

GARDNER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting – May 11, 2015
Elm Street School Auditorium
160 Elm Street, Gardner, Massachusetts

Members present: Mayor Mark Hawke, Chairman; James Boone, Vice Chairperson; James Abare, Carol J. Bailey, John LaFreniere, Jennifer LaRoche, Secretary; and Melody Phelps

Others present: Superintendent Denise Clemons; Jaclyn Nicholson, Student Representative; Christine Caisse, Secretary; Dr. Catherine Goguen, Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Christopher Casavant, Business Administrator; Ms. Joyce West, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Mark J. Pellegrino, Principal, Gardner High School; Dr. MaryAnn Pour Previt, Principal, Elm Street School; Ms. Janet C. Smith; Principal, Helen Mae Sauter School; Ms. Deborah Langlois, Principal, Gardner Middle School; F. Daniel Hill, Principal, Waterford Street School; Timothy J. McCormick, Principal, Gardner Academy for Learning and Technology; Mitchel Aho, Assistant Principal, George , Flangsburgh Architects; and other interested persons

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 taped and aired at a later date due to challenges with the live feed.

Open Time for the General Public

No one spoke from the General Public.

Recognition by the Superintendent

Superintendent Clemons recognized the following students and presented certificates: This group was voted by their peers as good citizens. They are Julia Powers, Clara Pavlosky, Michael Douangdara, Michael Minns, Hannah Levesque, and Spencer McCrillis. The Administration nominated the following good citizen students. They are Lamont Hicks, Diesel Anderson and Christopher O'Connor. Also, Mrs. Bourgeois read a letter from Mrs. Curtis recognizing two Helen Mae Sauter students that she had in Second Grade that showed pride and ownership in their learning although they had limited English knowledge. They also showed kindness toward all students and Mena mentored another Egyptian student that had come to the school. These students are Aria Malia, and Mena Aziz.

Superintendent Clemons recognized and presented certificates to the following staff members for their work in assisting students in preparing for the AP tests. They are John Gardella, Jennifer Tatro, Mark Hawkins, Karen McCrillis, Paul Damour, Heather Friend, Brenda Jaillet, Matt Christ, Robin Jaillet, Joy Yan and Michael Francoeur.

Also mentioned were students Lilly Plotkin, Cassandra Bouchard, Jack McDermott, Anthony Roland, Michael Aiello and Cheyanne Atkinson for their work on the Science Fair at Gardner Middle School.

Presentation of Warrants

Mrs. Bailey moved to ratify, as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee and the Superintendent, the following warrants:

- **Warrant #15-41 dated April 9, 2015 in the amount of \$28,692.20**
- **Warrant #15-42 dated April 16, 2015 in the amount of \$221,567.60**
- **Warrant #15-43 dated April 23, 2015 in the amount of \$175,580.18**
- **Warrant #15-44 dated April 30, 2015 in the amount of \$2**
- **Warrant #15-40 dated April 2, 2015 in the amount of \$208,151.20**

Seconded by Mr. Boone.

Vote – so voted.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. LaFreniere moved to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2015 School Committee regular meeting as presented.

Seconded by Mrs. Phelps.

Vote – so voted.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**Facilities Subcommittee**

Mr. LaFreniere said that the Facilities Subcommittee met on May 4, 2015. Minutes were presented.

Mr. LaFreniere also mentioned that radios from the Police Department will be repurposed and used at the schools. If purchased new the cost would be approximately \$35,000.00. He also spoke of converting to Natural Gas at Gardner High School as mentioned in the Subcommittee's minutes.

And Mr. Lafreniere spoke of obtaining volunteers for the building moves and that manpower was needed and persons interested can contact Dr. Christopher Casavant at the Central Office.

Finance Subcommittee

Mrs. Bailey, Chairperson, said that the Finance Subcommittee met on May 5, 2015. Minutes of the meetings were presented.

The Subcommittee reviewed the Bid for Food by Whitsons; they recommend that the Committee accept the Food Service RFP bid as enclosed in their packets.

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Policy Subcommittee

Mrs. Phelps, Chairperson, said that the Policy Subcommittee met on May 6, 2015. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

The Subcommittee continued review and discussion of the following policies. They will be further reviewed at the next Policy Subcommittee meeting.

- **Policy GCRD - This was tabled for further discussion**

- Policy DJE – Bidding Requirements. Will be sent to Full Committee for a first reading along with Policy JLCA Physical Examinations of Students and Policy JLCC Communicable Diseases.
- Snow Day Extra-Curricular Activities. It was found that in other districts that this is dealt with on a case-by-case situation.
- Policy JLCA – Physical Examination of Students; Policy JLCB – Inoculation of Students; and Policy JLCC – Communicable Diseases. Waiting for review by Becky McCaffrey, Nurse Leader. Also, JLCCA, AIDS, Policy JLCCA-E – AIDS School Attendance Policy and JLCD – Administering Medicines to Students will also be reviewed and submitted by Ms. McCaffrey at the June Meeting.
- The Exit Interview Form was discussed. The Subcommittee made no further recommendations to the form.

It was also mentioned that the Mentor to the Superintendent made suggestions on how to run the School Committee meeting. His recommendations can be reviewed for consideration. One recommendation was to package all the votes together instead of individually. And that this should be written into a Policy.

Student Representative to the School Committee

Jaclyn Nicholson, Student Representative, reported on the following:

Jaclyn noted that it had been a very busy month at GHS. The Jr. /Sr. Relay took place on 4/16 with the seniors being victorious. The School also had an International Feast which was a fundraiser for the seniors. They offered several different entrees and desserts to be tried along with Irish Step Dancers performing.

OLD BUSINESS

Item 2637– Superintendent’s Overview

Ms. Denise Clemons, Superintendent spoke of the program presented on May 4th and 5th called “Sunny’s Story concerning student drug abuse. At the lower levels it was presented through the eyes of the boy’s dog. At the upper levels it was presented by Ginger Katz and her story of her dealing with her son’s drug abuse and death. Also Ms. Clemons spoke of the Professional Development day on May 7th. This day was a Principal’s Choice. However, in the afternoon session the District Administration presented an update on the reorganization along with a PowerPoint presentation. And lastly she made mention that June 18 – 23rd will be half days to move. (transition).”

Item 2638 - Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

The Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment update is enclosed in your packet.

Item 2639 - Special Education Update

The Special Education Update is enclosed in your packet. Ms. West was present to answer questions.

Item 2640- Business Administrator’s Update

The Business Administrator’s update is enclosed in your packet. Dr. Casavant was present to answer questions.

Item 2641 – Grants Administrator’s Update

The Grants Administrator’s update is enclosed in your packet. Mrs. Hui was present to answer questions.

NEW BUSINESS**Item 2642 – Presentation honoring Jaclyn Nicholson, outgoing Student Representative to School Committee**

Ms. Clemons along with Mayor Hawke presented Jaclyn Nicholson with a plaque in appreciation of her dedication to her position as Student Representative. Mr. Hawke made mention that no Representative was as good as she had been.

Item 2643 – Introduction of Mallory Thompson and alternate Jesse Warrington as representatives to School Committee

Mallory Thompson and Jesse Warrington were introduced as noted in Jaclyn’s Presentation

Item #2644 – Gardner Public Schools FY 2015/2016 Budget

Mrs. Bailey made a motion that the School Committee accept the Gardner Public Schools 2015-2016 Budget as reviewed for \$27,184,834, with the City’s required contribution of \$8,111,579 which is an increase of \$590,478.

Seconded by Mrs. Phelps.

Vote – so voted.

Mr. Boone & Mr. LaFeniére then thanked all who made it possible

Item #2645 – Presentation by Flansburgh Architects

George Cruz from Flansburgh presented a PowerPoint Presentation to show the facilities assessment of the buildings in the Gardner Public Schools District. His presentation was to show where we are and where we are headed. Mr. Cruz stated that the first eighteen pages tell the story and the balance of the report was the backup. He stated that the enrollment projection shows a decrease in the next ten years. At present we are at 198,000 square feet but only need 142,000 square feet. And he said that all schools’ electricity is at their max.

He further stated that all the schools need renovations. That Gardner Middle School was the best of all, with Waterford being the worst. That there are no structural issues or major improvements, but there is ground water and it is not totally handicap accessible. Also, Gardner High School is well built but it needs to be re-renovated and more handicap accessible. Also, that Gardner Middle School is the best of all but needs to address the Janitors’ areas and the fact that the roof is deteriorating. And lastly Helen Mae Sauter is a good building by needs to be more handicap accessible and has systems issues.

There have been workshops to show what a 21st century school has. Some of the items are the cooperative and collaborative learning environment, technical spaces, good playground spaces and good traffic flow.

Of all the Surveys sent out 333 People responded with 67.7% being parents. Some of the

results include technology labs 56%, having library and media centers 24.33%, and more performing arts space 18.99%. 53.71% felt that the Elm Street School is historical and it 41.84% said that it should be restored and added on to, with 58.16% saying no. In the survey 69.7% voted for a new school.

Mr. Cruz spoke on the many options that the Gardner Public Schools have including new schools or repairs. Also mentioned in the report was consolidation with the High School and Middle school. The most popular of the options, which is a bit more expensive, is the Matthews Street School Site. And the last option was the Catherine Street Site and new construction.

If renovating the schools is the choice the cost for them would \$26 million for Elm Street, \$31 million for Waterford Street, \$41 million for Gardner High School and \$29 million for Gardner Middle School. Currently the MSBA reimbursement is 50% and might be higher.

Mr. Boone asked if the 25% excess space is taken care of by closing HMS. Mr. Cruz said it would help. He further asked that if the schools are overcrowded how reducing 25% of the space can help.

Mr. Cruz stated that modern spaces can accommodate 24 students. At present you are making due, getting by. But this is not how you want to proceed. He further states that building additions gets points, but new buildings get the most points.

Mrs. Phelps asked that him, not being from the community, what would he do.

Mr. Cruz stated that the Community would save more money overall with new buildings.

Mr. Boone asked if the water table at Waterford Street School had been studied.

Mr. Abare asked if the trend is a campus facility or neighborhood schools.

Mr. Cruz that the Campus is the most cost effective. But some cannot do this due to lack of land.

Mayor Hawke then stated that at Waterford Street School the rooms are not appropriately sized for elementary classes.

He asked if they had looked at a land acquisition on Catherine Street.

Mr. Cruz stated that they had not.

Mayor Hawke further stated that there is not enough parking at any of the schools and will there be enough parking on Mathews Street.

Mr. Cruz said that there was the potential for 200 spaces.

Mayor Hawke then asked where The Chair would go.

Mr. Cruz stated that it would go to the new school.

Dr. Casavant said that Elm Street School cannot be torn down, but the reimbursement is not a bad idea.

Mr. Boone asked why the Activity fields are bundled with Solar Panels

Mr. Cruz said that the sustainability report is a broad view.

Mr. Boone stated that Gardner has lots of playgrounds that can be used, but Mr. Cruz stated that the fields are used by adults also and the city needs lots of fields.

Item #2646– Amendment to the FLLAC Collaborative Agreement of June 4, 2014

Mr. Boone moved that the FLLAC Collaborative Agreement as approved by the Commissioner of Education on June 4, 2014 is hereby amended to withdraw the membership of Wachusett Regional School District effective July 1, 2015..

Seconded by Mr. LaFreniere.

Vote – so voted.

Item #2647 Acceptance of School; Choice for Gardner Public Schools for School Year 2015-2016.

Mrs. Bailey moved that the School Committee vote to approve the acceptance of School Choice for Gardner Public Schools for School ear 2015/1016

Seconded by Mrs. LaRoche.

Vote – so voted.

Item #2648 – Acceptance of the Athletic User Fees for FY16

Mr. LaFreniere moved that the committee vote on the Athletic User Fees currently in place be maintained for FY16.

Seconded by Mr. Boone.

Vote – so voted.

Item #2649 Acceptance of Whitsons Culinary Group as Gardner Public Schools Food Service RFP for a three year period.

Mrs. Bailey moved that the School Committee vote to approve the recommendation of the Finance Subcommittee and the Business Administrator

Seconded by Mrs. LaRoche.

Vote – so voted.

Item #2650 Declaration of Surplus Property

Mr. LaFreniere moved that the School Committee vote to approve the list of Surplus Property as noted in the packet.

Seconded by Mrs. LaRoche.

Vote - so voted.

Item #2651 Out of State Field Trip – Gardner Middle School to Franklin Pierce University on June 6, 2015

Mr. Boone moved that the School Committee vote to approve the Out of State Field Trip to Franklin Pierce University on June 6, 2015.

Seconded by Mr. Abare

Vote - so voted

Item #2652 The following Policies were recommended for a first reading as follows

- DJE Bidding Requirements
- JLCA – Physical Examinations of Students
- JLCC – Communicable Diseases

FINAL COMMENTS

Mr. Abare spoke about Bill Van Valkenburg’s passing and told all what a caring teacher he was. That he was always prepared and even when he was sick he never shirked his responsibilities.

As a coach he was a “molder of men”. He always guided them to play by the rules. That the rules were just that and it was important to play fairly.

As an Athletic Director he was reasonable and fair. He was a good man and will be missed by many.

Mrs. Bailey thanked all the Administrators for streamlining the Budget process. She further thanked Superintendent for the Certificates for both the Teachers and students.

Mrs. Phelps mentioned how great the Art Show was.

Jesse Warrington thanked the School Committee for the opportunity to be the alternate representative.

Mrs. LaRoche noted that it was Mental Health Month in May , and that last week was Children’s Mental Health Week. She asked that we all continue to support “children’s” social an demotional health as a community.

Mr. LaFreniere thanked Jaclyn and welcomed both Mallory and Jesse. He also mentioned that help was needed to move.

Mr. Boone thanked Jaclyn, Mallory and Jesse. He also thanked Mrs. Caisse for helping keep them informed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Hawke moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mr. LaFreniere.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Vote – so voted.

Jennifer LaRoche, Secretary

Christine Caisse, Recording Secretary