

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Gateway Regional School District will provide an exemplary education that challenges all students in an instructional setting appropriate to their needs.

All visitors attending the school committee meeting should sign in at the security booth.

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Middle School Room 117/119

7:00 P.M.

7:04 PM I. OPENING OF MEETING & QUESTION TO SEE IF ANYONE IS RECORDING

Call to order: Dr. Melissa Matarazzo, Superintendent

BLANDFORD

Nicole Daviau

CHESTER

Jeana Briggs

Brian Fogue

Jason Fogue

HUNTINGTON

Pegg Dragon

Lisa Goding

Brianna Sloane

MIDDLEFIELD

Tasha Strong

MONTGOMERY

Peter DeGregorio

RUSSELL

Alicia Hansen

SECRETARY

James Hayes

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Melissa Matarazzo, Superintendent

Amy Mason, School Business Administrator

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Martha Gendron, Littleville Asst. Principal

Melissa McCaul, Littleville Principal

Chris Parker, Technology Director

Stacy Stewart, Human Resources Director

Dr. William Sullivan, GRS Principal

Val Zeh, GRS Assistant Principal

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Theodore DeAngelis-Page

OTHERS: _____

7:07 PM II. REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE

A. Chairperson

Ms. Goding nominated Mr. J Forgue, seconded by Mr. DeGregorio

(VOTE) YEAS__7__ NAYS__2__ ABSTAIN__1__ (roll call)

Yeas: Daviau, B. Forgue, Dragon, Goding, DeGregorio, Hansen, Sloane

Nays: Briggs, Strong

Abstain: J. Forgue

Once a chair is nominated and approved, the meeting will be run by the chair.

B. Vice-Chairperson

Mr. Brian Forgue made a motion, seconded by Ms. Goding, to nominate Peter Degregorio as Vice-Chairperson.

(VOTE) YEAS__9__ NAYS__0__ ABSTAIN__1__

Yeas: Daviau, B. Forgue, Dragon, Goding, J. Forgue, Hansen, Sloane, Briggs, Strong

Abstain: DeGregorio

C. Treasurer (Jenny Raymond)

(VOTE) YEAS 10_ NAYS_0__ ABSTAIN 0

Mr. Brian Forgue made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jason Forgue, to nominate Jenny Raymond as Treasurer.

Ms. Mason described Ms. Raymond's background and experience.

(VOTE) YEAS__10__ NAYS__0__ ABSTAIN__0__

Yeas: Daviau, B. Forgue, Dragon, Goding, J. Forgue, Hansen, Sloane, Briggs, Strong, DeGregorio

D. School Committee Secretary (James Hayes)

Mr. Brian Forgue made a motion, seconded by Ms. Daviau, to nominate Jimmy Hayes as Secretary.

(VOTE) YEAS_10__ NAYS_0__ ABSTAIN 0

Yeas: Daviau, B. Forgue, Dragon, Goding, J. Forgue, Hansen, Sloane, Briggs, Strong, DeGregorio

E. Appointments

- Sick Bank Committee (2 members) - **Jeana Briggs and Alicia Hansen**
- Negotiations Committee - **Jeana Briggs, Peter Degregorio, Jason Forgue, Lisa Goding**
- Superintendent's Evaluation - **Tara Balboni, Brian Forgue, Brianna Sloane, Peter Degregorio**

- Policy Committee - **Nicole Daviau, Lyndsey Papillon, Brianna Sloane, Pegg Dragon, Brian Forgue, Peter Delgregorio**
- Warrant Signing Committee - **Brian Forgue, Peter Delgregorio, Nicole Daviau, Alicia Hansen, Jason Forgue, Pegg Dragon, Lisa Goding, Brianna Sloane, Tara Balboni, Tasha Strong**
- Collaborative for Educational Services (CES) Representative - **Brian Forgue**
- Gateway Education Foundation - **Alicia Hansen, Lyndsey Papillon**
- Legislative Contact - **Brian Forgue**
- Liaisons
 1. Chester Elementary - **Jeana Briggs**
 2. Littleville Elementary - **Brianna Sloane**
 3. Gateway Regional School - **Nicole Daviau**
 4. Accountability & Grants - **Pegg Dragon, Lisa Goding**
 5. Pupil Services - **Lisa Goding**
 6. Finance and Facilities - **Peter Degregorio**

7:31 PM III. PUBLIC INPUT

Tammy Mirenda from Chester/Becket spoke about requesting bylaw changes to allow her pre-k child to attend school w/ a sibling at Chester due to living and residing across 2 town lines. Current policy does not allow pre-k students to use school choice to attend Gateway.

7:44 PM IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS

7:44 PM V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

7:45 PM VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM

- A. Overnight Trip to Boston - Mr. Mosher spoke about the expense of the upcoming trip raising significantly from previous years from \$460 to \$699 for early enrollment. Grants and funding should provide 3 students financial assistance and student costs to \$570 per student. Motion received majority approval.

Mr. Brian Forgue made a motion seconded by Mrs. Dragon to approve the Boston trip at up to \$570 per student.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 10 Nays 0 Abstain 0

Yeas: Daviau, B. Forgue, Dragon, Goding, J. Forgue, Hansen, Sloane, Briggs, Strong, DeGregorio

- B. Notification of list of classes with numbers less than 10 (Enc.)
- C. Approval for three teachers to teach an extra teaching load -

Mr. Brian Forgue made a motion seconded by Mr. DeGregorio to approve extra teaching loads.

Motion Carried (VOTE) Yeas 10 Nays Abstain

Yeas: Daviau, B. Forgue, Dragon, Goding, J. Forgue, Hansen, Sloane, Briggs, Strong, DeGregorio

D. Updated Competency Determination (Enc.)

8:15 PM VII. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Acceptance of Grants/Donations (Enc.) - **Motion to accept Grants/Donations received majority approval**

8:16 PM VIII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE - Theo discussed the usage of the NEST program, along with the happiness of the cafeteria lunch program additions and Student Den study area with upgraded seating and viewing conditions. He also talked about upcoming new ways of learning with the LIFT program. They will be sending out further information for a salad fundraiser coming up next week.

7:55 PM IX. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee - **Ms. Briggs spoke on seeing and hearing of unacceptable conditions for sports teams prior to school opening. The scoreboard hasn't worked since last year and finds it embarrassing for the school and students.**

B. Chairperson

C. Superintendent Update (Enc.) - **Dr. Matarazzo spoke about a positive beginning to the school year among all schools in the district. YMCA program was addressed as to why it is currently unavailable for students attending Chester Elementary. Some clarifications were mentioned as to why things are the way they are currently and clarification was brought for day/pricing options.**

D. School Business Administrator - **Brian asked about current budget savings and if any issues could arise for FY26 to change that. Amy mentioned that potential things, such as hiring new staff, insurance changes and school choice leverages could have an effect. It was made clear that there is no current information available on any future cuts.**

E. Administration (Enc.)

F. Town Officials

8:44 PM X. COMMITTEE REPORTING

A. Superintendent's Evaluation

B. Legislative Liaison - **Lisa brought attention to the board that they are required to take a course within 1 year of being on the board. Upcoming classes are available this coming weekend.**

C. Negotiations

D. Building Liaisons

E. CES Update - **upcoming meeting on 9/24**

F. Policy

8:46 PM XI. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

The school committee will review the school choice policy for pre-k students.

8:46 PM XII. INFORMATION

The warrant signing committee had reviewed the following warrants, found them to be in order, and approved them.

AP#1094 \$68.39	PR#1.0 \$76,372.84
AP#1095 \$245,363.71	PR#2.0 \$143,366.01
AP#1096 \$32.84	PR#3.0 \$125,605.69
AP#1097 \$62,370.99	PR#4.0 \$122,487.10
AP#1001 \$806,160.00	
AP#1007 \$89,766.80	
AP#1099 \$135,271.43	
AP#1005 \$211,339.99	
AP#1011 \$119,124.62	

8:46 PM XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

8:47PM XV. ADJOURNMENT by 9 p.m. unless extended by majority vote.

Ms. Daviau made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. B. Forgue.