

GARDNER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting – October 11, 2016
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

Student Representative present: Camden Kulczyk

Others present: Superintendent Denise Clemons; Terri Hillman, Recording Secretary; Mr. Robert Detweiler, Business Administrator; Dr. Catherine Goguen, Chief Academic Officer; Mrs. Susan Hui, Grants Administrator; Ms. Joyce West, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Ms. Susan Hui, Grants Administrator; Mark J. Pellegrino, Principal, Gardner High School; Ms. Laura Olsen, Principal, Gardner Middle School; Mr. David Fredette, Principal, Elm Street School; Mr. F. Daniel Hill, Principal, Waterford Street School; Mr. Timothy J. McCormick, Principal, Gardner Academy for Learning; Matt Bennett, Asst Director of Facilities, and other interested parties.

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 broadcast live on Channel 8 television.

Open Time for the General Public

No one wished to speak this evening.

Recognition by the Superintendent

Superintendent Clemons recognized the following persons for their contributions to the Gardner schools:

- Becky McCaffrey, Shelley Huntoon, and Tina Rusak – for GHS Open House Presentation.
- Matt Bennett – for going above and beyond in his new position as Assistant Facilities Director.
- Robert and Joan Swartz – for helping with water testing in the schools.
- Susan Hui and Erica Corral – English Language Learners Parent Drop-In Center Open House.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Swartz moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

- Minutes of regular meeting of September 12, 2016
- Approval of following Warrants:
 - #17-08 – dated 8/25/16, in the of amount of \$538,533.63
 - #17-09 – dated 9/1/16, in the amount of \$158,572.33
 - #17-10 – dated 9/8/16, in the amount of \$446,556.53
 - #17-11 – dated 9/15/16, in the amount of \$22,780.33
 - #17-12 – dated 9/22/16, in the amount of \$220,840.13
 - #17-13 – dated 9/29/16, in the amount of \$43,281.78
- Approval of Gardner High School trip to UNH Manchester, Manchester, NH to FIRST Women in Science & Technology Forum for High School Students – November 18, 2016
- Acceptance of donations
 - SchKIDules White Boards - 800 white boards - 400 to Waterford Street School and 400 to Elm Street School
 - Gardner Ten Pins - \$1,150 presented to the GHS Ski/Snowboard Club
 - GFA Federal Credit Union \$5,000 and \$10,000 from an anonymous donor for a new sign at GHS Watkins Field

Seconded by Mr. LaFreniere.

Vote – so voted.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Subcommittee

Mrs. Phelps, Chairperson, said that the Policy Subcommittee met on September 19, 2016 and minutes of the meeting were presented.

Three policies were reviewed and are recommended to the School Committee for a first reading. See Item #2779.

Other policies were reviewed and determined that no changes were required. They will be updated as “reviewed in September 2016”.

Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Swartz, Chairperson, said that the Finance Subcommittee met with Mr. Detweiler, Business Administrator, to review financial forms on which he has made improvements.

The possible increase in food costs was discussed. Higher meal costs may have to be implemented in 2017.

Student Advisory Board

Camden Kulczyk, Student Representative, presented his report of activities at GHS.

- Fall sports are in full swing. Several teams held their senior night.
- The band had a MICCA Preview Show. The band did the Walk to School Day with students from the Elm Street School.
- Both juniors and seniors have applied for the National Honor Society.
- Spirit Week included many activities - Class Relays, the football team homecoming game and a Pep Rally.
- All seniors will be taking the SAT free of charge.
- The Junior and Seniors are running activities for fund raisers for their respective classes - Pumpkin Palooza and the Haunted House.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item #2779 – Policies for First Reading

Mrs. Phelps presented the following policies for a first reading as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee:

- IJNDB - Acceptable Use of Technology
- IJOA - Field Trips
- LBC-E - Notice of Intent to Pursue a Program of Home Education

Item #2780 – Question 2: Resolution Against Lifting the Cap on Charter Schools

Mr. Swartz moved that the School Committee, as a whole, objects to favorable action on Question 2 on the ballot in the November election.

Seconded by Mr. Abare.

Vote – so voted.

Mrs. Phelps voted in opposition.

Item #2781 Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Clemons mentioned several items:

- The sewage problem at the Middle School is being addressed.
- Monitoring the situation about the scary clowns.
- There was an increase in students taking the PSAT's and SAT's because they were free for all students.
- There was a problem with a fuse that caused the lights to fail at the football field.

Item #2782 – Chief Academic Officer Update, MCAS/PARCC Results 2016

Dr. Catherine Goguen, Chief Academic Officer, presented a PowerPoint on the 2016 MCAS and PARCC Assessments. Moving forward, MCAS 2.0 (Spring 2017) will be computer-based testing for grades 3-8 Math/ELA, paper-based testing for grades 5, 7, and 10 Science, and paper-based testing for grade 10 Math/ELA.

Dr. Goguen presented MCAS and PARCC results for 2016 with comparison with results

for 2014 and 2015. She also presented results of the Subgroup Performance.

Dr. Goguen presented information on how the District is preparing and changing. She explained the following:

- Scheduling at Elementary Level
- Social / Emotional Learning Focus
- Instructional Coaching
- Inclusion / Co-teaching Focus
- Data – Driven Decision Making
- Parent / Community Engagement

In response to Mayor Hawke's question as to what is needed to improve student performance going forward, Dr. Goguen replied that things are in place but it will take time. She pointed out some of the strengths of the District, things the Superintendent has done to improve learning, and how the GPS is preparing for change..

Item #2783– Special Education Update

The Special Education Update was included in the packets. Ms. West was present to answer questions.

Item #2784- Business Administrator's Update

The Business Administrator's Update was included in the packets. Mr. Detweiler was present to answer questions.

Item #2785 - Grants Administrator's Update

The Grants Administrator's Update was included in the packet.. Mrs. Hui was present to answer questions.

FINAL COMMENTS of SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mr. Abare welcomed Camden, the new Student Rep. He said that tonight's soccer game (Oakmont versus Gardner) is in memory of Coach William Van Valkenburg and the awarding of the William Van Valkenburg Player of the Year award. Bill was a very special person and epitomized what is good in education.

Mrs. Pelavin attended the Meet and Greet. She spoke about the work Ms. Katie Abbot, President of the SPEAC, is doing to get more parents involved with their students in the schools.

Mrs. Phelps presented information from two school policies concerning closing down a subcommittee.

Mayor Hawke congratulated Mr. Abare on his award – Coaches vs Cancer Award from the American Cancer Society.

He also thanked the GFA and the anonymous donor for the generous contributions.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Abare moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mrs. Hurst.

Vote – so voted.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Anne Hurst, Secretary

Terri Hillman
Recording Secretary