

GARDNER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting - March 9, 2015 City
Council Chambers 95 Pleasant Street,
Gardner, Massachusetts

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

Member absent: James Boone, Vice Chairperson

Others present: Superintendent Denise Clemons; Joseph Arsenault, Student Representative; Teni Hillman, Secretary; Dr. Catherine Goguen, Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Christopher Casavant, Business Administrator; Mrs. Susan Hui, Grants Administrator; Mark J. Pellegrino, Principal, Gardner High School; Dr. MaryAnn Pour Previti, Principal, Elm Street School; Ms. Janet C. Smith; Principal, Jelen Mae Sauter School; F. Daniel Hill, Principal, Waterford Street School; Timothy J. McCormick, Principal, Gardner Academy for Learning and Technology; 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 broadcast live on cable television.

Recognition by the Superintendent

Superintendent Clemons recognized two Elm Street School fifth grade students - Emma Dessureau and Abigail Saner. The two girls took second and third place in the Massachusetts Department of Transportation International Aviation Art contest. Their art work was chosen out of hundreds of statewide entries. The entries are currently in Washington for further judging. The girls are part of the Elm Street School Art Club and the teacher is Donna Murphy.

Superintendent Clemons also recognized the following employees for their commitment to their students:

- Allison Doherty Waterford Street School
- Susan EcMund Waterford Street School
- ICelly Gastonguay Waterford Street School
- Megan Metz Waterford Street School
- Aim Marie Ouellette Elm Street School
- Jaclde Rouisse Waterford Street School
- Corey Tawczynski Elm Street School

January 12, 2015 was a snow day but these teachers traveled to Worcester to attend a PBIS training. A letter acknowledging their effort to take this training has been placed in their personnel files.

Presentation of Warrants

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

- **Warrant #15-30 dated January 22, 2015 in the amount of \$83,478.52 e**
- **Warrant #15-31 dated January 29, 2015 in the amount of \$414,013.97**
- **Warrant #15-32 dated February 5[^] 2015 in the amount of \$109,437.22**
- **Warrant #15-33 dated February 12^{^^}015 in the amount of \$158,925.45**
- **Warrant #15-34 dated February 19, 2015 in the amount of \$81,851.35**

- **Warrant #15-35 dated February 26,2015 in the amount of \$199,815.88**
Seconded by Mrs. Phelps. V^e - so voted.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Abare moved to approve the minutes of the February 17,2015 School Committee meeting as presented.

Seconded by Mrs. LaRoche.

Vote - so voted.

Minutes of the executive session meeting of February 17, 2015 were circulated at the table. Four approvals and one not present at the executive session were recorded.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities Subcommittee

Mrs. LaRoche said that the Facilities Subcommittee met on March 2, 2015. Minutes were presented. Dr. Casavant updated the Subcommittee on the Capital Repair/Maintenance Study and the District Re-Organization.

Mr. Abare asked that a list of surplus items be prepared so that they can either be discarded or sold at the City Auction.

Mr. McCormick gave a brief overview of the GALT School and discussed several of the academic programs.

Finance Subcommittee

Mrs. Bailey, Chairperson, said that the Finance Subcommittee met on February 17 and March 3, 2015. Minutes of the meetings were presented.

Dr. Casavant discussed the fact that the Snow Removal Account was in arrears by \$24,000. He recommended that \$40,000 be transferred to the account - \$20,000 from the FY-14 Carryover Revolving Account and \$20,000 from the Building Use Revolving Account. The Subcommittee voted the transfer and referral to the full School Committee for approval.

The Finance Subcommittee created the FY-16 Budget Meeting schedule which will be forwarded to all Administrators and Department Heads.

Policy Subcommittee

Mrs. Phelps, Chairperson, said that the Policy Subcommittee met on February 25, 2015. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

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The Subcommittee continued review and discussion of the following policies. They will be further reviewed at the next Policy Subcommittee meeting. « BDE - Subcommittees - Policy acceptable as reviewed.

- BEDG - Minutes Review. Policy acceptable as reviewed.
- GCCD - Domestic Violence Leave Policy - The City of Gard^r Human Resources Director is in the process of incorporating this policy into a larger leave policy that will be adopted by the City. No further action by the Policy Subcommittee is required at this time.
- GCRD - Tutoring for Pay - tabled until the March Policy Subcommittee meeting.
- DJE - Bidding Requirements - tabled until the March Policy Subcommittee meeting.

- Snow Days & Activities - more information will be presented at the March Policy Subcommittee meeting.

The following policies were voted approval and recommended to the full School Committee for a first reading.

- BDEE and BDEE-R- Athletic Council and Athletic Council Procedures
- KHC - Distribution of Notices by Students
- The Exit Interviews Form
- GBEBEC - Gifts to and Solicitations by Staff

Student Representative to the School Committee

Joseph Arsenault gave the Student Representative to the School Committee report. Jaclyn Nicholson was in rehearsal for the upcoming school musical.

- Felicia Banda is to go to Nationals in NYC in mid-March.
- The Senior fundraiser at the Ale House was quite successful.
- e An AP Math session was held at Murdock High School on March 7. e Seniors have received a packet of local scholarships that are available.
- Seniors started a Financial Literacy Class sponsored by GFA.
- 10-12 food bags per weekend are being sent out from the Food Pantry run by Mrs. Poulin.
- e The GHS Musical - *Once On This Island* - will be performed on March 12, 13 and 14.

OLD BUSINESS

Item 2616 - Oral Reports from Administrators

Mr. Timothy McCormick, Principal of Gardner Academy for Learning and Technology, presented a PowerPoint - Gardner Academy 2014-2015. This is the sixth year that the Academy has been in existence. Today there are approximately 100 students in the 9th to 12th grade. The Academy is an alternative to traditional schools and seeks to provide a challenging and safe environment for student[^]

He presented the goals of the Academy and how they are being met: Goal#1 - Social Emotional/Behavior; Goal #2 - Standards based instruction; and Goal #3 -Communication. ^

Mrs. Susan Hui, Grants Administrator, presented a PowerPoint. The District now has three Literacy Coaches - Virginia Jepson: PK-2; Mandy Blackbird: 3-5; and Earl Martin: 6-12. There is now a full staff and they will thinking about the goals to adopt.

Mrs. Hui also presented information on PARCC (The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career). PARCC is a multi-state consortium working together to develop a common set of K-12 assessments in English and math anchored in what it takes to be ready for college and careers. School Committee members can take the PARCC online tutorial and practice tests - <http://parcc.pearson.com/tutorial/> and' ■■ ["http://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/](http://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/)

Item 2617 - Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

The Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment update was emailed on March 6, 2015. Dr. Goguen was present to answer questions.

Item 2618 - Special Education Update

The Special Education Update was emailed on Marcy 6, 2015.

Item 2619- Business Administrator's Update

The Business Administrator's update was emailed on March 6, 2015. Dr. Casavant was present to answer questions.

Item 2620- Grants Administrator's Update

The Grants Administrator's update was emailed on March 6, 2015. Mrs. Hui was present to answer questions.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 2621 - Appointment of Representative to FLLAC Collaborative Board Mrs. Bailey moved that the School Committee appoint Superintendent Denise Clemons to be the District Representative to the FLLAC Collaborative Board for Fiscal Year 2016.

Seconded by Mr. LaFreniere.

Vote - so voted.

Item 2622 - Appoint of Representative to GAPS Collaborative Mrs. Phelps moved that the School Committee appoint Superintendent Denise Clemons to be the District Representative to the CAPS Collaborative Board for Fiscal Year 2016.

Seconded by Mr. Abare.

Vote - so voted.

Superintendent's Comments

There is a feasibility study with 5 to 7 questions for Pre-K to grade 4 on Survey Monkey. A paper copy will be sent home to parents/guardians who do not have technology.

FINAL COMMENTS

Mr. Abare spoke about Felicia Banda and her track record, the basketball players who were recognized for their season, and the retirement of Coach Walter J. Dubzinski, Jr.

Mrs. LaRoche congratulated Ms. Corey Tawczynski on her recognition tonight. Mrs. LaRoche attended a School Council meeting in February which was well attended with a good response from parents. She was pleased to hear Mr. McCormick's oral report this evening and to learn of the difference GALT is making for many students.

Joseph Arsenault said that tonight he learned what the School Committee does and was happy to be present at the meeting.

Mrs. Phelps distributed a copy of several resolutions from the recent IvdASC Conference. She thanked all the Principals who share information every month through their Newsletters. She encouraged everyone to view the art exhibit at the Gardner Heywood Library to view art from the elementary school students.

Mayor Hawke attended the Officer Phil Program, the "Go West" play at the Elm Street School (which played to a packed house), and had lunch with the Elm Street School Student Council. He congratulated the two Elm Street School students - Emma Dessureau and Abigail Saner - on their winning art work. He recalled stories about Coach Dubzinski. He has asked the City Council to have a joint meeting with the School Council regarding the Rockwell Fund.

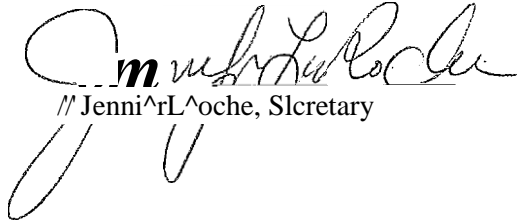
ADJOURNMENT

**Mr. Abare moved to adjourn.
Seconded by Mr. LaFreniere.**

Vote - so voted.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Terri Hillman, Recording Secretary



Jenni Roche, Secretary