

GARDNER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting – May 8, 2017
City Council Chambers
95 Pleasant Street, Gardner, Massachusetts

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

School Personnel present: Mark J. Pellegrino, Superintendent, Camden Kulczyk, Student Representative; Ms. Terri Hillman Recording Secretary; Robert Detweiler, Business Administrator; Ms. Joyce West, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Ms. Meredith Pugh, ELL Coordinator and Grants Administrator; Ms. Paula Bolger, Principal, Gardner High School; Mr. Peter McMorrow, Interim Principal, Gardner Middle School; Mr. David Fredette, Principal, Elm Street School; Mr. Timothy J. McCormick, Principal, Gardner Academy for Learning; Mr. F. Daniel Hill, Principal, Waterford Street School, and Bob O'Keefe, Technical Director

Call to Order

Mayor Hawke, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. The meeting opened with a roll call and the pledge of allegiance. The meeting was broadcast live on Channel 8 television.

Mayor Hawke declared an intermission for the regular meeting to resume the Public Hearing on the Budget.

FY 2018 Budget

Mayor Hawke resumed the Public Hearing on the 2018 Budget to allow more time for public input.

The following spoke about the FY 2018 Budget:

- Ms. Jane Kattau, 139 Fernwood Drive – Gardner Music Booster Association – spoke about the music program and donation of \$5,000 for instruments.
- Mr. Anthony Ruggeri, 429 Parker Street – asked about financing of Monty Tech students and School Choice students.
- Mr. Paul DeMeo, 9 Willis Road – need for Gardner to have a good school system.
- Mrs. Kathleen Deal, 29 June Street – importance of art and music programs for students and would like AP courses for the arts.
- Mr. David Connor McMullen, 11 Temple Street – very important to pay for schools now or for prison later.
- Ms. Francie LeMieux, 10 Athol Road, Phillipston – Gardner High School Art Teacher spoke about importance of Art courses.

Mayor Hawke closed the FY2018 School Budget Public Hearing at 7:26 pm.

School Committee Meeting – May 8, 2017

Mayor Hawke reopened the regular School Committee meeting at 7:30 pm.

Open Time for the General Public

No one spoke this evening.

Recognition by the Superintendent

Mr. Pellegrino recognized the following:

- Karen McCrillis, GHS, for her work organizing the 8th grade Career Fair
- GHS students for volunteering their time to work with students at ESS – Tyler Arnold, Jonathan Baldwin, Telyah Bouton, Chloe Despres, Savanna Livingston-Cowen, Vincent Richard, David Riley, Zachary Valliere, Ryan Sleeper, Abigail Tassone, Jessica Sleeper, and Heather Malloy
- Paul Guerin, Beth Tata, Corey Tawczynski, Mandy Blackbird, and Stephanie Curtis from Elm Street School for their hard work on MCAS 2.0

Consent Agenda

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

- **Approval of minutes of regular meeting of April 10, 2017**
- **Approval of minutes of the Budget Presentation, April 10, 2017**
- **Approval of following Warrants:**
 - **Warrant #17-40 dated 4/06/17 in the amount of \$156,592.00**
 - **Warrant #17-41 dated 4/13/17 in the amount of \$100,466.88**
 - **Warrant #17-42 dated 4/20/17 in the amount of \$86,507.72**
 - **Warrant #17-43 dated 4/27/17 in the amount of \$215,744.79**
- **Acceptance of gift from Gardner Music Booster Association – music equipment and instruments purchased for the GHS Band \$4,941.92**

Seconded by Mrs. Phelps.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

Subcommittee Reports

Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Swartz, Chairperson, said that the Finance Subcommittee met on May 2, 2017. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

Mr. Detweiler provided a review of the budget process since the April 4, 2017 meeting of the Finance Subcommittee.

- On April 10 a Public Information session and budget presentation was made to the full School Committee.
- On April 24 a presentation and discussion was held with the Public Welfare Committee.

- On May 8 the Public Hearing will be held prior to the School Committee at which time the budget will be adopted.
- On May 15 the information supporting the school budget will be presented to the Gardner City Council.

The Finance Subcommittee voted to adopt the FY2018 budget as presented, with no cuts, for a total of \$22,744,642 and to present it to the full School Committee.

Mr. Detweiler discussed the fiscal wind-down of the FY2017 year. Requisitions will not be accepted against this years' budget after May 15, 2017.

Student Advisory Board

Camden Kulczyk, Student Representative, presented a report of GHS activities in April.

- Report cards were issued for the 3rd term.
- The annual Taddeo baseball tournament was played and there was a pep rally for the National Champion Gardner High School Cheerleaders.
- GHS students in the sophomore through senior class competed at the Elizabeth M. Haskins math competition at Fitchburg State University.

Many activities took place in May, Advanced Placement exams, 8th graders took the science MCAS, Senior finals, and the Prom on May 19th. Graduation is scheduled for June 3, 2017.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item #2842 – Policies for a Second Reading

Mrs. Phelps moved to make a correction to Policy JICFB – Bullying - under Investigation Procedures – change “relational” to “retaliation”.

Seconded by Mrs. Hurst.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

Mrs. Phelps moved that the District School Committee vote to accept the following policies for a second reading:

**JFADB Homeless Students
JICFB Bullying – as corrected.**

Seconded by Mr. Swartz.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

Item #2843 – Ratification of FY 2018 Budget

Mr. Swartz moved that the District School Committee accept the Finance Subcommittee's recommendation and vote to ratify the FY2018 Budget in the amount of \$22,744,642 as presented.

Seconded by Mrs. Pelavin.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

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Item #2844 – Ratification of GEA Contract

Mr. Swartz moved that the District School Committee vote to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement between the Gardner School Committee and the Gardner Education Association dated April 11, 2017 including a salary grid for the 2017-2018 school year which represents a 1.5% increase.

Seconded by Mrs. Phelps.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. LaFreniere and Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

Item #2845 – Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Pellegrino presented a year-to-date discipline report for Gardner High School This report was created in response to the State action citing the District for significant gaps in the suspension rates for subgroups. Professional Development has focused on improving our relationships with students at every school. Positive relationships create a stronger positive culture and reduce the number of incidents requiring suspension. This report will be standard for all schools next year to monitor the discipline in schools and respond to concerns.

Item #2846 – Director of Pupil Personnel Services - Update

Ms. Joyce West, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, gave a PowerPoint presentation on Gardner Public Schools' Special Education. The presentation outlined the District trends in the Special Education Enrollment. Sixty-nine students with special needs moved to Gardner since August 2016 and only 16 students with special needs moved out. This has put a tremendous impact on current service providers. Information on inclusion/co-teaching, the impact of student support teams, and revisions to Special Education Practices was also presented.

Item #2847 - Business Administrator's Update

Mr. Detweiler, Business Administrator, presented the Gardner Public Schools FY 2018 Budget in the Public Hearing prior to the regular meeting.

Item #2848 – Curriculum Coordinator's Update

The Curriculum Coordinator's Update was included in the packets. Dr. Goguen was not present this evening.

FINAL COMMENTS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mr. Abare remembered Joseph Bishop, former teacher and school principal, who served the City and the School system for many years. Joe passed away recently and will be remembered.

Mrs. Hurst appreciated the comments the teachers made regarding the FY2018 Budget. She also spoke about the Special Needs students and the importance of keeping them in the community.

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Mrs. Pelavin thanked everyone who came to the Public Hearing this evening. Everyone needs to be involved and help as much as possible to provide enough funding for the schools.

Camden Kulczyk said this is his last meeting as Student Representative. He said the kids need music and the arts in the schools.

Mrs. Phelps said that today was National Day of Prayer, it is Teachers Appreciation Week and also National Nurses Week.

Mr. LaFreniere thanked everyone for their work on the FY2018 Budget. He also urged everyone to support funding for the schools whether or not they have children in the system. He also mentioned the GALT Newsletter and the interview with a former student.

Mr. Swartz also spoke about Joe Bishop. He encouraged all citizens to correspond with their senators and representatives and ask them to support the Foundation Budget Review and to review and revise funding for Chapter 70.

Mayor Hawke spoke about the District Art Show and introduced Ms. Meredith Pugh, the new ELL Coordinator and Grants Administrator. He said the School Building Committee had their first meeting.

Mayor Hawke said that the Superintendent and Business Manager will present the FY2018 School Budget to the City Council at a special meeting on May 15, 2017. The Mayor will release his budget to the City Council in approximately two weeks.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LaFreniere moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mrs. Phelps.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Anne Hurst, Secretary

Terri Hillman
Recording Secretary