

GARDNER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting – May 19, 2015
Superintendent's Conference Room
70 Waterford Street, Gardner, Massachusetts

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

Member absent: Mayor Mark Hawke, Chairman

Others present: Dr. Catherine Goguen, Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Christopher Casavant, Business Administrator; and Terri Hillman, Secretary

Call to Order

Mr. James Boone, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:50 pm. The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss and vote on a transportation contract for the school district.

Dr. Christopher Casavant presented information regarding bids for a new transportation contract for the school system. Gardner is in a collaborative with Oakmont, Ash-West, Narragansett and Winchendon for transportation services.

Only one bid, First Student, was received from the first advertisement for service. Gardner's prices were the lowest of the districts. The other districts decided to go out for a second bid which resulted in three bus companies submitting bids.

Dr. Casavant presented the proposed contract from First Student for the Gardner Public Schools for Student Transportation Services. It is a five year contract. The final cost will depend on the number of buses that Gardner will require. Because of the reconfiguration of classes for next year, he is trying to determine how many 77 passenger and how many 83 passenger buses will be needed. These numbers will determine the actual costs. Charges for field trips and athletic events were also added to the contract.

Dr. Casavant said that Winchendon has signed their contract. Now Gardner must sign their contract. Winchendon has a transportation consultant to manage their routes. There is software available which can help with the process. School Committee members advised Dr. Casavant to look into the price of the software to see if it would be feasible for Gardner to purchase it.

School Committee discussed any possible ways to reduce the number of buses that will be required. In the present year, some of the buses are overcrowded. No bus passes will be allowed.

Mrs. Bailey moved that the School Committee accept the transportation contract as presented.

Seconded by Mr. LaFreniere.

Vote – unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Bailey moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mrs. Phelps.

Vote – unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Jennifer LaRoche, Secretary

Terri Hillman, Recording Secretary