GARDNER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting – June 8, 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: Dr. 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

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.

Recognition by the Superintendent – Student Council
Dr. Pellegrino recognized the Student Council of the Elm Street School. They are a pneumonia l group of kids and they do the school and community proud. Certificates have been mailed to all of them.

CONSENT AGENDA
Mrs. Hurst moved that the District School Committee vote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

- Approval of minutes of Regular Meeting, May 11, 2020
- Approval of minutes of Public Budget Hearing, May 19, 2020
- Approval of minutes of Special Meeting, May 19, 2020
- Approval of the following Warrants as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee:
  - Warrant #20-46 dated 05/14/20 in the amount of $95,566.46
  - Warrant #20-47 dated 05/21/20 in the amount of $200,691.23
  - Warrant #20-48 dated 05/28/20 in the amount of $118,400.67
  - Warrant #20-49 dated 06/04/20 in the amount of $180,198.02

Seconded by Mrs. Pelavin. Vote – so voted.
Acting Mayor Kazinskas abstained from voting.
SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. LaFreniere said that the Facilities Subcommittee met on May 26, 2020. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

Mr. Wayne Anderson, Facilities Director, gave an update on the work performed by Moura's Cleaning Services for the District, GHS, GMS, ESS, and Waterford Street.

Mr. Anderson gave an update and the savings on snow removal and ice control for FY 2020. The FY 2020 budget surplus was $42,186.94. He also presented a list of projects that were either completed or are in process for the school buildings and for Watkins Field.

Due to COVID-19 and uncertainties about school funding the contract to refinish the High School gym floor has been canceled.

Mr. Daniel Forte, Athletic Director, presented the revised "Facilities Usage Fee Structure". The Subcommittee members agreed that the Athletic Director should have control of scheduling all gyms, playing fields, and any other athletic related areas district wide. He and the Business Office will develop an electronic building use form.

Finance Subcommittee

Mr. LaFreniere, Chairperson, said that the Finance Subcommittee met on June 1, 2020. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

The Subcommittee reviewed the Finance packet for May 2020.

Ms. Yu continues 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.

There is no update from the State on the FY 2021 budget. The Subcommittee discussed school opening in the Fall. There are uncertainties on how to keep social distance among students and disinfecting and PPE supplies to purchase.

The Subcommittee voted to freeze the tuition rates for the Extended Day Program and the Pre-school Program for FY2021 because of the drop in enrollment and the pandemic.

The Subcommittee approved the Technology Department's proposal to recycle 132 broken Dell desktop computers which are 7 to 10 years old, and have $0 market value.
Policy Subcommittee
Mrs. Hurst, Chairperson said that the Policy Subcommittee met on June 2, 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 June 2020”.
- Policy IGD – Curriculum Development and Adoption
- Policy JF – School Admissions

Policies reviewed and recommended for a first reading by the full School Committee are listed under Item #3144.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #3144 - 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
- IGB Support Services Programs
- IHAM Health Education
- IHB Special Instructional Program and Accommodations
- IHBEA English Language Learners
- JFBB School Choice (Districts choosing not to participate
- JH Student Absences and Excuses
- JHD Exclusions and Exemptions from School
- JICFA Prohibition of Hazing

Item #3145 – Second Reading of Policies
Mrs. Pelavin moved that the District School Committee vote to approve the following policies for a second reading as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee:
- IC/ICA School Year/School Calendar
- ID School Day
- IE Organization of Instruction
- IGA Curriculum Development and Adoption
- JRA Student Records
- KCD Public Gifts
- LA Education Agency Relations Goals and Objectives

Seconded by Mr. Abare. Vote – so voted.
Acting Mayor Kazinskas abstained from voting.
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**Item #3146 – Breakfast/Lunch/Supper Program**
Dr. Pellegrino reported that the Breakfast/Lunch/Supper Program continues to do well. A bid has been put out for a vehicle to be used to transport food to continue the program throughout the summer. The Cares Act will cover the deficit for this program.

**Item #3147 – K-12 Registration Update**
Dr. Pellegrino reported that the on-line registration for the FY2021 school year is going smoothly.

**Item #3148 – Superintendent Evaluation – Summative Evaluation**
Mrs. Pelavin presented the full Committee's Superintendent Evaluation. She averaged out the Committee members' responses and included all comments that were provided. He was evaluated on the following goals:

- District Improvement Goals
- Student Learning Goals
- Educator's Professional Practice

Dr. Pellegrino received his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership in May 2020 which was one of his goals. Due to the closure of the schools because of COVID-19, the District Improvement and Student Learning goals could not be completed. However he was assessed as making significant progress towards these goals and was also evaluated on the standards. He received a Proficient overall on the assessment of the goals and the standards.

Mrs. Pelavin moved that the District Committee vote to accept the Superintendent Evaluation as presented with an overall rating of Proficient.
Seconded by Mr. Swartz.      Vote – so voted.
Acting Mayor Kazinskas abstained from voting.

**Item #3149 - Keystone Representative**
Mrs. Pelavin moved that the District School Committee vote to approve the appointment of Dr. Mark Pellegrino, Superintendent, to represent the Gardner School District on the Keystone Educational Collaborative Board.
Seconded by Mr. Swartz.      Vote – so voted.
Acting Mayor Kazinskas abstained from voting.

**Item #3150 – CAPS Collaborative Representative**
Mrs. Pelavin moved that the District School Committee vote to approve the appointment of Dr. Mark Pellegrino, Superintendent, to represent the Gardner School District on the CAPS Collaborative Board.
Seconded by Mrs. Hurst.      Vote – so voted.
Acting Mayor Kazinskas abstained from voting.
Item #3151 – Items for Surplus
Mr. LaFreniere moved that the District School Committee vote to authorize the recycling of 132 broken Dell Desktop Computers as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee. These computers are 7-10 years old and have been parted out over the years and have no value to the District or to the City.
Seconded by Mrs. Pelavin. Vote – so voted.
Acting Mayor Kazinskas abstained from voting.

Item #3152 - Curriculum Coordinator Update
The Curriculum Coordinator's Update was included in the packet. Dr. Goguen was present to answer questions.

Item #3153 - Special Education Update
The Special Education Update was included in the packet. Ms. West was present to answer questions.

Item #3154 – Grants, Communications & Compliance Update
The Grants, Communications & Compliance Update was included in the packet. Ms. Dunn was present to answer questions.

Item #3155 – MSBA – New Building Project – Naming New School
Policy FF – Naming New Facilities - was presented by Dr. Pellegrino. He outlined a process he will use to obtain input for the naming of the new Elementary School. The survey results will be given to the School Building Committee.

Mrs. Pelavin moved that the District School Committee vote to approve the process for naming the new elementary school as outlined by Dr. Pellegrino.
Seconded by Mr. Swartz. Vote – so voted.
Acting Mayor Kazinskas abstained from voting.

COMMUNICATIONS
Dr. Pellegrino thanked Ms. Bolger, Principal of Gardner High, and her team for putting on a graduation under the severe circumstances of COVID-19. Elm Street School will have a program on June 19 for closure for their students. GALT students took part with GHS in the senior parade through town and will have a virtual presentation at a later date.

He also spoke about the important time in the country and how education plays an integral role for the people of color. Gardner will do everything possible to make sure every student is supported.
FINAL COMMENTS
School Committee members – Mr. Abare, Mrs. Cormier, Mrs. Hurst, Mrs. Pelavin, Mr. LaFreniere and Mr. Swartz, and Acting Mayor Kazinskas - congratulated the Graduating Class of 2020 of Gardner High School and Gardner Academy. These students missed out on the special events that take place in their senior year and with graduation.

Resolution
Mrs. Pelavin moved that the District School Committee adopt the following Resolution:

TO: MA Governor Charlie Baker, MA Secretary of Education James Peyser, MA Commissioner of Education Jeffrey Riley, MA Senate President Karen Spilka, and MA Speaker Robert DeLeo, with copies to Senator Dean Tran, State Representative Jonathan Zlotnik, Acting Mayor Kazinkas and Gardner City Council Members

WHEREAS, if schools are to re-open this fall in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is the responsibility of each school district to do so safely and responsibly; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the state to ensure that each school district is able to pay for the enormous additional staffing, transportation and material expenses required to do this; and

WHEREAS, the state cannot expect mandatory COVID-19 safety guidelines to be followed without also ensuring that each school district has the funds required to implement these guidelines; therefore, let it be

RESOLVED: that the state must guarantee every school district full reimbursement for whatever COVID-19 expenses are required to follow state mandates.

We must ensure a statewide school re-opening that is safe, responsible and equitable.

Respectfully,
Gardner School Committee
Acting Mayor Kazinskas
Jennifer Pelavin
James Abare
Anne Hurst
Rachel Cormier
John LaFreniere
Robert Swartz
ADJOURNMENT
Mrs. Pelavin moved to adjourn.
Seconded by Mr. Swartz.
Acting Mayor Kazinskas abstained from voting.

Vote – so voted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

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Anne Hurst, Chairperson