

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**REGULAR MEETING****WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2013****Gateway Library****7:30 P.M.****(A PORTION OF THIS MEETING MAY BE HELD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION)****I. OPENING OF MEETING**

Mrs. Brett called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

BLANDFORD

Michele Crane

Jim Kronholm

CHESTER

Beth Brett

Martha Otterbeck

Shirley Winer

HUNTINGTON

Ron Damon

William Hathaway

MIDDLEFIELD

Sarah Foley

MONTGOMERY

Anne Marie Buikus

Sandra Haas

RUSSELL

Ellen Hirtle

Ruth Kennedy

WORTHINGTON

Sue Levreault

Gretchen Eliason

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

OTHERS: _____

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

A. None

III. STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT - None

IV. CONSENT ITEMS 5/1/13, 5/8/13 (Enc.)

Mrs. Winer moved, seconded by Mrs. Levreault to approve the 5/1/13 minutes.

YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSTAIN 6

Mrs. Crane moved seconded by Mrs. Levreault to approve the 5/8/13 minutes.

YEAS 10 NAYS 0 ABSTAIN 4

V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS

Net Metering - John Abe and John Murphy from Nexmark were in attendance as well as Eric Weiss from HCOG. John Abe gave a PowerPoint presentation on net metering. The current solar array project will be located in Hadley. Nexamp offers 21% fixed discount off of the net metering credits received on the school bills. Current net metering credit rate is \$.092/kwh. The term of the contract is 20 years. Construction begins later this spring; and the project will be brought online by the fall.

Eric – this is just an extension of the contract that Gateway already has with Hampshire Council of Governments. Eric said that this does not have to be bid out.

Mrs. Eliason asked Ms. Fisk if she has any concerns over the bidding process. Ms. Fisk said that she would check with the Inspector's General's office to get an answer as to whether it has to be bid or not.

Mrs. Kennedy moved, seconded by Mrs. Hirtle that we start the process for a net metering contract.

YEAS 14 NAYS 0 ABSTAIN 0

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Student Representative – none

B. School Committee

Mr. Kronholm said now is a good time to sign up to host an exchange student.

Mrs. Crane reminded members that she will need people to volunteer to bring food to the retirement recognition event to be held prior to the next school committee meeting.

C. Chairperson – none

D. Superintendent – Central Office Update – none

E. Business Manager - Ms. Fisk notified the school committee that the special education transportation contract vote will be on the next agenda. During the last month she has negotiated a new contract with Lecrenski which will save significant money to the district.

F. Administration - Mrs. Long discussed Community Read. Mrs. Long mentioned the following upcoming events:

Shipman Memorial Concert – May 24, 7 p.m.

Community Read – May 28 – Potluck dinner – 5:30 p.m.

Sports Banquet – May 30- Tekoa

May 31/June 1 – Harvey Production – GPAC

June 7 – Graduation

June 8 – Gataroo Music Festival

June 8 – Community recycling event – shredder, appliances, etc.

VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee - Mrs. Hirtle – there will be no summative evaluation this year. The subcommittee will look at how to incorporate all of the pieces

B. Finance Subcommittee – Mrs. Eliason said that they have not met, but will be looking to set up a future meeting date.

C. Policy Subcommittee – Mrs. Brett said that they have not met.

D. School Committee Goals Subcommittee – Mrs. Eliason asked that this be added as new business to the next agenda.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. FY '14 Budget Update – Montgomery Annual Town meeting has been rescheduled to June 3 due to lack of a quorum at first meeting. Dr. Hopson explained that there is a significant difference between the Governor's budget and the Senate budget. With the Senate budget, there will be significant changes to the minimum contribution levels. The Governor's budget proposed that those towns above target share would be brought down to the target share at 100%. The House and Senate version change that figure to 15%.

Ms. Fisk also informed the school committee that since the budget has been adopted by the school committee we have had approximately 11 staffing changes. We also have to add another section of preschool at Chester Elementary due to the high enrollment numbers. We may also have to add

another preschool bus run. The good news is that both the House and Senate have increased the regional transportation reimbursement.

- B. Regional Agreement Amendments Update – There are no updates at this time.

IX. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

- A. FY '13 Superintendent's Evaluation Summary – no questions
- B. Approval of School Choice for the 2013-2014 School Year – Dr. Hopson explained this is to approve new incoming school choice students.
- C. Superintendent requests authorization for the District Treasurer or Assistant District Treasurer under provisions of M.G.L., Chapter 71 Section 16 (9) and with the approval of the Chairperson for the Gateway Regional Committee, to incur temporary debt (borrow from time to time) in anticipation of revenue to be received from any source for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013. This is for short-term borrowing in case assessments are not received on time, etc.
- D. Extension of Business Manager's Contract – no questions
- E. Extension of Superintendent's Contract – Mrs. Buikus talked about the contract and the paragraph that refers to the extension of the contract and the paragraph that deals with executive session (which should be removed). She also feels that because we voted not to extend it last year we shouldn't be talking about the matter. Mrs. Brett will ask the lawyer to take a look at it. Dr. Hopson said it doesn't seem to matter how well he does if the contract doesn't change or renew.

X. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

June 12 – School Committee Goals

June 12 – Special Education Transportation Contract for 2013-14

Recommendation to Participate in the National School Lunch Program – Wendy McCaul
School Choice Presentation – Wendy Long

XI. INFORMATION

Information

Superintendent's Corner May 3, 2013

Three Gateway teachers will receive Excellence in Teaching awards

Students celebrate National Poetry Month

Lt. Governor visits Gateway vocational programs

Sports scholars visit Fenway

Gateway foundation receives \$5000 from United Bank Foundation

Gateway kindergarten screening reminder

Crafters sough for 4th Annual GatorRoo Music Festival

Shipman Memorial Concert May 24,

Fourth graders to visit Middle School

Schools closed for Memorial Day

Gateway musicians score in competition

Superintendent's Corner May 10, 2013

Warrant

AP# 1089 \$73,530.76

AP# 1090 \$38.41

AP# 1092 \$41,161.97

9:00-10 p.m. XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – Mrs. Eliason moved, seconded by Mrs. Levreault to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

YEAS 14 NAYS 0 ASBTAIN 0