

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**REGULAR MEETING****WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2013****Gateway Library
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 WinerHUNTINGTON

Ron Damon

MIDDLEFIELDCharles Henshaw
Sarah FoleyMONTGOMERYAnne Marie Buikus
Sandra HaasRUSSELLEllen Hirtle
Ruth KennedyWORTHINGTONSue Levreault
Gretchen EliasonSECRETARY

Stacy Stewart

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIONDr. David B. Hopson, Superintendent
Stephanie Fisk, Business & FinanceADMINISTRATIVE COUNCILElizabeth Bienia, Chs, Lit, MS Assistant Principal
Joanne Blocker, Director of Academics
Angela Burke, Technology Director
Megan Coburn, Chs, Lit, MS Principal
Jason Finnie, High, Jr. High School Principal
Wendy Long, District Grant Writer
Celeste Malvezzi, High/Jr. High Assistant Principal
Alice Taverna, Pupil Services DirectorSTUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: _____

7:35 p.m. II. PUBLIC INPUT FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

- Michele Klemaszewski, from Southern Hilltown adult education center spoke briefly about the program. It is funded by Community development block grants. She handed out fliers with some of their offerings: computer classes, GED, etc.

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT - None

IV. CONSENT ITEMS 2/13/13, 2/27/13, 3/6/13 (to be included in next packet)

V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS**A. Jr. High/High School Field Trips – Jason Finnie**

- High Senior class to Hampton Beach –\$30 per student and there will be chaperones.
- Steve Estelle spoke about the 7th grade Bronx Zoo trip. There are about 40 chaperones and the trip is May 30th.
- Jason Finnie – 8th grade end of year trip to high meadows Granby CT – exercise their social skills and end of year wrap up.
- Guidance department to Lincoln Technical Institute, HVAC, Welding etc. East Windsor CT.
- Senior Class trip to Hampton Beach, 7th grade Bronx Zoo trip, High Meadows, and Lincoln Technical Institute will be on the next agenda under old business for approval.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Student Representative - None**B. School Committee**

- Mr. Kronholm announced if anyone received an email from his wife it is a virus, do not open it and please delete it.

C. Chairperson - None**D. Superintendent – Central Office Update (Enc.)**

- Dr. Hopson, Ms. Fisk and Mr. Wing met with Hampshire Council of Governments and two solar contractors about the potential of putting solar panels on the roof of this building and Littleville. HCOG did a whole bid process and narrowed it down to a few solar companies they vetted. Dr. Hopson is hoping to bring information to school committee at the next March meeting for action at the meeting in April. The next step would be to select a company and sign an initial MOU. More information to come at next meeting.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked if this is something we can put on the roof and goes directly to school or do we sell to the grid.
- Dr. Hopson said it is not quite enough for us. There is no cost to us. The companies are taking the tax rebates and running with solar installation for the 20 years it is here. We pay per kilowatt hour. It is grid tied solar, there is no battery backup. All solar power for the year will go in a bucket to be used when we need it. The cost will be lower.

E. Business Manager

- Ms. Fisk received a call from Roger Hatch because he knew we had a meeting. They have come up with a process if Worthington does in fact leave. The loss to Gateway based on the House 1 would be \$167,000 (reduction in chapter 70), minimum would be off the assessments. Total loss is a little less than \$870,000. The assumption was the voting taking place right now would move to the commissioner for next year as the deadline is December 1.
- Mrs. Eliason asked if Chapter 70 be made up by the state?
- Ms. Fisk said no because we are above foundation. We will be getting this in writing.
- Mrs. Kennedy said so that is what we are going to lose,
- Ms. Fisk said yes, revenue wise, but you won't be paying for charter, outgoing school choice, or bussing. There will be roughly a \$360-400,000 estimated net loss. Another unknown is will we choose students in from Worthington.
- Dr. Hopson said we'll go through more of it once we get it in writing.

F. Administration - None**VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTING****A. Superintendent's Evaluation**

- Met tonight. School committee is going to be asked to complete the same survey April as they did in the fall. In your next packet you will receive a paper copy. The meeting in April will open the survey. The survey will be open from April 10-24. We are hoping Angela will help people fill out the survey for those who have trouble with google docs. Hoping for 100% responses from school committee. This needs to be implemented and this is our practice year.

B. Finance Subcommittee - None**C. Policy Subcommittee - None****D. School Committee Goals Subcommittee - None****VIII. OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS****A. FY '14 Budget Adoption**

Mrs. Kennedy made a motion seconded by Mrs. Hirtle to adopt version 2.1 of the FY '14 Budget.

Mrs. Eliason proposed and amendment seconded by Mrs. Levreault to pay assessments according to the regional agreement instead of the mandatory method.

- Mrs. Eliason handed out a spreadsheet with changes in assessments for each town.
- Mrs. Winer asked Mrs. Eliason why she feels this way.

- Mrs. Eliason said this is what we agreed to when we formed the region.
- Mr. Kronholm said no town that loses money will pass it.
- Ms. Fisk said that this has to be passed by all seven towns every year.

Mrs. Eliason proposed and amendment seconded by Mrs. Levreault to pay assessments according to the regional agreement instead of the mandatory method.

Motion Failed (VOTE) Yeas 3 Nays 7 Abstain 2 Absent

Mrs. Eliason proposed an amendment seconded by Mrs. Levreault to revise the list of prioritized reductions by adding the second items from the second part deleting secretary days and the custodian, making the total reduction \$132, 698.

- Dr. Hopson asked if she wanted to micromanage the entire administrative team.
- Mrs. Eliason said when we thought we had more money we gave some administrators raises, but the secretaries are the people who step up during tough times. It must feel unpleasant when you get cut.
- Dr. Hopson said what about the secretary and coach who were layed off, do you want to add those back in.
- Mr. Damon is opposed to further reductions in budget.
- Mrs. Winer said we have to be careful we are not overstepping our legal authority.
- Mrs. Hirtle would like to piggyback what Mrs. Winer said and add that the administrators run schools everyday and know what is going on.
- Mrs. Kennedy does not feel any disrespect. It is not meant to go after anyone, just their opinion.
- Mrs. Eliason said it is school committee's responsibility to approve the budget. It is dysfunction if they don't have the right to change line items.
- Mrs. Levreault clarified that Version 2.1 is the top part. The budget we are voting on does not include anything below the first section. The amendment would put the other suggestions in.
- Mrs. Eliason said some of these items reduce personal. If we don't reduce these accounts, she is going to expect they are filled.
- Dr. Hopson said if people don't apply you can't fill it. This is difficult. The goal is not to minimize impact on staff, but on students.
- Mrs. Eliason feels strongly the secretaries should not lose hours, as they are the ones who deal with everything on a daily basis.
- Mrs. Crane agrees with Mr. Damon that there should be no more reductions in the budget, nor it is it our job to change items. Our job is to give a bottom line. She is already unhappy we've cut the people we've cut now.
- Mr. Damon said school committee gets to hire the superintendent. They are responsible for preparing the budget and operating the school. It is running well. Anytime people who are on the outside think they know more then those running

Mr. Damon moved the question seconded by Mrs. Winer.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 7 Nays 6 Abstain Absent

- Mrs. Buikus feels the school committee has the right to do line items. They have gone over them in finance.
- Dr. Hopson asked if there was justification for why you would change those cuts.
- Mrs. Buikus said nothing that Mrs. Eliason has asked for has impacted the children. You are saying we don't have the right to change things and we do.
- Mrs. Eliason said why even prepare this list if the school committee has no power. Why not produce one sum total. We have the right to set priorities.
- Dr. Hopson said you are not setting priorities. Mrs. Buikus is right you've been looking at line items at finance.
- Mrs. Eliason's priority for the district is to reduce the budget.
- Dr. Hopson would ask to go into executive session so you can hear why we made the decisions.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked why we didn't have the reasons why when we got the list.
- Mrs. Winer said usually we get the information, we ask questions, and we get answers. We would need to be in every meeting to fully understand.
- Mr. Kronholm has been on school committee for over thirty years and we've had school committees from time to time, who tried to micromanage. We would get a new superintendent because we would blame the old superintendent.

- Mrs. Blocker asked school committee to consider passing Version 2.1 of the budget without making more cuts. Every time you cut staff you pile more work on other people and when you cut programs you impact student learning.
- A person in the meeting would like to rearrange the meeting so people could hear the regional agreement discussion.
- Mrs. Crane feels that there are a lot of people who are here regarding the budget.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Crane to go into executive session for the purpose negotiations to return to open session.

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

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

- Went into executive session at 8:18 and came out at 8:28

Mrs. Eliason proposed an amendment seconded by Mrs. Leveault to revise the list of prioritized reductions by adding the second items from the second part deleting secretary days and the cudsodian, making the total reduction \$132, 698.

Motion Failed (VOTE) Yeas 1 Nays 10 Abstain 2 Absent

- Mrs. Leveault feels Version 2.1., with the cuts we've made over the last couple of years, that this is the one that does the best for education in the district.

Mrs. Kennedy made a motion seconded by Mrs. Hirtle to adopt version 2.1 of the FY '14 Budget.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays 1 Abstain Absent

B. Regional Agreement Amendments

1. Approval of One Man One Vote Warrant Article (Enc.)

Mrs. Elisaon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Leveault to approve the One Man One Vote Warrant Article.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays 1 Abstain Absent

- Mrs. Leveault pointed out that some of the language in the warrant articles that was in the original agreement is missing.
- Dr. Hopson said that can be fixed by having Russell draft a full agreement with what is being replaced highlighted in the document.

2. Approval of Worthington Withdrawal Warrant Article (Enc.)

Mrs. Eliason made a motion seconded by Mrs. Leveault to approve the Worthington Withdrawal Warrant Article.

- Mrs. Eliason and Mrs. Leveault met with the Worthington select board last night. In the warrant article, it seems the 30 days requirement prior to annual town meeting will be problematic with the next annual town meeting. She would like to change the language eliminating the 30 days.

Mrs. Eliason made an amendment seconded by Mr. Damon to eliminate the 30 days requirement in the Worthington Withdrawal Warrant Article.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 13 Nays Abstain Absent

- Mrs. Eliason read a letter requesting that a letter be drafted and signed by the chair with all the votes taken at the special school committee meeting regarding the regional agreement so there is no ambiguity in the interpretation.
- It was decided a letter would be drafted with the votes that were taken at the Special Regional Agreement Meeting and signed by the Chair.

Mrs. Eliason made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault to approve the Worthington Withdrawal Warrant Article.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain 1 Absent

IX. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommendation to award a one-year extension for the regional transportation contract to Lecrenksi Bros. Inc. for the 2013-2014 school year.

- Ms. Fisk said it goes up by CPI every year. She is also looking for quotes for special education transportation. Those are coming in now.

B. FY '14 Calendar

- Dave the admin team puts together a couple calendars – the GTA picks the one they want then it goes to school committee for a vote. Move to old business next meeting.

C. 2013-2014 School Committee Meeting Schedule

- Proposed School Committee- move to Old business.

X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

School Choice Presentation – Wendy Long

Eric Weiss – Solar Project

XI. INFORMATION

Information

Volunteer Dinner, 'Teen Brain' Event March 7

Parents, students are reminded of Vocational Deadline

Superintendent's Corner February 8, 2013

Teacher ups opportunities for students

3 Gateway Skiers move onto state contest

Principal rewards outstanding effort

Superintendent's Corner February 15, 2013

Budget Hearing on March 6

Early Release Day March 5, 2013

Superintendent's Corner February 22, 2013

Second term honor roll for high school

Parent Teacher Conferences

New Option for Pediatric Primary Care available at Gateway School-Based Health Center!

Superintendent's Corner March 4, 2013

Littleville students work with NASA scientist

March School Committee meetings

Warrant

AP# 1067 \$192,003.42

AP# 1068 \$72,895.41

PR# 15 \$379,697.02

PR# 16 \$364,029.18

PR# 17 \$350,081.34

PR# 18 \$344,117.86

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Crane to go into executive session for the purpose negotiations to return to open session.

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

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Crane made a motion to adjourn seconded by Mrs. Hirtle to adjourn at 8:46 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy L Stewart.
School Committee Secretary**