

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**REGULAR MEETING****WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 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 Winer
Martha Otterbeck- 8:09HUNTINGTONRon Damon
William HathawayMIDDLEFIELDSarah Foley
Brian MillerMONTGOMERYAnne Marie Buikus
Sandra HaasRUSSELLEllen Hirtle
Ruth Kennedy
Mary Ann LaurieWORTHINGTONSue 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 Principal
Celeste, Malvezzi, High/Jr.High Assistant Principal
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 - None

IV. CONSENT ITEMS 6/12/13 (Enc.)**Mrs. Winer made a motion seconded by Mr. Damon to approve the minutes of 6/12/13****Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 11 Nays Abstain 4 Absent 1**

7:40 p.m. V. REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE

- Mrs. Buikus asked why we were reorganizing, since we voted not to reorganize until the last meeting in July.
- Mrs. Brett said since we are trying to adhere to our policies she felt we should put it on this agenda. Technically, according to our policy we should have reorganized at the last meeting.
- Dr. Hopson said by two thirds vote, you can waive the policy.

- Mrs. Levreault said we did do it in June but then we started doing it in July after all new members take office.
- Mrs. Eliason said the regional agreement says promptly upon the appointment and qualification of the initial members and annually thereafter upon the election or appointment and qualification of successors the committee shall organize... All towns agree to the regional agreement.
- Mrs. Brett said as a committee we need to decide what we follow.
- Mrs. Levreault said in February when we talked about the calendar we decided there were equally as many people on vacation in June and July.
- Mrs. Winer asked what difference it makes.
- Mrs. Levreault said the new person won't have a vote.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked which one trumps the other policy or the regional agreement.
- Mr. Damon said no matter how hard we try we won't have everyone in attendance.
- Mrs. Levreault said this is another issue for the policy subcommittee to look into.
- Dr. Hopson said the regional agreement probably comes first. It may depend on what elected and qualified means.
- Mrs. Kennedy said the new person wouldn't be qualified until July 1.
- Mrs. Burke said from this side there are 15 people here tonight, more committee members here than there has been in the past year.
- Mrs. Winer would echo that, but many of the new people don't know what the positions are.
- Mrs. Levreault is concerned about talking about sides, because we are all here for the best interest of the district. We are all on the same team. We should have talked about this in February.
- Mrs. Levreault recommends that the policy committee study which is more important the regional agreement or policy set by the school committee.

Mrs. Eliason made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy to suspend the reorganization policy and vote at next the meeting according the schedule.

- Mrs. Eliason said it is the principal. There is a person here who will no longer be on the committee and it gives the new Chester person the opportunity to have a vote.
- Mrs. Kennedy didn't know about this until she read the agenda.

Mrs. Eliason made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy to suspend the reorganization policy and vote at next the meeting according the schedule

Motion Failed (VOTE) Yeas 8 Nays 6 Abstain 1 Absent 1

A. Chairperson

Mrs. Hirtle made a motion seconded by Mr. Damon nominating Mrs. Crane

Mrs. Levreault made a motion seconded by Mrs. Laurie nominating Mrs. Eliason

- Mrs. Brett said this is done by ballot.
- Both Mrs. Crane and Mrs. Eliason gave statements for why they would make a good Chair.
- Mrs. Hirtle said we are here for the district she has a problem with having a chair from a town that is working to get out of this district. They have approved special legislation. They don't seem committed to the district. She feels there has been no respect from that town since we closed schools.
- Mrs. Eliason feels it would be unifying. The town is pursuing a course of action. She is interested in working together.
- Mrs. Eliason said she is not involved in the Worthington Adhoc Committee.
- Mrs. Levreault said the same. It has been difficult for her to sit here. It was a big blow when schools were closed. When you say we are against the district. She urged us as to think about what we were doing because Worthington already had high choice out numbers. It was a dangerous choice. The most disturbing is the Mrs. Hirtle just criticized them saying that they only care about their children and town. We are all here for the students. You can't control the town. We want Gateway education to be the best it can be and hope.

Votes for Mrs. Crane 7

Votes for Mrs. Eliason 8

REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE (Continued)
B. Vice-Chairperson

Mrs. Levreault made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy nominating Mrs. Buikus

Mrs. Winer made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy nominating Mrs. Crane

Votes for Mrs. Crane 6

Votes for Mrs. Buikus 8

Abstain 1

C. Secretary (Stacy Stewart)

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy for Mrs. Stewart as Secretary

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain 3 Absent

D. District Treasurer (Deborah Kuhn)

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Brett for Ms. Kuhn as District Treasurer.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 12 Nays Abstain 3 Absent

E. Legislative Contact:

Mrs. Levreault made a motion seconded by Mrs. Winer nominating Mrs. Kennedy as the legislative contact.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays 1 Abstain 5 Absent

F. Counsel for the Committee (Dupere Law Office)**G. Negotiator for the Committee (Dupere Law Office)**

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Winer to take F and G together

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 14 Nays Abstain 1 Absent

Mrs. Crane made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kennedy to use Dupere Law offices for Counsel for the committee and Negotiator for the committee

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 11 Nays Abstain 4 Absent

H. Sick Bank Committee – Ron, Michele, Jeff (Alt.)**I. Negotiations Committee - Ron, Ruth, Shirley, Anne-Marie****J. Superintendent's Evaluation Committee– Michele, Sue, Ellen, Ruth Sarah, Shirley, Gretchen****K. Policy Committee–Ruth, Ron, Mary Ann****L. Warrant Signing Committee- Michele, Ruth, Shirley Ron, Anne Marie, Gretchen****M. Finance Committee- Sue, Ruth, Ann Marie, Bill, Ellen, Gretchen**

- Mrs. Eliason asked the committees to set up when they are going to meet, to elect a secretary, and to cc her, Dave, Steph, Stacy.

VI. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS - None

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Student Representative - None

B. School Committee

- Mrs. Crane said as we have done with all past Chairs, it is important to recognize Beth Brett as school committee chair for all her hard work and dedication to the school committee and the district.
- Mrs. Winer said she missed the last meeting so she wasn't in on the contract discussion. She is concerned there seems to be an undercurrent of dissatisfaction. Is it the contract or are they dissatisfied with the superintendent? She is interested in knowing where this is coming from. It is very upsetting to think the committee might be trying to get rid of him.
- Mrs. Kennedy said she is not trying to get rid of anyone. When she is elected by the town, it is for three years once the contract is signed you let it follow through. It is just to get it back to where it should be.
- Mrs. Brett feels it is personal because you just voted to extend Ms. Fisk's contract to 6 years.
- Mrs. Haas said Ms. Fisk's contract is different she is valuable, and not the final policy maker.
- Mrs. Winer said it is an elephant in the room. It is a discussion we should have because the perception out there is that the group is voting.
- Mrs. Eliason said as the chair she will encourage everyone to voice their opinion, but there will be no personal attacks, it is improper for someone to say I have good motives and you have bad motives. It is good to argue the facts.
- Mrs. Winer said it is not healthy for school committee to have a feeling of descent without sharing their explanation.
- Mrs. Eliason said they don't necessarily need to explain themselves to every member of the school committee. We should have more honest and frank discussion.
- Dr. Hopson said he extends every administrative contract for a year so we can keep them.

C. Chairperson - None

D. Superintendent – Central Office Update (Enc.)

- The Hampshire Council group's contract is under review.
- Evaluation update – teachers and administrators have reached an agreement, the union is looking at it one last time. We will have it next month for ratification.

E. Business Manager

- We have one potential addition to net metering. It does not need to be bid out according to the Brian O'Donnell from the AG's office.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked if we would get presentations.
- Mrs. Fisk said if they feel they are comparable to Hampshire Council of Governments.

F. Administration

- Mrs. Burke said today was the last day of school.
- Mrs. Eliason thanked the gateway community for another great year.

VIII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation - None

B. Finance Subcommittee

- Met tonight, talked about a project GTAC is interested in and the Budget. – looking at unfunded mandates and how to get them funded.
- Mrs. Hirtle asked that any information she might need be sent to her.

C. Policy Subcommittee - None

IX. OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. FY '14 Budget Version 3.0

- Dr. Hopson said as of tonight the House and Senate committee budget has not come out yet. The subcommittee asked what we are actually approving tonight. School committee is voting on the bottom line. We have 7 days to put the assessments out. Hopefully the state will have the numbers out.
- Mrs. Eliason said the change is a reduction of \$808.00.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Crane to approve 3.0, based on the fact there is a minimal amount of change.

- Mrs. Eliason said in finance she expressed the opinion since 3 towns voted it down she would like to see a good faith consideration of their concerns even if we are not able to change the budget in a way they like.
- Mrs. Winer said Chester was okay with the budget. They just wanted the final figures.
- Mrs. Eliason said the difference is that some towns are going up.
- Dr. Hopson would argue four towns approved the budget so he is not sure why you would make that recommendation.
- Mr. Wyand asked what the reductions were.
- Mrs. Eliason said as Ms. Fisk will tell us, things change every day.
- Ms. Fisk said there are two reductions her secretary and the pupil services position both have reduced hours.
- Mrs. Levreault asked if we will be able to get the education plans out on time.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Crane to approve 3.0, based on the fact there is a minimal amount of change.

Motion Failed (VOTE) Yeas 9 Nays 2 Abstain 5 Absent

- Dr. Hopson said there is not a two-thirds vote for the budget. If this fails version 2.0 goes back to the towns.
- Mrs. Levreault said at one point there was a town that had a lot of special education school choice. She doesn't want that to happen again. The students coming in need those education plans on time.
- Ms. Taverna said it is not an issue. People take vacations anyway and we have all of August. It is one of the reasons we are in compliance because stuff gets out.

Mr. Wyand made a motion seconded by Mr. Damon to reconsider the motion to approve 3.0.

- Mr. Wyand said there are pretty big changes between 2.1 and 3.0 could you explain.
- Ms. Fisk said since March, we have had 11 staff changes. People either retired or left for new jobs. Three were retiring in FY 14 and ended up in FY 13 so they were taken out. Chester has had a population increase in preschool so the teacher went from half time to full time. We have a new transportation contract. For heating oil we started out with a tank in reserve and a full one. Unemployment for a secretary came out because someone decided to retire. There was also a Cherry sheet change from the state.
- Mr. Wyand said version 3.0 is more accurate.
- Mrs. Crane said it would be helpful if we talked about what towns have to vote again.
- Dr. Hopson said the towns that have passed the budget, don't have to vote again unless the assessment goes up. Russell, Chester, and Worthington will most likely have to vote again, if they don't in 45 days, the budget passes. Most towns don't vote again.

Mr. Wyand made a motion seconded by Mr. Damon to reconsider the motion to approve 3.0.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 16 Nays Abstain Absent.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Crane to approve 3.0, based on the fact there is a minimal amount of change.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 15 Nays Abstain 1 Absent

B. FY '13 Budget Transfers

- Ms. Fisk said a few sub lines are over, some of teacher salary lines are under – district salary pays for severance and separation of service days. You are balancing these with some that are under expended accounts.
- Steph, it's based on how many days they have left – you budget for the entire amount, but the actual amount goes into their line item - from district salary to their individual accounts.
- Mrs. Levreault asked about the program for other schools. The Gateway to success program at HCC, is the difference between what we thought it was and what it actually is.
- Mrs. Laurie asked if this student is performing exceptionally well.
- Dr. Hopson said it is when they are not performing well, it is not special education per say, might be a school phobia, behavioral, etc.

Mrs. Crane made a motion seconded by Mrs. Brett to approve the FY 13 budget transfers.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 16 Nays Abstain Absent

C. Regional Agreement Amendments

- Dr. Hopson said six towns are in opposition and Worthington has asked for special legislation via a special town meeting.

D. Recommendation to Participate in the National School Lunch Program.

Mr. Damon made a motion seconded by Mrs. Levreault to participate in the National School Lunch Program.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 16 Nays Abstain Absent

X. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to approve a delegate for the November 2013 MASC/MASS Joint Conference

- Mrs. Kennedy was our delegate last year.

Mrs. Winer made a motion seconded by Mrs. Hirtle to suspend the two meeting rule to vote to approve a delegate for the November 2013 MASC/MASS Joint Conference.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 15 Nays Abstain 1 Absent

Mrs. Kennedy made a motion to send a delegate to the November 2013 MASC/MASS Joint Conference.

- Mrs. Kennedy said her wish is that two people go since one person can't go to everything. You learn everything about being on a school committee from negotiations to policy. They hold two or three things at the same time. She highly recommends it.

Mrs. Kennedy made a motion to send a delegate to the November 2013 MASC/MASS Joint Conference.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 16 Nays Abstain Absent

XI. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Future Agenda Items

XII. INFORMATION

Information

Superintendent's Corner June 14, 2013
 Last day of school
 Students try 'virtual welding'
 Elementary Libraries applaud long-term volunteers
 Golden Achievement Nominees
 Superintendent's Corner June 7, 2013
 Bolduc, Vorwerk and Morrissey take top awards
 Fall sports sign-ups
 June School Committee meetings
 Gateway receives grant for welding program
 Superintendent's Corner May 31, 2013
 School Committee to honor retirees, staff

Warrants

AP# 1099 \$118,756.13	PR# 25 \$412,432.57
AP# 1127 \$175,151.16	PR# 25.1 \$6,830.60

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

XIX. ADJOURNMENT *Mrs. Levreault made a motion second by Mrs. Kennedy to adjourn 9:20 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy L. Stewart
School Committee Secretary