

**GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2012**

**Middlefield Town Hall  
7:30 P.M.**

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

**I. OPENING OF MEETING**

BLANDFORD  
Michele Crane  
Jim Kronholm

CHESTER  
Beth Brett  
Shirley Winer  
Craig Boyer

HUNTINGTON  
Ron Damon  
William Hathaway  
Laurie Webb

MIDDLEFIELD  
Charles Henshaw  
Sarah Foley

MONTGOMERY  
Anne Marie Buikus  
Sandra Haas

RUSSELL  
Ellen Hirtle  
Ruth Kennedy

WORTHINGTON  
Sue Levreault  
Gretchen Eliason

SECRETARY  
Stacy Stewart

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

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: \_\_\_\_\_

**II. PUBLIC INPUT FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA - None**

**III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT - None**

**IV. CONSENT ITEMS 8/22/12 (Enc.)**

*Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Crane to accept the minutes of 8/22/12.*

*Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays Abstain 5 Absent*

**V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS**

**A. Field Trips First Semester**

- Rod Kleeber Mark Twain House.
- Music Department Could be both band and choir to NY for competition.
- NY Bodies Exhibit
- Hannah Sullivan 8<sup>th</sup> grade annual Philadelphia trip

**B. Curriculum Update – Joanne Blocker (Enc.)**

- We are in the third year of new common core frameworks. First year spent time digging into the documents learning the changes, the second year we spent time doing crosswalk mapping – MCAS testing is a gradual change. We have finally come to consensus on what our curriculum map will look like for Math and ELA. We have curriculum facilitators that receive a stipend. Goal is to complete the map templates by the end of the school year. And the next phase is the unit planning design.
- MCAS is the current state test, and the states that adopted the common core will transfer over to PARCC. The state is still in the writing stages.

- Mrs. Eliason asked how much are they changing the curriculum,
- Mrs. Blocker said about third grade is where the changes are more significant. They are starting things in different levels. They are going deeper into each subject.
- Mrs. Eliason asked if next year we are using the templates and maps,
- Mrs. Blocker said teachers are hitting the new objectives, but are also touching the old ones because students will still be tested on the old as well as the new. Teachers are working together in grade levels.
- Mrs. Levreault asked if we are they going to do fractions every year or are we going to go more into statistics.
- Mrs. Blocker said it still builds upon itself. The state wants mastery in areas. The frustration part is that you are not going to have results until the students that are starting with it make it through several grades. There are going to be gaps everywhere else. Math is an area of weakness for us. It is an area to look at. We are piloting a new math program. It was written specifically for the common core.
- Mrs. Eliason asked if we are we are still using the same books, new books or is software being used.
- Mrs. Blocker said it will be both.
- Mrs. Foley asked for the name of the program
- Mrs. Blocker said Go Math. It is connected to real life. It hits every type of learner.
- Mrs. Buikus asked how we are addressing the gap with the Math with the upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> graders. She would like to hear the feedback from the teachers.
- Mrs. Winer asked about tiered instruction.
- Mrs. Blocker said it is interventions.
- Mrs. Webb said her child can track their progress online.
- Mrs. Blocker believes we will meet our goal finishing the maps this year.
- Mrs. Eliason said all teachers are developing curriculum that meets children's needs. Can we get copies of the maps and a follow-up report?
- Mrs. Blocker said yes. They will be on Google, she will see about getting school committee access.
- Mrs. Blocker said we learned a lot about the summer program. Those kids continued to read. One student went up a level. These are the kids who usually regress and all students stayed on level. Two students really exceeded their dibels scores from last year. There were 3 middle level and elementary level 16.
- A parent in audience said her daughter was having trouble and they were pulling her out during other lessons. She is concerned about what she might be missing
- Mrs. Blocker said she should speak to the teacher to discuss how to plan for the missing lessons.

## **VI. COMMUNICATIONS**

### **A. Student Representative - None**

### **B. School Committee**

- Gretchen – school committee members have been contacted to support a politician as a school committee. An elected official you can support financially, but as an appointed official cannot. Gretchen sent the links to everyone. We cannot support as a group.
- Michelle remembered from the training as a member you have no power, but as a group you do.

### **C. Chairperson**

- Set up a workshop on a non-committee night with Pat Corriera from MASC. The date is October 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

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

- Five year follow up. College bound seniors are the first people in their family make up 19 percent.

### **E. Business Manager**

- Audit was completed on Monday – Auditor at November school committee meeting. We are struggling to get assessments on time. It could be a borrowing issue for us. We call them, give them a heads up, and send letters Russell, Worthington, and Huntington, were the three towns that were late this last go round. It is not always the same towns.
- Last year when the well decided to go. Our water operators attended the annual Rural Water Association Trifecta. Our water took first place in a taste test. Our

### **F. Administration**

- Gateway Weight watchers lost collectively as a group 500 lbs.

- New phones are in and working. Everything went smoothly. Teachers are happy their voice mail goes to email.

## **VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTING**

### **A. Superintendent's Evaluation**

- Met tonight did first management meeting using the new rubrics. Michele made a document that allowed the members to add questions.
- Dr. Hopson sent out the administrative goals. Gretchen asked if we are going to see the goals for Dr. Hopson. You will get them.

### **B. Finance Subcommittee**

- Finance will meet before the next meeting in Blandford.

### **C. Policy Subcommittee**

- Subcommittee Beth and Ron will meet before the next meeting.6:30.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. District improvement Plan (Enc.)**

- Mrs. Eliason said DAR, Dibels, and Gates are all used. We haven't seen any base line on the assessments.
- Dr. Hopson said we do have some on Gates but we won't have any in MAP yet. The goals of the school committee, administration and staff should be how we set levels of success. What are we going to use for appropriate rubrics for testing in communication, and other areas.
- A lot of the common core, ELA, Math, and science are all we are measuring now. We have a very small amount of teachers in ELA, Math, and science. We need to establish a base so we can set up measures for other areas.
- This is the first year we are not measuring AYP. We are measuring PPI instead. Looking at student growth by group. You get a rating for performance. Rating is applied to a school and the district rating is the lowest school. We will go over MCAS in October.

### **B. Regional Agreement Amendments**

- We put some on hold so school committee members could bring the changes to their select boards.
- Dr. Hopson said at a Blandford meeting someone asked what would happen with the unfunded liabilities. We have 14 million in pension funds – we are not funding it now. Health insurance and GASBY 68. As people retire you are still on the hook for retirement benefits even though they are not employed. You have your new employees plus you have your retirees and people are living longer. How are we going to address that?
- Mrs. Levreault and Mrs. Eliason saw the draft – they wanted it to be seen by the new town counsel.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked if Worthington's withdrawal was voted by the town.
- Dr. Hopson and Mrs. Eliason said yes.
- Mrs. Foley said if Worthington does leave, what happens to the students from Worthington, do those students who want to stay need to choose in.
- Dr. Hopson said yes.
- Mr. Damon we may find ourselves in a serious situation. For Worthington to leave six towns have to feel it is a benefit in order for them to leave.
- Mrs. Eliason said the needs for Worthington children might not fit the needs of six other towns.
- Mrs. Levreault said it is not necessarily the choice of the town if parents choose their kids out. 58 % of Worthington parents choose their kids out. How do you tell a town they can't leave when all their students choose out.
- Mrs. Buikus said students are leaving other towns too.
- Mrs. Levreault said we need to compare to what other schools are offering.
- Dr. Hopson said we can't both cut finances and increase options. High school has issues in scheduling too.
- Mrs. Buikus feels other towns are waiting to see what Worthington is going to do.
- Dr. Hopson said it is also going to cost Worthington 1.8 million more to leave the district and open their own school than they are paying right now.

### **C. New Evaluation System (Enc.)**

- Dr. Hopson is trying to stream line the information – put evidence right on the evaluation form. Teachers are a whole other issue. We put in money to have teachers work on the evaluation. Working with GTA as they want to. If they choose not to go with the state rubric, he hopes they choose to put something together that will be approved by the state. We have to implement this by next year.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. FY' 13 Budget Line Item Transfers (Enc.)**

- Changes where itinerant staff, staff shifting between jr. high and high school. There are always new staff members. And we are working on lane changes. Looking at reclassifying some of our expenses, phone, internet, etc. It really should be a district cost. Trash, sewer, water probably keep trash only.
- Mrs. Buikus did we get the business course.
- Dr. Hopson there was one teacher who was going to come then decided to decline in the end. We are doing different things with Math. We are still working on it.
- First grade.

## **X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

### **Future Agenda Items**

## **XI. INFORMATION**

### **Information**

September School Committee Meetings  
 Superintendent's Corner August 31, 2012  
 Sunny skies herald Gateway's new school year!  
 Registration now under way for Middle School After-School Program  
 Gateway welcomes new staff for 2012-13 school year  
 Gateway fee's unchanged for 2012-13  
 Superintendent's Corner August 27, 2012  
 New Weight Watchers members are welcome!  
 Schools closed for Labor Day  
 School Meals Meet Tough New Nutrition Standards  
 Superintendent's Corner August 20, 2012  
 New Gateway Principal invites input  
 Subscribe to Gateway E-newsletter!  
 Wellness Center hours increase September 4

### **Warrants**

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| AP# 1108 \$109,330.51 | PR# 04 \$90,697.13  |
| AP# 1012 \$121,734.70 | PR# 05 \$434,206.68 |
| AP# 1010 \$28,364.38  |                     |

## **XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **A. 8/22/12 Minutes (Enc.) approved in open session.**

*Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault to approve the executive session minutes of 8/22/12.*

*Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 11 Nays Abstain 3 Absent*

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

*Mrs. Crane made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Stacy L Stewart  
 School Committee Secretary