

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2013

**Gateway Library
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

HUNTINGTON

Ron Damon
William Hathaway

MIDDLEFIELD

Sarah Foley

MONTGOMERY

Anne Marie Buikus
Sandra Haas

RUSSELL

Ellen Hirtle
Ruth Kennedy

WORTHINGTON

Sue Levreault

SECRETARY

Stacy Stewart

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Joanne Blocker, Director of Academics
Wendy Long, District Grant Writer

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: _____

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

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT - None

IV. CONSENT ITEMS 4/10/13 (Enc.)

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Hirtle to approve the minutes of 4/10/13.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 11 Nays Abstain 1 Absent

V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS - None

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Student Representative – None

B. School Committee - None

C. Chairperson

- Retirement recognition first meeting in June – Please let Mrs. Brett know what you would like to bring.

D. Superintendent – Central Office Update (Enc.)

- Dr. Hopson and Mr. Wing met with our water monitors and DEP. We are in non-compliance because the well head is below flood plain level. When the break occurred they gave us the letter. We are working with DEP looking at options.
- Option 1- hook up to Huntington – not enough pressure and they have same issue as us.

- Option 2 - Drill another well up on hill - would have to cross wetlands.
- Option 3 - Raise the well head.
- Mrs. Winer asked how much would we have to raise the well head.
- Mr. Wing said a ballpark estimate is about 10 feet. We also have to raise the well casing. We will have to devise a new way to enter the well head for service.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked how come nothing was done in 2004.
- Dr. Hopson said in 2004 DEP suggested we wait because there may be some grant money. Now it doesn't look like there is going to be grant money. They want us to fix it.
- Mr. Wing said DEP is not requiring us to fix it right now, they just want to see movement.

E. Business Manager

- Mr. Damon had asked for the amount of interest we have lost to late payments. Total loss is \$448 for the year.

F. Administration

- Mrs. Long had a request to move the retiree recognition to second meeting in May because we fall near graduation, senior activities, GTA retirement, etc. We will make the change next year.

VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee

- Still working on putting final summary together. Evaluations all on website – 11 out of 15.

B. Finance Subcommittee - None

C. Policy Subcommittee - None

D. School Committee Goals Subcommittee (Enc.)

- Mrs. Winer asked everyone to go over the goals for the next meeting. They are based on a template from the state and suggestions from the committee.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. FY '14 Budget Update (Enc's)

- Blandford and Middlefield passed the budget – Worthington voted on a budget based on the regional agreement.
- The House version came out and it is different than the governor's budget. They won't release foundation budget figures until after the governor signs it.
- Since the budget was adopted by school committee, we have had 10 to 11 staff changes for next year. People are leaving for personal reasons and retirements. We are doing interviews for new staff now. The insurance line is \$45,000 off. (high) Some of people who left didn't have insurance or were still on their parents.

B. Regional Agreement Amendments Update

- Worthington voted to approve withdrawal amendment and took no action on one man one vote. Middlefield voted down the Worthington withdrawal and approved one man one vote. Blandford voted the same.
- Huntington is recommending the budget and one man one vote but not the withdrawal according to the paper. With Worthington not voting one man one vote, it is a done deal.

C. Solar Panel Information

- School Committee needs to decide if they want to put anything on the roof. If you do then we need to go with Ameresco or Capital. If you go with net meeting the discount would be 21% off electricity and there would be a solar field somewhere else. We received a savings spread sheet from Todd who does private energy. His discount is 15%.
- We can go with roof top, net metering, a combination, or nothing.
- Mrs. Winer suggests we put panels on Littleville, and then go with net metering for the rest. We could put panels on the new parts of the roof.

Mrs. Crane made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy to move forward with the net metering option.

- Mr. Wing understands the drive for solar. Sarnifil has actually put solar panels on their headquarters. He has been leary putting panels on the roof. What happens when the roof leaks in the winter?
- Mrs. Winer asked if he would feel better if the roof was designed for it.
- Mrs. Wing is not so sure. It is a lot of weight in certain areas.
- Mrs. Winer asked about Littleville.
- Mr. Wing said the roof is already 10 years old. He doesn't believe putting panels on the roof is the right thing to do.
- Mrs. Levreault said with the net metering littleville there would be \$130,000 in savings. What would it be with Broadway or Capital?
- Ms. Fisksaid we have no idea, the proposal was for both roofs.
- Mrs. Levreault said Broadway and Ameresco talked about putting something in the school for educational purposes. Do you think Hampshire Council of Governments would do that?
- Dr. Hopson said they mentioned at the last meeting they would.
- Mr. Damon said we need to be cautious he feels the chances are too risky to put panels of the roofs.
- Mrs. Hirtle asked how net metering works.
- Dr. Hopson said you agree to buy so many kilowatts from a solary company. It reduces your electric bill. It will be about 21% cheeper than we are paying now. The savings is only off the base price, not delivery etc.
- Mrs. Hirtle asked how they get the electricity from there to here.
- Dr. Hopson you probably won't get it directly from there. Its just we've bought a certain. we are buying into the source.
- Mr. Wing didn't have the opportunity to work with the amersco, but he did with Broadway – he is not in favor of working with ameresco.
- Ms. Fisk we can't tie in with a company at the moment. We have to go out to bid unless HCOG has done all that preliminary work
- Mrs. Levreault said we can't include Chester because they have their own light department.

Mrs. Crane made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy to move forward with the net metering option.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain Absent

D. DESE Report From Spring 2012 Visit

- Dr. Hopson put the report and the responses on the website. There is very little the leadership didn't know about. The thing that Mrs. Kennedy brought up about communication between school committee and the towns is in there. The other thing they brought up is the towns and the school committee hav no idea what is in the budget. The process is they have to find information from at least three sources before it can be included.
- Mr. Kronholm asked how often this is done.
- Dr. Hopson said years ago we had an evaluation because every school had one. The funding was lost and that agency closed. Tis program was started for leve 3, 4, and 5 districts. We got on the list when we were a level 3 school, and still have to have one even though we are now a level 2 school.
- Mr. Kronholm remembers being on a list where we got written up.
- Dr. Hopson said that was NEASC and that happens every 10 years. The next one will happen four years from now. NEASC is for the high school only. The teachers go through the evaluation and then NEASC checks to see if they see the same as the evaluation.
- Mrs. Long believes most of the citings were due to the building.
- Dr. Hopson said the focus of NEASC is on appropriate rubrics for 21st century skills.
- Dr. Hopson talked about the chart handed out at the Worthington annual town meeting. Assuming they move forward in a timely manner the school committee may want to contact those who represent their towns and let them know if you are in favor or not.
- Mrs. Buiks asked how many students are we going to lose to school choice and how many are going to voke.
- Mrs. Fisk said the school choice figures come from the state. The Vocational Schools notified each town after March 1. She believes there was 1 junior, 3 sophomores, and 25 freshmen.

IX. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. FY '13 Superintendent's Evaluation Summary - none

X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

School Choice Presentation – Wendy Long

XI. INFORMATION

Information

Superintendent's Corner April 5, 2013
 Preschool Screening on May 6
 Items galore on Chester PTO calendar fundraiser
 Athletic Hall of Fame nominations sought
 Early Release Day April 23
 A Great Time for a Great Cause!
 Superintendent's Corner April 12, 2013
 NEW DATE for Volunteer Dinner, 'Teen Brain' Event
 NHS Induction April 24
 Gateway announces Kindergarten Screenings
 Free Weight Watchers meeting April 23
 Early College Awareness workshop for HS freshmen and sophomores
 LeBarron, Otterbeck receive 'Kennedy' awards
 Superintendent's Corner April 22, 2013
 Chester PTO Ziti Supper and Raffle
 Preschool Screening on May 6
 May School Committee meetings
 Save-the-Date for 'Community Read' Kickoff
 Superintendent's Corner April 26, 2013
 Spring concert, art show May 9
 Shipman Memorial Concert May 24
 Fourteen Gateway juniors inducted into NHS
 Middle School Effort Awards
 Principal rewards Jr. High achievers
 Third term honor roll for high school

Warrant

AP# 1083 \$232,263.80 PR# 22 \$359,294.05
 AP# 1086 \$84,342.51

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

A. Minutes Approval: 4/10/13 – done in open session.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault to approve the executive session minutes of 4/10/13.

Motion carried (VOTE) Yeas 11 Nays Abstain 1 Absent

XIII. ADJOURNMENT Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Crane to adjourn at.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Stacy L Stewart,
 School Committee Secretary