

GARDNER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Regular Meeting – February 24, 2020
City Council Chambers
95 Pleasant Street, Gardner, Massachusetts**

Members present: Jennifer Pelavin, Vice Chairperson; James Abare, Rachel Cormier, John LaFreniere, and Robert Swartz

Member absent: Anne Hurst, Secretary

Student Representative: absent

School Personnel present: Mark J. Pellegrino, Superintendent
Ms. Terri Hillman, Recording Secretary
Ms. April Yu, Business Administrator
Dr. Catherine Goguen, Chief Academic Officer
Ms. Courtney Dunn, Grants, Communications & Compliance Manager
Ms. Paula Bolger, Principal, Gardner High School

Call to Order

Mrs. Pelavin, Vice Chairperson, 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,

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- **Approval of minutes of regular meeting, January 7, 2020**
- **Approval of the following Warrants as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee:**
 - **Warrant #20-27 dated 01/02/20 in the amount of \$138,094.67**
 - **Warrant #20-28 dated 01/09/20 in the amount of \$178,412.59**
 - **Warrant #20-29 dated 01/16/20 in the amount of \$364,205.54**
 - **Warrant #20-30 dated 01/23/20 in the amount of \$292,450.05**
 - **Warrant #20-31 dated 01/30/20 in the amount of \$209,556.96**
- **Acceptance of Donations as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee:**
 - **\$340 from Mrs. Susan Dunbar for student lunches to help financially challenged families.**
 - **\$865 from North Central Middle School Alliance for reimbursement of dues previously paid and can be used for professional development.**

Seconded by Mr. Swartz.

Vote – unanimous.

Student Advisory Board

The Student Representative was not present and there was no report.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. Abare, Chairperson, said that the Subcommittee met on January 21, 2020. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

Mr. Anderson and Ms. Yu gave an update on Moura's Cleaning Services which continues to meet expectations about service, efficiency and quality. There are no complaints from staff, student or parents.

The hybrid snow removal program continues to work well. The quality of work has improved, the cost of salt has gone down, and the sidewalks and parking lots are clean preventing falls.

The Middle School roof needs to be repaired. Ms. Yu will work with the City Purchasing Officer on applying for an MSBA grant. A Statement of Interest is due on April 8, 2020.

Finance Subcommittee

Mr. LaFreniere, Chairperson, said that the Subcommittee met on February 3, 2020. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

The Subcommittee reviewed the Finance packet for January 2020. Questions were asked regarding the legal fee deficit and water expenses. An update on waste pickups will be given in the future. The Subcommittee also discussed the Prospect Street building.

Two donations were approved to present to the full Committee and will be voted on under the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Yu and Superintendent Pellegrino gave an update on the FY21 budget. The Governor's budget was posted on January 23, 2020 but the increase is not what was hoped for as the Student Opportunity Act increase was not reflected.

Transportation Subcommittee

Mr. Swartz said that the Transportation Subcommittee met on February 4, 2020. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

Ms. Yu provided copies of the three bus bids received on January 16, 2020. The lowest bidder was NRT (North Reading Transportation) with a bid price of \$591,300 for the first three years. NRT will provide nine buses made in 2017 with low mileage and good references have been received from five school districts.

NRT merged with Van Pool in 2019 and can provide Special Ed Transportation as well.

The Subcommittee recommended accepting the NRT bid. Ms. Yu will notify the City Purchasing Officer to start the contract process. A meeting will be scheduled with NRT and the Transportation Subcommittee in March to work on the logistics.

The Subcommittee accepted the proposal to use Transfinder software. The routing will be efficient and the system will upgrade communications between the District, parents and the NRT.

Policy Subcommittee

Mrs. Cormier said that the Subcommittee met on January 24, 2020. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

Several policies were approved for a first reading and they are presented under Item #3094 – First Reading of Policies.

Student Advisory Board

The Student Representative was not present and there was no report.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #3099 – 2020-2021 GHS Program of Studies

Mrs. Pelavin asked if there were any objections to taking Item #3099 – 2020-2021 GHS Program of Studies - out of order. There were no objections.

Mrs. Paula Bolger, Principal of GHS, presented the final 2020-2021 Program of Studies for Gardner High School. She explained a few changes and updates to the Program, and answered questions from the Committee members.

Item #3094 – First Reading of Policies

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

- EEAG Student Transportation in Private Vehicles
- JFABD Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services
- JFABF Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care
- JJA to JJH Student Travel (Reflects MASC policy reference)
- JLC Student Health Services and Requirements
- JLCB Immunization of Students
- KA School/Community Relations
- KCD Computer Donation Policy
- KHC Distribution of Notices by Students (Policy to be changed to “Distribution of Notices to Students”)

Item #3095 – Removal of Policy

Mrs. Cormier moved that the District School Committee vote to approve the recommendation of the Policy Subcommittee to remove Policy JLCCA – HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) / AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome), and Other Blood-Borne Infections.

Seconded by Mr. Swartz.

Vote – unanimous.

Item #3096 – Annual School Calendar

Me. Swartz moved that the District School Committee vote to approve Version 1 of the Gardner Public School District 2020-2021 School Calendar. Faculty and staff will return on Monday, August 24 through Wednesday, August 26, 2020 for three days of professional development and students will begin school on Thursday, August 27, 2020.

Seconded by Mr. LaFreniere.

Vote – unanimous.

The Calendar Survey had 598 respondents (51%) in favor of Version 1.

Item #3097 – Annual School Committee Schedule of Meetings

Mr. LaFreniere moved that the District School Committee vote to approve the School Committee Schedule of Meetings from September 2020 to June 2021 as presented to allow for posting notice as required.

Seconded by Mr. Swartz.

Vote – unanimous.

Item #3098 – 2020-2021 School Choice Acceptance

Mr. LaFreniere moved that the District School Committee vote to approve accepting School Choice Students for school year 2020-2021.

Seconded by Mr. Swartz.

Vote - 3 yes (Cormier, LaFreniere, Swartz); 1 no (Abare); 1 abstention (Pelavin)

Motion passed.

Item #3099 – 2020-2021 GHS Program of Studies

See Page 3.

Item #3100 – Superintendent's Mid-Year Progress Report

Superintendent Pellegrino gave a PowerPoint presentation on the mid-year progress of his Goals for the 2019-2020 school year. He presented information on his District Improvement Goals, Student Learning Goals and his College and Career Readiness Goals at this point in the school year. Progress is being made. He will achieve his personal goal in May 2020 when he completes all requirements for his Ed.D.

Less funding has been received from the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) than expected.

Item #3101- Curriculum Coordinator Update

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

Item #3102 - Special Education Update

The Special Education Update was included in the packet. Ms. West was not present this evening.

Item #3103 – Grants, Communications & Compliance Update

The Grants, Communications & Compliance Update was included in the packet.

Ms. Dunn was present to answer questions.

Item #3104– MSBA – New Building Project

A meeting on the project is scheduled for February 26, 2020. The project is moving along as scheduled.

COMMUNICATIONS

Superintendent Pellegrino said that there will be a Community Strategy Meeting in the GHS Library on March 2, 2020 from 6 – 8 pm to discuss a 3-year strategy plan for the District.

Superintendent Pellegrino said that the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) Tiered Focused Monitoring Reviews only had two findings for Gardner. These are being corrected and he hopes this will put Gardner in a Tier 1 or Tier 2 category.

FINAL COMMENTS

Mr. Abare encouraged Gardner residents to attend the Community Strategy Meeting on March 2, 2020.

Mrs. Cormier has been attending school events. She will participate in the March 5 “Read Across America” event and encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Choral Performance and support the students.

Mr. LaFreniere asked about the schedule for the new elementary school. It is on task to open in September 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LaFreniere moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mr. Swartz.

Vote – Unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Jennifer Pelavin, Vice Chairperson

Terri Hillman, Recording Secretary