GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Gateway Regional School

7:00 P.M.

Attendance:
School Committee Present: Jason Forgue, Jessica Sakaske, Pegg Dragon, Jakob Wyman, Lyndsey Papillon, Jennifer Pappas, Peter DeGregorio, Brian Forgue, Lisa Goding

Administration Present: Dr. Melissa Matarazzo, Amy Mason, Martha Gendron, Joan Tuttle, Val Zeh, Roland Joyal, Chris Mosher

Secretary Present: Melissa Mckellick
Student Representative Present: Elle DeMoss, Amelia Steward-Frey

Minutes:
Call to order: Jason Forgue, 7:01 pm

7:02 I. PUBLIC INPUT
No public input

II. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/RECOGNITIONS

A. Introduction of Roland Joyal, Interim Principal at Gateway Regional School

Discussion: Interim Principal discussed his background and his first two weeks at Gateway Regional School. He has been meeting students and staff and thinks we have a great school.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Subcommittee Calendar

Discussion: Finance subcommittee would like to have a kickoff meeting on November 18, 2026.

Action: It is the will of the committee to add a Financial subcommittee meeting on November 18, 2026 at 6pm.

- Motion to approve calendar with addition of November 18, 2026 by Brian Forgue.
- Second by Lyndsey Papillon
- All in favor.

B. Capital Plan (Vision) and Boiler Assessment

Discussion: Jessica Sakaske asked if there is a way to see what has been done. Amy Mason explained where the money comes from. Committee members want to know what we are saving for. Jason Forgue explained that the savings is for boilers and the roof and stated that they are about ½ way through the list. Dr. Matarazzo thinks we should backtrack and update pricing.

Jessica Sakaske asked about scoreboards. Jason Forgue priced it out and the maintenance is expensive. Other schools allow advertising in order to cover the cost. Gateway would need to change policy to allow advertising. Peter DeGregorio asked about a Ford F350. Amy said she would need to check if it is financed. Amy Mason said there is a contract in review to evaluate our current boiler systems. Jason Forgue asked if it could be priced as an oil and a propane system. According to Amy Mason, the cost estimate for the design takes about a month. Air conditioning is not an option with our current system.

C. School Busses and GPS

Discussion: Dr. Matarazzo explained the research and that this is a very basic service. Lecrenski's has declined to add the GPS at their cost. Jason Forgue thinks the union may have an issue. There is more to know about. How well will it work in this area?

Action: It is the will of the committee to go back to Lecrenski's and ask for them to cover some of the cost. The committee has a desire to cover the cost if Lecrenski's won't.

D. Regional Agreement: Early Draft RFP

Discussion: Dr. Matarazzo spoke with MARS and they think an RFP should be created even if the cost does not trigger to do so.The committee was asked if they wished to include capital, facilities, governance, and voting. They responded yes. Dr. Matarazzo asked if they wanted to move forward with this team taking a deeper look. Jason Forgue responded that they would eventually.

IV. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM

A. Approve Gateway Regional School classes with fewer than 10 students
   a. Motion by Brian Forgue
   b. Seconded by Pegg Dragon
   c. Discussion: Is welding full? Yes. Dr. Matarazzo will look into why there are so few students in the EEC classes.
   d. Vote: 8 Yea 0 Nay 1 Abstain

B. Approve Gateway Regional School teacher overages
   a. Motion by Brian Forgue
   b. Seconded by Lyndsey Papillon
   c. Discussion: No discussion
   d. Vote: 9 Yea 0 Nay

C. Approve overnight trip to Boston for 8th grade
   a. Motion by Brian Forgue
   b. Seconded by Lyndsey Papillon
   c. Discussion: Chris Mosher talked about the trip and the cost. Fundraising is possible, but not always worth it. It takes a lot of fundraising to impact the cost per student. There are funds available for students that need it. Jakob Wyman suggested asking community members to help.
   d. Vote: 9 Yea 0 Nay

D. Approve overnight trips as needed for Early Education and Care to SkillsUSA
    a. Motion by Brian Forgue
    b. Seconded by Jessica Sakaske
    c. Discussion: This is built into the high school budget.
    d. Vote: 9 Yea 0 Nay

V. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Accept Donations & Grants
    a. Motion by Brian Forgue
    b. Seconded by Lyndsey Papillon
    c. Discussion: No discussion
    d. Vote: 9 Yea 0 Nay

B. Approve FY 27 Quarter 1 Budget Transfers
    a. Motion by Brian Forgue
    b. Seconded by Peter DeGregorio
    c. Discussion: No discussion
    d. Vote: 9 Yea 0 Nay

C. Approve Meeting Minutes of September 9 and 21 2026
    a. Motion by Brian Forgue
    b. Seconded by Lyndsey Papillon
    c. Discussion: Correct name typos on 9/9/26 Jakob, Lyndsey, Jessica
    d. Vote: 9 Yea 0 Nay

VI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

Discussion: Elle DeMoss talked about what is going on at the different schools. Semi will be at East Mountain this year. The Culture Committee had its first meeting and is interested in reducing racism. NHS has a boot drive coming up on 11/21. The Booster Club provided money for senior athletic banners again this year. Elementary Open Houses were a success!

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. School Committee

Discussion: Jakob Wyman added to the Policy Committee, Peter DeGregorio gave his CES seat to Brian Forgue, Jessica Sakaske added to the Finance Committee, Brian is also joining the Superintendent Evaluation Committee and Finance Committee. The committee did a role call vote to accept these updates. Vote 9 Yea 0 Nay.

C. The superintendent discussed MCAS. We have some good growth. Wondering why low results on ELA. Attendance is a strength in lower grades.Jakob asked if the numbers were the same as pre-covid. Joan Tuttle touched on the way DESE looks at attendance. Amelia Steward-Frey thinks EEC motivates kids to attend school. Pegg Dragon wonders why BARR hasn't motivated kids to come to school.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTING

Discussion: Brian Forgue asked Joan if she would be open to connecting with a green energy initiative contact he has. She would be. Lisa Goding spoke with Kurt in Pupil Services. They are up and running and have difficulty remaining fully staffed.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Adjourn

-Motion to adjourn: Jason Forgue 8:49