

GARDNER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting – February 11, 2019
City Council Chambers
95 Pleasant Street, Gardner, Massachusetts

Members present: Mayor Mark Hawke, Chairman; Jennifer Pelavin, Vice Chairperson; Anne Hurst, Secretary; James Abare, John LaFreniere, and Melody Phelps

Member absent: Robert Swartz

Student Representative present: Cameron Davis, Gardner High School

School Personnel present: Mark J. Pellegrino, Superintendent
Ms. Terri Hillman, Recording Secretary
Ms. April Yu, Business Administrator
Dr. Catherine Goguen, Chief Academic Officer
Ms. Joyce West, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Ms. Paula Bolger, Principal, Gardner High School
Mr. Earl Martin, Principal, Waterford Street School
Mr. Peter McMorrow, Principal, GALT

Also present: James Vander Hooven, President, Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC)
Sara Vettese, Director, Early College & Dual Enrollment, MWCC
Sam Bonacci, Staff, MWCC

Call to Order

Mayor Hawke, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7 pm. The meeting opened with a roll call and the pledge of allegiance. The meeting was broadcast live on Channel 8 television.

Open Time for the General Public

No one from the general public wished to speak this evening.

Recognition by Superintendent

Superintendent Pellegrino and Mr. Earl Martin, Principal of Waterford Street School, recognized and presented certificates to the Waterford teachers who participate in planning the Family and Community Engagement Activities. The most recent event was a Waterford Family Fit Night at which WSS kids, parents and staff had a workout and fun.

Discussion Items

Mayor Hawke asked if there were any objections to taking Item #2998 – Gardner Public School – A Wealth of Opportunities Program – out of order. There were no objections.

Item #2998 – Gardner Public School – A Wealth of Opportunities Program

Paula Bolger, Principal, Gardner High School, gave a PowerPoint presentation on Dual Enrollment Programs at GHS partnering with Mount Wachusett Community College. There is a big push from DESE, the Commissioner, the State Legislature, and the Governor to provide grant money for these classes. Presently through grants, GHS is offering ENG 101, CIS 128, CAD and PSY 101. Dual Enrollment classes give students the advantage to get courses done early and save money. The Pathway Options for juniors and seniors in the 2019-2020 school year were outlined.

Peter McMorrow, Principal, Gardner Academy for Learning and Technology (GALT), continued the presentation with GALT's Fall 2019 Partnership with MWCC, Devens Campus. Right now the partnership exposes students to technology standards, practices and skills needed in the manufacturing world. The cohort for 2019-2020 will see the first group of students train for and receive the first phase of certification for Quality Control Assurance.

President Vander Hooven and Sara Vettese, MWCC, spoke about the programs that will give juniors and seniors a chance to start a college career as they earn a high school diploma.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by President Vander Hooven, Mayor Hawke, and Superintendent Pellegrino.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Phelps moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

- **Approval of minutes of regular meeting of January 8, 2019**
- **Approval of following Warrants as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee:**
 - **Warrant #19-28 dated 01/10/19 in the amount of \$70,419.36**
 - **Warrant #19-29 dated 01/17/19 in the amount of \$148,006.91**
 - **Warrant #19-30 dated 01/24/19 in the amount of \$144,804.27**
 - **Warrant #19-31 dated 01/31/19 in the amount of \$323,271.27**
 - **Warrant #19-32 dated 02/17/19 in the amount of \$42,432.77**
- **Donations:**
 - **Class of 1988 for athletics \$150**
 - **Anne Hurst for Backpack Program \$100**

Seconded by Mr. LaFreniere.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. Abare, Chairperson, said that the Facilities Subcommittee met on January 15, 2019. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

Mr. Anderson, Superintendent Pellegrino and Ms. Yu gave an update on SJ Services. They met with Ms. Dymek, City Purchasing Director, and went over the specs for a bid for custodial services. Custodial services are to be procured through State Contract. A pre-bid walk through is scheduled for Wednesday, February 20, 2019 with an inclement weather date of Thursday, February 21, 2019.

Mr. Anderson updated the Subcommittee on facilities projects.

Finance Subcommittee

Mr. LaFreniere, Chairperson, said that the Finance Subcommittee met on February 11, 2019. Minutes of the meetings were presented.

The Subcommittee reviewed the expense report, transfer report, and special education finance report line by line. The Subcommittee is concerned about the legal services on Special Education which is about \$19K over budget.

Ms. Yu gave an update on a new contract with CBS copier services. Starting in January the cost was lowered by approximately \$1,200 per month. Cell phone services with AT&T have been analyzed and updated and there has been a decrease in bills. Ms. Yu and Mr. O'Keefe, Technology Director, will check on land line service charges.

SJ Services, Inc., has agreed to half of the fines proposed at the January 17 meeting. The rest of the \$50,000 is pending their final answer.

Mr. Pellegrino and Ms. Yu updated the Subcommittee on the FY20 budget. Gardner's preliminary budget will be brought to the School Committee in early March.

Policy Subcommittee

Mrs. Hurst, Chairperson, said that the Subcommittee met on January 16, 2019. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

The following policies were reviewed and determined that no changes were required, They will be updated as "Reviewed January, 2019".

- Policy CH – Policy Implementation
- Policy CL – Administrative Reports

Policies were revised and approved to send to the Full Committee for a first reading.
See Item #2999.

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Student Advisory Boards

Cameron Davis, Student Representative to the School Committee, read his activity report for GHS for February.

- Report cards for quarter two were passed out on February 1
- MCAS Biology retests took place on February 6 and 7
- Winter Fun Week will held February 11 through 15 with Little Oscars scheduled for February 13
- February break is the week of February 17

NEW BUSINESS

Item #2999 – First Reading of Policies

The Policy Subcommittee recommends the following policies for a first reading:

- BBBA School Committee Member Qualifications
- CFA School Building Administrator Coverage
- CHCA Approval of Handbooks and Directives
- CHCA-E Approval of Handbooks and Directives (Move to Procedures Manual)
- CHD Administration in Policy Absence
- JJF Student Activity Accounts
- KBD Public's Right to Know (To replace Policy CM – Release of Public Records)
- KDB-R Guidelines for Release of Public Records

Item #3000 – Second Reading of Policies

Mrs. Hurst moved that District School Committee vote to approve the following policies for a second reading as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee:

- CA Administration Goals & Objectives
- CE School Superintendents
- CEB End-of-Cycle Summative Evaluation Report: Superintendent
- CEBC Superintendent Evaluation: Timeline
- CEBC Superintendent Summative Evaluation Form
- IJNDB Acceptable Use Policy – Technology
- IJNDC Website, Social Media Platforms, and Learning Management Systems Policy
- IJNDC-RE Website, Social Media Platforms, and Learning Management Systems - Publishing Permission Form
- KE (for Adoption) Public Complaints

Seconded by Mrs. Pelavin.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

Item #3001 – Removal of Policies

Mrs. Hurst moved that the District School Committee vote to remove the following policies as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee as they are redundant:

- Policy KEC – Public Complaints about the Curriculum or Instructional Materials
- KECA-E – Public Complaints Form for Reconsideration of Library Materials.

Seconded by Mrs. Phelps.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

Item #3002 – Annual School Calendar

Mr. LaFreniere moved that the District School Committee vote to adopt Version 1 of the 2019-2020 School Calendar which represents an after Labor Day start of school for students (Tuesday, September 3, 2019).

Seconded by Mrs. Phelps.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

Item #3003 – 2019-2020 School Choice Acceptance

Mr. LaFreniere moved that the District School Committee vote to approve School Choice for the 2019-2020 School Year.

Seconded by Mr. Abare.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

Item #3004 – 2019-2020 GHS Program of Studies

Mrs. Hurst moved that the District School Committee vote to approve the Gardner High School Program of Studies for 2019-2020 as presented.

Seconded by Mrs. Pelavin.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

Item #3005 – Preschool Tuition Rate Increase

Mr. LaFreniere moved that the District School Committee vote to approve an increase in the Preschool Tuition rates as presented:

- Full Day/Month \$250.00
- Half Day/Month \$125.00

Seconded by Mrs. Pelavin.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

Item #3006 – Curriculum Coordinator Update

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

Item #3007 - Special Education Update

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

Item #3008 – Grants Administrator's Update

The Grants Administrator's Update was included in the packet. Dr. Meredith Pugh was not present.

Item #3009 – MSBA – New Building Project

Nothing to report at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS

Superintendent Pellegrino said he is proud of the teachers and the work they do. He is pleased with the agreement with MWCC and the opportunity it will offer to students.

FINAL COMMENTS

Mr. Abare said there are two more weeks of winter sports and the boys' basketball team qualified for Districts. He said the programs with MWCC will be a great benefit to the students.

Mrs. Hurst said that good productive things are happening in the District.

Mrs. Pelavin said more information will be going out regarding the proposed new school to get more community involvement. There is a meeting in Boston with the MSBA this week.

Mrs. Phelps reported on the Health and Wellness Committee. She attended the evening supper at GHS where students can come to have a free supper. Adults accompanied by a student are also welcome at a cost of \$3.75.

Mr. LaFreniere said the school momentum is going in the right direction.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. LaFreniere moved to go into executive session to discuss strategies with respect to collective bargaining and to reconvene in open session only to adjourn.

Seconded by Mrs. Pelavin.

Roll Call Vote – Mr. Abare, yes; Mrs. Hurst, yes; Mr. LaFreniere, yes; Mrs. Pelavin, yes; and Mrs. Phelps, yes. Mayor Hawke abstained.

Count - 5 yes and 1 abstention.

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The Committee went into executive session at 8:07 pm.
The Committee reconvened in open session at 8:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Phelps moved to adjourn.
Seconded by Mr. LaFreniere.
Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

Vote – so voted.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Anne Hurst, Secretary

Terri Hillman, Recording Secretary