

GARDNER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting – May 11, 2020
Zoom Meeting (due to covid-19 pandemic)

Members present on Zoom: Acting Mayor Elizabeth Kazinskas, Chairperson; Jennifer Pelavin, Vice Chairperson; Anne Hurst, Secretary; James Abare, Rachel Cormier, John LaFreniere, and Robert Swartz

School Personnel present on Zoom: Mark J. Pellegrino, Superintendent
Brenda Smith, Administrative Assistant
Ms. April Yu, Business Administrator
Dr. Catherine Goguen, Chief Academic Officer
Ms. Joyce West, Director of Pupil Personnel
Ms. Courtney Dunn, Grants, Communications & Compliance Manager
Wayne Anderson, Facilities Director

Call to Order

Acting Mayor Elizabeth Kazinskas, called the meeting to order at 7 pm. The meeting opened with a roll call. The meeting was broadcast live on Channel 8 television and recorded by Terri Hillman, Recording Secretary.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Abare moved that the District School Committee approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

- **Approval of minutes of regular meeting, April 13, 2020**
- **Approval of the following Warrants as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee:**
 - **Warrant #20-42 dated 04/16/20 in the amount of \$108,562.97**
 - **Warrant #20-43 dated 04/23/20 in the amount of \$72,251.03**
 - **Warrant #20-44 dated 04/30/20 in the amount of \$26,780.62**
 - **Warrant #20-45 dated 05/07/20 in the amount of \$101,743.81**
- **Acceptance of a gift of \$375 to Waterford Street School from a parent as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee.**

Seconded by Mrs. Pelavin.

Vote – so voted.

Acting Mayor Kazinskas abstained from voting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Subcommittee

Mr. LaFreniere, Chairperson, said that the Subcommittee met on May 4, 2020. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

The Subcommittee reviewed the Finance packet for April 2020. Superintendent Pellegrino explained the deficit in legal expenses which are due to outstanding legal arbitrations.

Ms. Yu and Superintendent Pellegrino presented a FY20 year end savings worksheet. School food services revolving accounts are running at a loss due to the pandemic. Ms. Dunn, Katrina Bressani, Food Service Director, and Ms. Yu are working on grant applications to help close the deficit.

Ms. Yu is continuing to work with DESE and other business managers at MASBO on the issue of paying the bus transportation company when schools are closed. She will keep the Subcommittee updated with progress.

Superintendent Pellegrino gave an update on the FY2021 Level Services Budget and the FY2021 Add List. The adds are critical to move the District forward.

Policy Subcommittee

Mrs. Pelavin said that the Policy Subcommittee met on May 1, 2020. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

The following policies were reviewed and determined that no changes were required. They will be updated as “Reviewed May 2020”.

- Policy ADDA – Background Checks (File ADDA-R– DCJIS Model CORI procedure document will be place in the District Procedures binder)
- Policy BBAA – School Committee Member Authority
- Policy KBBA – Non-Custodial Parents' Rights

Policies reviewed and recommended for a first reading by the full School Committee are listed under Item #3134.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #3134 - First Reading of Policies

Mrs. Hurst presented the following policies for a first reading as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee:

- BBA School Committee and Duties
- IC/ICA School Year/School Calendar
- ID School Day
- IE Organization of Instruction
- IGA Curriculum Development and Adoption

- IHBG Home Schooling
- IHBG-R Home Schooling
 - LBC Home Education
 - LBC Relations with Nonpublic Schools
- JRA Student Records
- KCD Public Gifts
- LA Education Agency Relations Goals and Objectives

Mr. Swartz had some comments on the policies which he did not present to the Policy Subcommittee at the May 1, 2020 meeting. Mrs. Hurst will ask the Policy Subcommittee to review the comments at their next meeting.

Item #3135 – Removal of Policies

Mrs. Pelavin moved to remove the following policies as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee as the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) no longer recommends the inclusion of these policies in District Policy Manuals:

- **ADDA–E-1 – Information Concerning the Process in Correcting a Criminal Record**
- **ADDA–E-2 - CORI Requirements**

Seconded by Mrs. Hurst.

Vote – so voted.

Acting Mayor Kazinskas abstained from voting.

Item #3136 – Updated Budget

Superintendent Pellegrino presented an update on the FY2021 Level Services Budget, and the Net School Spending Budget. He explained how the budget was developed to make sure our students have all they need for their education. In order to support level services, certain adjustments have to be made. The budget adjustment process took into account what is right for the District and for the students.

A list of the critical additions that need to be added to the budget were shown and explained why they are needed to give more support to the students. The uncertainty of State funding is not certain at this time. The funding gap as of May 11, 2020 is \$695,901. If the critical additions are included as outlined, the funding gap will be \$1,340,901.

Mrs. Pelavin moved that the District School Committee vote to hold a Public Hearing on the FY2021 Gardner Public Schools Budget on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 7 pm and to hold a Special Meeting of the full School Committee to vote on the FY2021 Gardner Public Schools Budget following the Public Hearing.

Seconded by Mrs. Hurst.

Vote – so voted.

Acting Mayor Kazinskas abstained from voting.

Item #3137 – Breakfast/Lunch/Supper Program

Superintendent Pellegrino said that food service grants will help to defer the cost of the Breakfast/Lunch/Supper Program for the summer. A truck will be purchased to insure safe delivery of the food during the warm/hot weather. Any family with a child under 18 years of age will qualify for the supper program.

Item #3138 – Kindergarten Registration

The Kindergarten registration will be done on line. Registration for all grades will also be done on line.

Item #3139 - Keystone Educational Collaborative (formerly FLLAC Collaborative)

Mrs. Pelavin moved that the District School Committee vote to approve the Keystone Educational Collaborative (formerly FLLAC Collaborative) Agreement with changes as printed and to authorize Dr. Pellegrino to sign for the Gardner Public School District.

Seconded by Mr. Swartz.

Vote – so voted.

Acting Mayor Kazinskas abstained from voting.

Item #3140- Curriculum Coordinator Update

The Curriculum Coordinator's Update was included in the packet. Dr. Goguen was present to answer questions.

Item #3141 - Special Education Update

The Special Education Update was included in the packet. Ms. West was present to answer questions.

Item #3142 – Grants, Communications & Compliance Update

The Grants, Communications & Compliance Update was included in the packet. Ms. Dunn was present to answer questions.

Item #3143 – MSBA – New Building Project

Mrs. Pelavin moved that that the District School Committee vote to list the following items for the proposed Elementary School as proprietary as required by M.G.L. c.30 §39M(b):

- **Network Hardware: HP**
- **Wireless Internet Access: Extreme Networks**
- **Access Control & Video Management: Genetec**

These proprietary specifications are in the best interest of the public because they will allow the new school to function with other City and District buildings and existing I/T systems.

Seconded by Mr. Swartz.

Vote – so voted.

Acting Mayor Kazinskas abstained from voting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Superintendent Pellegrino thanked all administration and staff for reaching out to students and parents/guardians to find resources for all who need help during this crisis and school closure.

FINAL COMMENTS

Mr. Abare spoke about the pandemic and thanked Superintendent Pellegrino for doing a splendid job during this time.

Mrs. Hurst thanked everyone for their hard work. She mentioned the lawn signs that are available to honor the GHS seniors on their graduation.

Mrs. Pelavin spoke about the Skills Capital Grant which will provide funding for the manufacturing pathway program. Four local manufacturing companies will work with the school to implement this project.

Mrs. Cormier is proud to be part of the Gardner community and thanked everyone for supporting the GHS students.

Mr. LaFreniere echoed the comments of the other School Committee members and said together we will get there.

Mr. Swartz said a great job was done on the FY2021 Budget.

Acting Mayor Kazinskas thanked everyone for their work – it is a team effort.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Pelavin moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mr. Swartz.

Vote – so voted.

Acting Mayor Kazinskas abstained from voting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Anne Hurst, Chairperson