling
   3. ADF Wellness Policy
   4. No action regarding JFA Vocational Admission Policy

- Mr. Jason Forgue said we discussed them at the last meeting.

Ms. Morawiec made a motion seconded by Mr. Brian Forgue to approve JKAA Restraint Training, IHGB Home Schooling, and ADF Wellness Policy.

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

Yeas: Tara, Brian, Lisa, Alicia, Keri, Alex, Jason
Abstain: Jeana
Absent: Peter

- Mrs. Briggs asked what we do with these policies? What are the consequences of today?
- Mr. Jason Forgue said this is the first we are hearing of it. We will look into it.
- Mr. Brian Forge asked if we have heard anything on the vocational policy.
- Mrs. Smidy has heard nothing.
- Mr. Jason Forgue said regarding the last policy, we aren't taking action. We won't push for that until we get the answers we requested.

7:30 PM V. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM

A. Recommendation to approve FY '26 Chester Elementary School Cost Center (02) Total = $1,494,787 (Lyndsey)
B. Recommendation to approve the FY '26 Gateway Regional School Cost Center (08) Total = $5,132,480 (Lyndsey, Tara)
C. Recommendation to approve the FY '26 Annual Budget Total = $18,254,669
D. FY '26 School Calendar Approval (Enc.)

7:50 PM VI. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Approval of 2/5/2025, 2/12/2025, 2/19/25, 3/5/25 Minutes (Enc.)

Mrs. Balboni made a motion seconded by Mr. Brian Forgue to approve the minutes of 2/5/25, 2/12/25, 2/19/25, and 3/5/25.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 7 Nays Abstain 2 Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Tara, Jeana, Brian, Lisa, Keri, Alex, Jason
Abstain: Peter, Alicia

Mr. DeGregorio arrived at 7:13 p.m.

B. **Acceptance of Grants/Donations** (Enc.)

- No Grants or Donations since last meeting.

7:52 PM VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

- Theodore DeAngelis-Page said on March 4 and 5 6-12 grade students got an educational presentation from two Northeastern associates on the basis of hate and respect in schools. Following the hour long presentations 20-30 students between 8-11th grade gathered together for more in-depth discussion. They talked more about hate and learning specific facts about racist and sexist slurs.
- The culture committee went to Mohawk to look at their efficient advisory program. They visited classrooms during their advisory time period which is part of their school day.
- Grades 6-12 participated in the quarterly pep rally. There was a senior vs teacher basketball game.
- The high and middle school bands and choir performed for the senior citizen concert and brunch. The spring concert is right around the corner.
- He and Anna are visiting Secretary of EducationTutwiler to discuss and advocate for the known inadequate funding for our schools.
- March 31, they will be traveling to Northampton high school to give a presentation on the necessity of funding, which we hope will change his perspective on rural schooling. schools
- The high school Barr team has been planning a cookout for the class of 2025. Seniors are welcome to bring family members.
- Costa Rica - All had a great time. They loved the tropical outdoor adventure. The highlight was white water rafting. He thanked Mrs. Batra.
- 7th grade students are learning about healthy relationships boundaries through the program power up and speak out.
- 6th graders did grade-wide presentations about prehistoric times.
- Mrs. Clark has a huge sand table to learn about erosion.
- Baseball starts next week.
- The winter sports banquet was canceled and will be rescheduled.
- Littleville - NHS students visited Littleville for Read Across America day.
- The Composting Club hosted a presentation to educate students on the benefits of recycling.
- Tanglewood Marionettes performed for students.
- The Littleville outdoor classroom and butterfly gardens are reaching out to surrounding communities for help.
- Chester - walk through for valentines day.

- Chester - On February 14 Mrs. Scott, Ms. Cabral and Mr. Folta walked classroom to classroom to celebrate valentine's day and to offer students a way to communicate and move past the negative emotions felt towards Mrs. Maffuccio's absence.
- Dr. Sullivan and Mrs. Armitage visited Chester 5th grade to prepare them for their move to middle school next year.
- There was a surprise goodbye and welcome party gathered for Mrs. Morrissey, Mrs. Robbins and Mrs. Mckellick.
- Read Across America also happened at Chester.
- SEL day was hosted last Friday which focused on the importance of social emotional learning.

7:57 PM VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

- Mrs. Briggs asked what was up with the investigation.
- Mr. Jason Forgue said it is underway. He signed the contract and hopes we will have information soon.
- Misty Robitaille said it was sweet how they went with the carnations, but the email that Mr. Folta sent to parents was not so nice. It said the students liked the candy better than Mrs. Maffuccio.

B. Chairperson - Yearbook Ad

- Mr. Jason Forgue said if you haven't already please contribute $15 for the yearbook ad.

C. Superintendent - Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Mrs. Smidy March 24 and April are advocacy days. We will not be able to speak on March 24, but she understands the guests invited to speak will be pushing for more rural aid and chapter 70. Representative Pease said the time for public comment is April 8. We are trying to get folks to both.

D. Assistant Superintendent

- Ms. Fisk said the financial audit will be out shortly and the 3rd quarter transfers will be out at the next meeting.

E. Administration (Enc.) - none

F. Town Officials - None

8:05 PM IX. COMMITTEE REPORTING (Enc.)

A. Superintendent's Evaluation

- Mrs. Balboni said we discussed Superintean evaluation - discussed how the goals are going, discussed progress, we will have the evaluation come out, April, due in May for a June report.

B. Legislative Liaison

- Mr. Brian Forgue said there is nothing specific other than Tutwiler is commissioner and secretary.

C. Negotiations

- Mr. Jason Forgue said they held their 2nd meeting with custodians where they exchanged the first round of proposals.

D. Building Liaisons - None
E. CES Update - None
F. Policy

- Will meet again before the April meeting.

8:10 PM X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- Annual School choice vote
- Superintendent's evaluation survey.

- Mr. Jason Forgue said we need 10 yes votes for 2/3rds., so we will need to schedule a special meeting.

- Mr. Jason Forgue said we can still approve the school calendar.
- Mrs. Balboni said it looks straight forward, but there are a couple of dates that look highlighted so it is a little confusing.
- Mrs. Smidy said it includes the extra contractual day. The calendar committee would like the parent conferences pushed back further from open house and that is reflected here.
- Mrs. Balboni said it looks like November 10 is highlighted but the description looks okay.
- Ms. Hansen asked if good Friday was a Massachusetts holiday. It's interesting that a public school honors a christian holiday.
- Ms. Fisk said we tried it once, but all of the support contracts have it as a paid holiday, so we had to give floaters.

Mrs. Morawiec made a motion seconded by mr. Brian Forgue to approve the school calendar with the minor formatting changes.

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

Yeas: Tara, Jeana, Peter, Brian, Lisa, Alicia, Keri, Alex, Jason

8:12 PM XI. INFORMATION

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

AP#1058 $35,681.87	PR #017 $465,184.87
AP#1060 $277,495.97	PR #018 $444,626.56

8:15 PM XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

8:20 PM XIII. ADJOURNMENT by 9 p.m. unless extended by majority vote.

Mr. Jason Forgue made a motion seconded by Mr. Brian Forgue to adjourn at 7:26 p.m.

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

Yeas: Tara, Jeana, Peter, Brian, Lisa, Alicia, Keri, Alex, Jason

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy L Stewart
School Committee Secretary