

GARDNER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting – December 20, 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

School Personnel present: Terri Hillman, Recording Secretary; Ms. Joyce West, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Mark J. Pellegrino, Principal, Gardner High School; Ms. Laura Olsen, Principal, Gardner Middle School; Mr. David Fredette, Principal, Elm Street School; Mr. Timothy J. McCormick, Principal, Gardner Academy for Learning, and Robert O'Keefe, Technical Director

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

John Billings, 37 Pearly Lane, spoke about school administrators leaving the District. Asked School Committee members to be proactive and work with administrators.

Mrs. Kerri McDermott, 37 Cherry Street, spoke for Middle School staff and their support for Ms. Olsen.

Mrs. Rita Gibbons, Title I Teacher at the Middle School, spoke in support of Ms. Olsen.

Josh Perkins, Teacher at the Middle School, said that the entire staff at the Middle School supports Ms. Olsen and are happy to work with her.

Recognition by the Mayor

Mayor Hawke recognized the following persons for their contributions to the Gardner schools:

- Jaimee Gardner, Lisa Morse, and Francie Mieux- hard work piloting the Girls on the Run program at the Middle School.
- Terry Weber – going above and beyond during the data collection season for October 1 reporting.

Justin Nguyen who was to be recognized for being posted as the model response on the College Board website could not be present this evening.

Consent Agenda

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

- **Approval of regular meeting of November 14, 2016**
- **Approval of special meeting of November 21, 2016**
- **Approval of following Warrants:**
 - **#17-19– dated 11/10/16, in the of amount of \$159,119.14**
 - **#17-20 – dated 11/1716, in the amount of \$88,023.64**
 - **#17-21– dated 11/23/16, in the amount of \$53,195.49**
 - **Approval of Gardner High School, Ski Club trip to Stowe, Vermont, March 3 to March 5, 2017.**

Seconded by Mr. LaFreniere.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Subcommittee

Mrs. Phelps, Chairperson, said that the Subcommittee met on November 21, 2016. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

The following policies were reviewed and it was determined that no changes were required and they will be updated as “reviewed in November 2016”:

- Policy BAA – Evaluation of School Committee Operational Procedures
- Policy BBAA – School Committee Member Authority
- Policy BBBA – School Committee Member Qualifications

A policy was presented for a first reading (see Item #2799).

Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. Abare, Chairperson, said that the Facilities Subcommittee met on November 15, 2016. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

- Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Fredette have obtained shoulder bolts for the hinged seats at the ESS auditorium and they will be installed to see if they work.
- Mr. Abare expressed concern about the GHS locker room showers and the need for a water dispenser for field use.
- Water testing in the schools was discussed and action is being taken.
- The Honeywell Project was discussed.
- The boilers at WSS are being installed.

Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Swartz, Chairperson, said that the Finance Subcommittee met on December 6, 2016. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

- Mr. Detweiler provided an update on the budget adjustment to the Circuit Breaker fund. The City has approved \$180,000 to be made available in a carry forward account for support of Special Education tuition costs.
- The November Expense Report and Transfer Report were reviewed.
- The End of Year Financial Report submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education was discussed.
- The FY18 budget development process was discussed.

Student Advisory Board

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

- Winter sports have started. The Cheer-leading team hopes to continue their successful Fall season into the Winter season. The Indoor Track teams have held their first meet.
- The Boys' Basketball team played their first game on December 16 and the Girls' Basketball team is playing their first game tonight.
- SAT scores have arrived.
- The GHS football team fell to Oakmont Regional High School in the annual Thanksgiving Day game – 26-20.
- An expo night was held for incoming students to showcase classes and activities.
- GHS held its annual Christmas Toy Drive and collected over 180 toys.
- The Athletics Association Ball was held at the Polish American Citizens Club.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item #2798 – Appointment of New Superintendent

Mr. Swartz reported on the Special School Committee Meeting held on November 21, 2016. Representatives of the MASC presented information regarding the hiring of a Superintendent for the School District. The representatives explained that a strong internal candidate would reduce outside candidates from applying. After discussion, the Committee considered offering the position to Mr. Pellegrino.

Mr. Swartz moved to appoint Mr. Mark Pellegrino as Superintendent of the Gardner Public School District effective January 18, 2017.

Seconded by Mrs. Phelps.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

Mr. Pellegrino thanked the Committee for the appointment and the opportunity to lead the Gardner School District. He spoke of improvements made at GHS under his leadership

Item #2799 – Policy for First Reading

The following policy is presented for a first reading:

Policy BBA – School Committee Powers and Responsibilities.

Item #2800 – Equipment Surplus Disposal

Mr. Swartz moved that the School Committee authorize the disposal or sale of the the item(s) listed in the memo to Jennifer Dymek, City of Gardner Purchasing Agent, and the kitchen equipment so listed.

Seconded by Mr. Abare.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

Item #2801 – Amend FLLAC Collaborative Agreement

Mrs. Phelps moved to amend the FLLAC Collaborative Agreement to include North Middlesex Regional School effective July 1, 2017.

Seconded by Mrs. Pelavin.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

Item #2803 – Gardner Middle School Presentation

Ms. Laura Olsen, Principal of GMS, gave a PowerPoint presentation to update the School Committee on the progress at the Gardner Middle School. She outlined the School's Vision/Mission. The GMS aligns with the Gardner Public Schools' Vision and Goals through Leadership, Staff, Curriculum and Instruction, School Climate and Community Support. She named the fifteen newly hired GMS Faculty and Staff for the 2016 – 2017 Academic Year.

She presented two videos on Mindfulness. One video showed children in a Mindfulness class in Ireland. The second video was Megan Cowan presenting information on Mindfulness in schools.

Item #2804– Curriculum Coordinator's Update

The Curriculum Coordinator's Update was included in the packets. Dr. Goguen was not present this evening.

Item #2805– Special Education Update

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

Item #2806- Business Administrator's Update

The Business Administrator's Update was included in the packets. Mr. Detweiler was not present this evening.

Item #2807 - 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 thanked Ms. Olsen for the presentation and the videos. He spoke about the negativity expressed in the Open Time for the General Public and said there are many positive things happening in the schools through the students, coaches, staff and administration. He wished everyone a positive and Happy New Year.

Mrs. Hurst explained that the School Committee members do not receive all information about happenings in the schools. She appreciates the hard work done by all members of the School District. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mrs. Pelavin reiterated what her fellow members said about the Middle School. The recent Parent/Teacher Conferences had a higher percentage of parents attend in all the schools. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs. Phelps attended the recent school assembly at the high school in which students spoke about turning their lives around. She wished everyone a Happy New Year and a pleasant Christmas.

Mr. LaFreniere agreed with the comments made by Mr. Abare and has complete support for Ms. Olsen. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Swartz wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2017.

Mayor Hawke congratulated Mr. Pellegrino on his appointment and looks forward to working with him. He said that the Norman Rockwell awards will be released this week.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Hurst moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mrs. Pelavin.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

Vote – so voted.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Anne Hurst, Secretary

Terri Hillman
Recording Secretary