**Approved** **Minutes #8/22/12**

# GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## REGULAR MEETING

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2012

## Worthington Town Hall
## 7:30 P.M.

## (A PORTION OF THIS MEETING MAY BE HELD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION)

**I. OPENING OF MEETING**

| BLANDFORD | CHESTER | HUNTINGTON | MIDDLEFIELD |
|---|---|---|---|
| Michele Crane | Beth Brett | Ron Damon | Charles Henshaw |
| Jim Kronholm | Shirley Winer | | Sarah Foley |

| MONTGOMERY | RUSSELL | WORTHINGTON | SECRETARY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Anne Marie Buikus | Ellen Hirtle | Sue Levreault | Stacy Stewart |
| Sandra Haas | | Gretchen Eliason | |

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION
Dr. David B. Hopson, Superintendent
Stephanie Fisk, Business & Finance

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Joanne Blocker, Director of Academics
Wendy Long, District Grant Writer
Alice Taverna, Pupil Services Director

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

**7:35 p.m. II. PUBLIC INPUT FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA - None**

**III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT - None**

**IV. CONSENT ITEMS 7**/11/12 (Enc.)

***Mrs. Crane made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault to approve the minutes of 7/11/12.***

***Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 7 Nays Abstain 4 Absent***

**V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS**

**A. Title I/Mentoring Update – Joanne Blocker**

- Title I Literacy will provide more PD for literacy intervention. We will have a mid-cycle review audit this year sometime in February. Mrs. Blocker is looking forward to getting feedback from them since she is new to the position. Survey results said professional development was beneficial and parent night was successful so parents know what is going on with the interventions. Summer tutoring results will be in a few weeks.
- Mrs. Eliason asked for a reminder of why we receive title I funds.
- Mrs. Blocker said schools with a certain percentage of free and reduced students. With the NCLB waiver Leve II schools and up are allowed to receive funds for MCAS and academic support tutors.
- Mrs. Eliason asked if Title I staff are fully funded out of Title I and do they service all students.
- Mrs. Blocker said Title I teacher funded by Title I only services Title I students and currently only for ELA.
- Mrs. Eliason asked if we are directed by the grant or us.
- Mrs. Blocker we are directed by the grant. Level literacy is a positive intervention. We did have a reduction of funds in this grant – we reduced the time of a paraprofessional and used some of the funding to tutor students. Chester, Littleville, and Junior High are receiving tutoring sevices. Ttutoring takes place before and after school.

**Mentoring program** –

- Mentees felt the program was beneficial. The most overwhelming part of the year seems to be MCAS. Challenges are balancing time. They want continued support in technology.
- Mentors go through training and receive a stipend. Results have no trouble scheduling observations. Suggestions were they would like more peer coaching and ways for them to see other settings. They would like to bring back the touring of the towns. Look at ways to be creative and maybe do a virtual tour.
- Mrs. Eliason asked how are the staff selected to be mentees.
- Mrs. Blocker said brand new teacher must be a mentee for three years. Other teachers new to district but with three or more years do a year or less. Mentors are posted and have to have a recommendation from their principal.
- Mrs. Eliason asked about older teachers have trouble in the middle of their careers.
- Mrs. Blocker said the mentor mentee program is not an evaluative relationship.
- Mrs. Hirtle is just wondering if we will see the results of the summer tutor.
- Mrs. Blocker said in a couple of weeks.

## VI. COMMUNICATIONS

**A. Student Representative - None**

**B. School Committee -**

- Mr. Kronholm would like to have a session on school committee ethics.
- Mrs. Buikus would like copies of contracts.
- Mrs. Crane took part in MTSS grant group with regular and special education teachers discussing how to make RTI work here at Gateway. A professor from UMASS led them through RTI, what it is and how we identify students, help students and put interventions in place. We also discussed how do we assess them and get them back. It is amazing the evaluation tools we have and intervention tools. Mrs. Crane saw a lot of things we talked about.

**C. Chairperson**

- Mrs. Brett introduced Sarah Foley our new school committee member from Middlefield.

***Mrs. Hirtle made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault to go into executive session at or before 9:00p.m. for the purpose of approving executive session minutes.***

***Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)***

Yeas: Charlie, Anne-Marie, Sandy, Sue, Gretchen, Jim, Ellen, Michele, Shirley, Sarah, Ron, Beth

**D. Superintendent – Central Office Update (Enc.)**

- We are missing a math teacher and music teacher. We have offered the math twice and it's been turned down.

**E. Business Manager**

- The epoxy floor is done. It was a week and a half delayed because the old epoxy floor was still under the tile. Littleville is ready and Chester will be ready Friday,

**F. Administration - None**

## VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTING

**A. Superintendent's Evaluation**

- Met tonight and discussed the new evaluation system and how it is going to work. They did a sample evaluation and like the format. They have approved goals and the first managment meeting will be September 12. That document will go out to school committee.
- Gretchen can you share goals approved tonight. She is not sure if the online form is the same as the full form. There are a lot of areas to be considered and we will have to collect a lot of data.
- Mrs. Hirtle said they will share them.
- Dr. Hopson said the online form is the same and will allow information to be input.

**B. Finance Subcommittee**

- Last meeting decided to wait for more members. They will get together an schedule a meeting tonight.

**C. Policy Subcommittee**

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**VIII. OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Regional Agreement Amendments**

- Dr. Hopson said school committee ill have to look at changes and decided which direction school committee wants to go in and then amendments would be drafted and the DESE needs to approve it.
- Mrs. Winer said this wording in blue is what school committee voted on last.
- Dr. Hopson said we have at least one member who is not sure if we need to do this or if they want something else.
- Mrs. Eliason said in the document it says there is and 11th and 12th amendments, but there is nothing about the12th amendment.
- Mrs. Stewart will resend the document in another format.
- Mrs. Buikus asked if we are still going to try to pass one man one vote.
- Dr. Hopson's understanding is the DESE won't approve any other amendments unless we a compliant with one man one vote.
- Mr. Damon suggests we force ourselves to stick to one at a time.
- Dr. Hopson said Russel Dupere said when this goes to DESE they may send back other amendments.
- Dr. Hopson said School Committee has to address Worthington. If we are going to do that we need to to take care of one man one vote, and it was suggested we do withdrawal percentage for a town that leaves the district.

***Mrs. Crane made a motion seconded by Mr. Damon we proceed with the one man one vote amendment we used last time; two members from each town, residency requirement, and district wide elections***.

- It is the school committee's responsibility to sell this if we move forward with this. Some town members feel they are losing clout and that is not true.
- Mrs. Eliason said it has been harder for the larger towns to find to people.

***Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain Absent***

***Mrs. Eliason made a motion seconded by Mrs. Winer for the committee to consider the withdrawal of the town of Worthington.***

- Mrs. Winer asked if it is it for thePreK-12 and have they found a place for the students.
- Dr. Hopson said it is up to them if they do withdrawal what does that mean for Chapter 70 and assessments.
- Mrs. Eliason would like to be able bring this to the select board and the ad hoc committee.
- Dr. Hopson suggested all members bring the change suggestions to their select boards.

***Mrs. Crane made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault to table the withdrawal of Worthington.***

***Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain Absent***

- Mrs. Levreault said as far as chapter 70 numbers do we know what they are and how they will impact the school district.
- Ms. Fisk spoke to Roger Hatch at DESE and he said someone form Worthington has already called. They have no idea at this point what the impact will be.
- Mrs. Eliason said when we looked at chapter 70 when finance gave their presentation, they presented the towns' ability to pay the local contribution; she would expect that the state would make up the difference.
- Ms. Fisk said she wouldn't make that assumption.
- Mrs. Eliason said their formula says this is what it takes to run Gateway, this is what the towns' can pay, and they make up the difference in chapter 70.
- Dr. Hopson would agree because it looks like it would be straight forward, but they would have to recalculate for every community in Massachusetts.
- Mrs. Eliason said Worthington doesn't receive chapter 70 funds.

- Mrs. Winer asked where Worthington is going.
- Mrs. Eliason doesn't think the ad hoc committee had made anything up.
- Dr. Hopson said if Worthington were able to open a public school depending on the cost, they may be eligible for chapter 70 funds.
- The current agreement is that no matter what percent of student you had when you incurred the debt, you pay for the percentage when you leave. The change would pay the amount of when a town entered into the agreement.
- Mr. Damon suggests we show rationale on both sides of the percentage.

**B. New Evaluation System**

- The subcommittee struggled with the amount of information that needs to be collected. They are trying to streamline the information. Update the subcommittee on progress of objectives, the committee will go over it. Then give it to school committee and then a month later they would go over all the information go through the process once more and then the final evaluation would be taken form that.
- Mrs. Eliason feels this is fair. This is information you need to look at several months in advance. Questions are needed ahead of time.
- Mrs. Hirtle said if you want to have input, you need to fill out the form and fill in comments if you want your voice to be heard.
- Dr. Hopson said taking this up in November gives the SEC and the school committee time to decide if they need more information or not for the final evaluation.

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## IX. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

**A. Approval of out of state travel for the superintendent to ASBO and AASA conferences**

- Dr. Hopson has gone to ASBO with Ms. Fisk in the past and AASA will be paid for by the CT valley Superintendent's Round Table.

***Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault to suspend the 2 meeting rule.***

***Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain Absent***

***Mrs. Crane made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault to approve the out of state travel for Dr. Hopson to both ASBO and AASA.***

***Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain absent***

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## X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

**Future Agenda Items**

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## XI. INFORMATION

**Information**

Superintendent's Corner August 9, 2012
Superintendent's Corner August 1, 2012
Superintendent's Corner July 30, 2012
Superintendent's Corner July 18, 2012
Superintendent's Corner July 16, 2012
Superintendent's Corner July 6, 2012
Foundation elects Board of Directors
Summer School Committee meetings
Education Foundation achieves Non- Profit Status
Use of dental services rising

**Warrants**

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|---|---|---|---|
| AP# 1133 | $63,896.20 | PR# 26.4 | $5,351.20 |
| AP# 1001 | $146,018.38 | PR# 26.5 | $225.00 |
| AP# 1134 | $45,895.80 | PR# 01.1 | $71,561.79 |

AP# 1006 $23,682.82
AP# 1011 $106,132.21

PR# 01 $30,726.13
PR# 02 $93,439.19
PR# 03 $104,915.16

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**9:00-10 p.m. or earlier XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A. Executive minutes 3/3/10-5/9/12 (Enc. 16 sets included in 1 pdf on 6/27/12)**

***Mrs. Hirtle made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault to go into executive session at or before 9:00p.m. for the purpose of approving executive session minutes.***

***Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)***

Yeas: Charlie, Anne-Marie, Sandy, Sue, Gretchen, Jim, Ellen, Michele, Shirley, Sarah, Ron, Beth

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**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

***Mrs. Hirtle made a motion seconded by Mrs. Crane to adjourn Ellen at 8:45***

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Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy L Stewart
School Committee Secretary