

**Seconded by Mr. LaFreniere.
Mr. Swartz abstained from voting.
Regular Meeting**

Vote – so voted.

**September 11, 2017
Page 2**

Subcommittee Reports

Finance Subcommittee

Mrs. Pelavin, Chairperson, said that the Subcommittee met on September 5, 2017. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

The FY17 Budget wrap-up was reviewed. The FY 18 Budget was also reviewed. The School Committee voted a FY 2018 Budget of \$22,744,642, representing a fully funded budget with a funding gap of \$561,914. The City Council voted a School Budget of \$22,663,343 closing the funding gap to \$81,299. The Finance Subcommittee voted to recommend to the School Committee to re-vote the budget to \$22,663,343. (See Item #2862)

Mr. Detweiler discussed the Food Service program. The year ended June 30, 2017 saw a surplus more than large enough to make up the significant deficit for FY2016. Waterford Street and Elm Street schools continue to enjoy free breakfast in the classrooms. Discussion about providing free breakfast at the Middle School and the financial picture for this service will be reviewed to see if the program can be supported.

This is the last year in the contract with Whitsons and the District will be going out to bid for a Food Service Management Company.

Two gifts were accepted and will be recommended to the full Committee. See Item D-Consent Agenda.

Mrs. Pelavin moved to accept the report of the Finance Subcommittee.

Seconded by Mr. LaFreniere.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Swartz abstained from voting.

Student Advisory Board

Nora Coxall, Student Advisory Council Representative, read her report on GHS activities. Sports have had tryouts and the season has started. The 8th graders started school on August 30, 2017 and the Link Crew attended school to help them with orientation.

All students returned to school for the 2017-2018 school year on August 31, 2017.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item #2861 – Policies for a Second Reading

Mrs. Phelps moved that on recommendation of the Policy Subcommittee and Dr. Goguen the District Committee vote to accept the following policies for a second reading:

- Policy DFG - Use of School Facilities and Equipment
- Policy DFG-R – Regulations Governing Community Use of School Facilities

Seconded by Mrs. Hurst.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Swartz abstained from voting.

Item #2862 – 2017-2018 – Budget Amendment

Mrs. Pelavin moved that the School Committee accept the recommendation of the Finance Subcommittee to re-vote the slightly smaller 2017-2018 budget of \$22,663,343 to agree with the School Budget voted by the City Council.

Seconded by Mr. LaFreniere.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Swartz abstained from voting.

Item #2863 – Superintendent's Update – Turnaround Observations

Dr. Meredith Pugh, ELL Coordinator and Grants Administrator, gave a PowerPoint on Observation and Feedback: Peer Evaluation. Observation and feedback is not to evaluate a teacher, but to find the most effective way to coach them to reach students and improve student learning.

There are four steps to coach teachers to improve students' learning - 1. Regular Observation, 2. Right Action Steps, 3. Effective Feedback, and 4. Personal Accountability. The presentation outlined what the Gardner public school have in place to accomplish these steps now and what is planned for the future.

Item #2864 – Superintendent's Update

Mr. Pellegrino said that the administrators worked hard for school opening and it was a phenomenal opening and presented a positive vision for the Gardner schools.

The new electronic sign has been installed at the entrance to GHS and looks very nice. The sign was made possible by GFA and an anonymous donor. Temporary bleachers for Watkins Field will be delivered tomorrow in time for the first football game. Renovations plans for the field need to move forward.

Item #2865- Business Administrator's Update

Mr. Detweiler, Business Administrator, was present to answer questions.

Item #2866 – Curriculum Coordinator's Update

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

Item #2867 – Special Education Update

The Special Education Update was included in the packets. Mrs. West was not present this evening.

Item #2868 – Grants Administrator's Update

The Grants Administrator's Update was included in the packets. Dr. Pugh was present to answer questions.

Item #2869 – High School Principal Update

Ms. Paula Bolger's report was presented for information.

Item #2870 – Gardner Academy Principal Update

Mr. Peter McMorrow's report was presented for information.

Item #2871 - Gardner Middle School Principal Update

Mr. Arthur Murray's report was presented for information.

Item #2872 - Gardner Elm Street Principal Update

Mr. David Fredette's report was presented for information.

Item #2873 - Gardner Waterford Street Principal Update

Mr. F. Daniel Hill's report was presented for information.

Item #2874 - Enrollment

The Enrollment Report for the Gardner School System showing a total of 2,344 students as of September 11, 2017 was presented for information

Item #2875– School Committee Schedule of Meetings 2017 - 2018

A revised list of the School Committee schedule of meetings from September 2017 to June 2018 was presented with one additional change. The Policy Subcommittee's meetings will be scheduled for 5 pm.

Item #2876 – MSBA – New Building Project

Mr. Swartz attended a meeting in Boston with the MSBA regarding the proposed new school building for Gardner. The meeting went extremely well. The Gardner School Building Committee will be meeting on September 20, 2017 and will vote on what the

MSBA has submitted. Mr. Swartz will report back to the School Committee.

Regular Meeting

September 11, 2017

Page 5

FINAL COMMENTS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mr. Abare spoke about the events of September 11, 2005 and his remembrance of that day. He encouraged people to attend the sports events at the schools and to attend the induction into the Hall of Fame on September 23, 2017.

Mrs. Hurst moved that on the next School Committee agenda an item to include a student representative from the GALT School to the School Committee be voted on.

Seconded by Mrs. Phelps.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Swartz abstained from voting.

Mrs. Hurst spoke about positive experience she experienced at the Administrators' retreat held this summer. She also said that Margaret Poulin is a wonderful person and understands the importance of inclusion. She welcomed everyone back and said that September is Suicide Awareness Month.

Mrs. Pelavin attended a public hearing on education at the State House, Boston. Progress is being made on State funding for education. She encouraged parents to attend the open houses at the schools. It is important for parents to meet with teachers as they are people who work with their children.

Mrs. Phelps spoke about the proposed stipend increase that the City Council is proposing for School Committee members. On principle, she urged the City Council to not give the increased stipend.

Mr. LaFreniere welcomed everyone back for the school year. He gave kudos to the staff for a great opening.

Mr. Swartz attended the Administrators' retreat and could feel the positiveness from the participants.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Phelps moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mr. Abare.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Swartz abstained from voting.

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Anne Hurst, Secretary

Terri Hillman
Recording Secretary