

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**REGULAR MEETING****WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2012****Blandford Town Hall****7:30 P.M.****(A PORTION OF THIS MEETING MAY BE HELD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION)****I. OPENING OF MEETING**BLANDFORDMichele Crane
Jim KronholmCHESTERBeth Brett
Shirley WinerHUNTINGTONRon Damon
Laurie WebbMIDDLEFIELD

Sarah Foley

MONTGOMERYAnne Marie Buikus
Sandra HaasRUSSELLEllen Hirtle
Ruth KennedyWORTHINGTONSue Levreault
Gretchen EliasonSECRETARY

Stacy Stewart

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIONDr. David B. Hopson, Superintendent
Stephanie Fisk, Business & FinanceADMINISTRATIVE COUNCILJoanne Blocker, Director of Academics
Angela Burke, Technology Director
Wendy Long, District Grant Writer
Alice Taverna, Pupil Services DirectorSTUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: _____

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

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT

IV. CONSENT ITEMS 9/12/12 (Enc.)*Mrs. Crane made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault to accept the minutes of 9/12/12.**Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays Abstain 2 Absent 2*

V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS**A. Foundation Update**

- Mrs. Long went over the 2012-13 Board of Directors
- The foundation is a 501(c) 3 and is tax deductible.
- There are two funds, a Shipman Memorial fund, and an unrestricted fund.
- Mrs. Winer said having Mrs. Long help them has been helpful and advantageous. They can take grants that the district can't. The foundation would not be up and running without her. If you have questions or suggestions or would like to become a member please let them know.
- Mrs. Foley asked if the foundation would you be eligible for cultural council grants.
- Mrs. Long said yes, but so is the school. They are looking at grants not open to public schools but to 501(c) 3.

B. MCAS Results

- Dr. Hopson gave a Presentation on the 2012 MCAS results which will be on the website.
- Mrs. Crane asked between high need and students with disabilities.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked why do we have to separate the students and not into low income, etc.
- Dr. Hopson said they are separate because the state has a goal. The state is looking to close the gap, rather than help individual students.
- Mrs. Eliason can you elaborate the student with disabilities.
- Dr. Hopson said it is any student with an IEP.
- Mrs. Kennedy said only 22 states have adopted and are using the common core right now, so how we can compare.
- Dr. Hopson said 22 to may have adopted it, but 45 have approved to look into it.
- Mrs. Winer asked about Lucy Caulkins. Is that more in depth or is it short response answers.
- Dr. Hopson it is more composition in writing.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked if we teach the kids penmanship.
- Dr. Hopson said no. Elementary does some cursive.
- Mrs. Levreault wonders about our math scores. For those who do well in math a certain process is writing math in longhand. If they don't write all the time, she can understand why their hands hurt. Are our scores reflective that student can't write their math answers in a timely manner?
- Dr. Hopson said if you teach kids to add rather than sum.
- Mrs. Blocker said they are writing out math problems. They still do those practice drills and pencil/paper tests. They are not having formal handwriting all the way up: only at the elementary schools. Common core. 45 have adopted the common core and 23 have adopted the PARCC.
- Mrs. Web said her sixth grader is writing out math problems using pencils.
- Dr. Hopson said the PARCC test is supposed to be computerized.
- Mrs. Winer asked for an explanation of test wiz.
- Dr. Hopson said software that allows you to compare how a student does.
- Mrs. Winer asked how the teachers are taking to this.
- Dr. Hopson said as varied as the number of teachers we have. Some are excited. It is supposed to show what the student is ready to learn not necessarily how much they can cram into their heads.
- Dr. Hopson said this is district data. Let him know if you would like to have school data.
- A person in audience asked how we are looking at supplying computers for this testing.
- Dr. Hopson we are on a continuous 5- year replacement with computers/lap tops. We are currently almost 1 to 1. We are also looking at chrome books and other electronic devices.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Student Representative - None

B. School Committee

- Mrs. Winer asked about the 1 to 1 program.
- Dr. Hopson said we are still leasing one to one laptops. We also instituted a policy that allows students to bring in their own devices. One they are more likely to use it, and they are more familiar with it.
- Angela is working with PARCC and they have done surveys to see what is being used, so the testing can be done on as many devices as possible.
- Mr. Kronholm went to the Charting the Course workshop for new members and it was well done.
- Mrs. Kennedy registered for the annual meeting and needs to be voted as a delegate so she can vote. – bring on old business.

C. Chairperson

- Mrs. Brett asked for an executive session.

Mrs. Kennedy made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault to go into executive session at or before 9:30 pm. for the purpose of negotiations update not to return to open session.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 13 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Laurie, Sarah, Shirley, Jim, Ron, Michele, Ellen, Sue, Ruth, Anne-Marie, Sandra, Gretchen, Beth.

D. Superintendent – Central Office Update (Enc.)

E. Business Manager

- Ms. Fisk spoke about the New England Emergency Response Program. New England emergency response is for if the grid is on an overload, if there is more demand than the grid can supply. We would go to generator with a 30 minute notification.

F. Administration

- Mrs. Long brought copies of the parent's guide to raising healthy kids; a Gazette feature.

VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTING**A. Superintendent's Evaluation - None****B. Finance Subcommittee**

- Finance will meet again before Montgomery meeting at 7:00.

C. Policy Subcommittee

- Policy committee reviewed mandated changes. Mostly gender identity not being in place. Copy to be included in next packet for first reading.

7:45 - VIII. OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**A. Approval of Field Trips- First Semester, CT, Music Competition – NY, Bodies Exhibit – NY, 8th grade Philadelphia Trip****Mark Twain House –***Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Crane to approve the above out of state field trips**Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 13 Nays Abstain Absent***B. District improvement Plan***Mrs. Crane made a motion seconded by Mr. Damon to approve the District Improvement Plan,**Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain 1 Absent***C. Regional Agreement Amendments (Enc.'s)**

- Mrs. Eliason asked about the Unfunded Liabilities – how does this work and how do we pay now.
- Ms. Fisk said it is the GASB regarding pension comes out in 2014. This has to do with health insurance but as of July 2012 it is an actuary report of when a person retires. The report shows they are going to live to let's say 90, your liability is to that person as long as they live.
- Dr. Hopson said as you retire, we pay every year for people who are employed and for current retirees; about 12.3 million. As we add more retirees that number changes.
- Ms. Fisk said it is basically all your employees and the retirees. We are not funding it right now, but if we do Worthington would be liable as of the date they get out.
- Mrs. Eliason said it is not funded now and it may never be.
- Ms. Fisk said it is not much different than districts outstanding long- term obligations. Between your bonds, MSBA obligation and capital lease, the bottom line is it is all part of it.
- Dr. Hopson said our capital indebted now is what we are looking at paying. On a year to year basis you are paying off your bonds. The language is for if and when we have to pay those liabilities, the town that left is liable for what it was when they left.
- Dave – how would you anticipate a town leaving the district would be responsible?
- Tony Vanworkhoven said it is a reasonable assumption they are liability for their share whether they fund it or have some way to pay the money.
- Mrs. Eliason said it is always changing. Very nebulous. How do you put a dollar figure on this if it changes all the time?
- Dr. Hopson said an example is there is an obligation to pay for Ms. Fisk's benefits and she is going to live until? The obligation is an unfunded liability. When she retires she pays 50% and the district pays 50%.
- Mrs. Levreault asked if Chester will be liable for when they left.
- Ms. Fisk said GASBE 45 has only been in for a couple of years.
- Mrs. Levreault asked if this is like the post office in 2006. Why aren't we doing what the post office is doing?

- Tony Vanworkhoven said as soon as this committee approved an employee retirement and health plan, you were required to fund this.
- Mrs. Levreault asked what else is included.
- Dr. Hopson said we don't know what the federal government is going to require.
- Mr. Damon reminded everyone that all amendments all have to be approved by all seven towns.
- Ms. Fisk said there are two different pension systems.
- Dr. Hopson said have the wording for changing the composition of the school committee, if you've reviewed this and are ok with he would like to move it to DESE for approval.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Crane that school committee move one man one vote be submitted to the attorney to have DESE approve the wording.

- Mrs. Kennedy asked if this going to special or annual town meeting.
- Dr. Hopson said it can go to either, but it is up to the towns.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays 1 Abstain Absent

D. Approval of FY' 13 Budget Line Item Transfers

Mrs. Crane made a motion seconded by Mr. Damon to approve the FY 13 Budget Transfers.

- Mrs. Buikus asked about the \$53,000 coming out of district salary.
- Ms. Fisk said it is just to balance out the account.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 13 Nays Abstain Absent

IX. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS - None

X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

XI. INFORMATION

Information

Walmart gifts Littleville Elementary School
 Superintendent's Corner September 14, 2012
 Gateway Developing New Curriculum
 Weight loss group loses 500#!
 College planning night for seniors
 Outdoor, evening sports rescheduled
 Gateway staff create children's book
 Picture ay at Gateway Schools Information on Senior Yearbook Photos
 Superintendent's Corner September 7, 2012
 Early Release Day September 18

Warrants

AP# 1021 \$66,246.20 PR# 06 \$363,788.31
 AP# 1023 \$36,652.99

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Kennedy made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault to go into executive session at or before 9:30 pm. for the purpose of negotiations update not to return to open session.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 13 Nays Abstain Absent (Roll Call Vote)

Yeas: Laurie, Sarah, Shirley, Jim, Ron, Michele, Ellen, Sue, Ruth, Anne-Marie, Sandra, Gretchen, Beth.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT at 10 p.m. unless extended by majority vote.
Mrs. Crane made a motion seconded by Mr. Damon to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy L. Stewart
School Committee Secretary