

GARDNER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting – December 11, 2017
City Council Chambers
95 Pleasant Street, Gardner, Massachusetts

Members present: Mayor Mark Hawke, Chairman; Robert Swartz, Vice Chairman; Anne Hurst, Secretary; John LaFreniere, Jennifer Pelavin, and Melody Phelps

Member absent: James Abare

Present: Serina Nguyen, Student Representative, Gardner Academy for Learning and Technology

Absent: Nora Coxall, Student Representative, Gardner High School

School Personnel present: Mark J. Pellegrino, Superintendent; Ms. Terri Hillman Recording Secretary; Dr. Catherine Goguen, Chief Academic Officer; Robert Detweiler, Business Administrator; Dr. Meredith Pugh, ELL Coordinator and Grants Administrator; Ms. Joyce West, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; and Peter F. McMorrow, Principal, Gardner Academy for Learning and Technology

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 from the general public spoke this evening.

Recognition by the Superintendent

Mr. Pellegrino recognized Dr. Zhaohui Yan, Henry Richard and Paul Damour. Dr. Yan and Mr. Richard collaborate on the Engineering & Physics class, and Mr. Damour and Dr. Yan collaborate on the AP Calculus-Based Physics class. They worked on a Carbon Dioxide Power Race Car project with the students. Mr. Pellegrino showed a video of the project in action.

Mr. Peter McMorrow, Principal of Gardner Academy for Learning and Technology (GALT), introduced Serina Nguyen. Serina will be Student Representative from GALT. She was welcomed by School Committee members.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- **Approval of minutes of regular meeting of November 13, 2017.**
- **Approval of following Warrants:**
 - **Warrant #18-14 dated 10/5/17 in the amount of \$165,254.05**
 - **Warrant #18-15 dated 10/12/17 in the amount of \$130,977.55**
 - **Warrant #18-16 dated 10/19/17 in the amount of \$62,751.18**
 - **Warrant #18-17 dated 10/26/17 in the amount of \$129,203.85**
 - **Warrant #18-18 dated 11/2/17 in the amount of \$247,139.67**
 - **Warrant #18-19 dated 11/9/17 in the amount of \$106,284.85**
 - **Warrant #18-20 dated 11/16/17 in the amount of \$79,198.56**
 - **Annual Ski & Snowboard Club Trip to Stowe, VT - March 2-4, 1018**
 - **Donations – There were no gifts or donations.**

Seconded by Mrs. Pelavin.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. Swartz said the Facilities Subcommittee met on November 21, 2017. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

- A Committee of seven conducted interviews for the new Facilities Director.
- An update on the Honeywell Project was provided. There are still valve issues and Mr. O'Brien will develop a punch list.
- The new elementary school project is moving along.
- Ms. Bolger led the Committee on a brief tour of the High School, focusing on areas that need repair.
- Mr. O'Brien provided an update on funded capital projects. He will develop a list concerning other facilities and grounds projects for the next Facilities Subcommittee meeting.

Policy Subcommittee

Mrs. Phelps, Chairperson, said the Policy Subcommittee met on November 27, 2017. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

The following policies were reviewed and determined that no changes were required. These policies will be updated as “Reviewed in November, 2017”.

- Policy BDE-R Subcommittee Procedures
- Policy BDFA-E1 Conduct of School Council Business
- Policy BEA Regular Meeting
- Policy BEB Special Meetings
- Policy BEC Executive Sessions
- Policy BEDC Quorum
- Policy BEDD Rules of Order
- Policy BEDG Minutes
- Policy BDBB Duties of the Vice-Chairperson

Several policies were voted for a first reading and will be presented to the full School Committee under Item #2898.

Student Advisory Board

Serina Nuygen presented a written report. The GALT staff had a professional development half day and worked on building mindfulness with the students. The Seniors and Juniors met with a representative from Lincoln Tech.

Mayor Hawke read Nora Coxall's report on activities at GHS.

- Practice for winter sports has started. Girls' Basketball will hold a fundraiser on December 14 at Papa Gino's.
- Eighth graders and their Link Crew leaders will go on a field trip to Gardner Ten Pins on December 15.
- The Athletic Association Ball will take place on December 16 and the GHS concert band will have their winter concert on December 20.
- Christmas break will be from December 23, 2017 to January 1, 2018.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #2898 – Policies for a First Reading

The Policy Subcommittee presented the following policies for a first reading:

- Policy BDFA School Councils
- Policy BDFA-E School Improvement Plan
- Policy BDFA-E2 Submission and Approval of the School Improvement Plan
- Policy BEDA Notification of School Committee Meetings
- Policy JKAA Physical Restraint Policy

Item #2899 – Paperless School Committee Packets

Mrs. Hurst moved that the School Committee vote to proceed with the purchase of chrome books for the School Committee members.

Seconded by Mr. Swartz.

Vote – voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

Item #2900 – Director of Pupil Personnel Services - Presentation

Ms. Joyce West, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, gave a PowerPoint presentation on Special Education. As of the October 1 enrollment, one in four students receive Special Education. The inclusive practices and Special Education were explained.

Item #2901 – Chief Academic Officer – Data Driven Instruction - Presentation

Dr. Catherine Goguen, Chief Academic Officer, presented a PowerPoint on Data Driven Instruction. Dr. Goguen explained how Data Driven Instruction is used to create a culture of continuous growth for all staff and students. All elements of a school's culture benefit from the use of student learning data. Staff collaborate with colleagues to analyze data and adjust instructional plans. Social/Emotional data at all grade levels is analyzed.

Item #2902 – Grants Administrator's Update

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

Item 2903 – MSBA – New Building Project

The Superintendent had no update at this time.

FINAL COMMENTS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Anne Hurst attended the “Student Success Assembly” at GHS.

Mrs. Phelps is happy to see the recognition of the calculus based class and the use of funds from the Rockefeller Foundation. She congratulated Mr. Wayne Anderson on his appointment as Facilities Director and had praise for retiring Mr. O'Brien. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr. LaFreniere wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Swartz attended a meeting of school attorneys in Boston. A new policy (MGL Chapter 71, section 97) to screen students for substance use has been passed subject to appropriation. The DESE is sending out an instructional letter. Mr. Swartz attended the 4th grade Holiday Concert at Elm Street School and also attended the “Student Success Assembly” at GHS. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mayor Hawke congratulated the 10th grade students who were recognized for being positive GHS community members and were selected by their teachers to have Pizza with The Principal - Monique Merrill, Megan Haley, Tom Pinier, Chandra Roulette and Alex McGee.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Swartz moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mrs. Hurst.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Anne Hurst, Secretary

Terri Hillman
Recording Secretary