

GARDNER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting – January 5, 2016
City Council Chambers
95 Pleasant Street, Gardner, Massachusetts

Members present: Mayor Mark Hawke, Chairman; James Abare, Anne Hurst, John LaFreniere, Melody Phelps, and Robert Swartz, Vice Chairman

Others present: Superintendent Denise Clemons; Terri Hillman, Recording Secretary; Mallory Thompson, Student Representative; Dr. Catherine Goguen, Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Christopher Casavant, Business Administrator; Ms. Joyce West, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Mark J. Pellegrino, Principal, Gardner High School; Ms. Deborah Langlois, Principal, Gardner Middle School; Dr. MaryAnn Pour Previti, Principal, Elm Street School; F. Daniel Hill, Principal, Waterford Street School; Timothy J. McCormick, Principal, Gardner Academy for Learning and Technology; Rebecca McCaffrey, School Nurse Leader; 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.

Reorganization of Committee - Officers

Mr. LaFreniere nominated Robert Swartz to act as Vice Chairman of the Gardner School Committee for the ensuing year.

Seconded by Mrs. Phelps.

Mr. LaFreniere moved that nominations for Vice Chairman be closed.

Seconded by Mrs. Hurst.

Vote – so voted.

Vote on nomination of Mr. Swartz.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke said that reorganization of the remaining officers for the School Committee - Finance Officer, Alternate Finance Officers (2), and Secretary - will be postponed until the February meeting pending appointment of a sixth member to replace Mr. Boone.

Mrs. Hurst thanked everyone who voted for her in the recent election. She has worked in the special education field and was very active with the Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC). Her son, Dan, graduated from Gardner High School in 2015.

Mr. Swartz also thanked everyone who voted for him. He was a member of the School Committee ten years ago. He is very glad to be back and plans to do a good job for the City and the students.

Open Time for the General Public

- Jennifer Pelavin said that she is interested in the open position on the School Committee.
- Mark Hawkins and Debra Leone, Co-Presidents of the GEA, welcomed the new School Committee members. They look forward to working with the Committee members at the upcoming contract negotiation sessions.

Recognition

Superintendent Clemons presented the MASS (Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents) Certificate of Academic Excellence to Lorelei Dietz. Lorelei is a senior at GHS. Superintendent Clemons read her very impressive resume.

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

- Margaret Poulin for her work at GHS office and the Back Pack Program
- Deb LeBlanc for her work at GHS
- Sharleen Goguen for work at GALT
- Samantha Bailey for her hard work as a student at GALT
- Sue Blood, Jennifer Vickrey and Terri Boivin for their work at Central Office
- Paul Landry for maintenance above and beyond his job description
- Andrew McKenzie for building a sense of community in sports

Presentation of Warrants

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

- **Warrant #16-23 dated December 3, 2015 in the amount of \$198,964.07**
- **Warrant #16-24 dated December 10, 2015 in the amount of \$58,679.68**
- **Warrant #16-25 dated December 17, 2015 in the amount of \$114,439.79**
- **Warrant #16-26 dated December 24, 2015 in the amount of \$241,642.86**

Seconded by Mr. Abare.

Vote – so voted.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. LaFreniere moved to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2015 School Committee meeting as presented.

Seconded by Mr. Abare.

Vote – so voted.

Minutes of the executive session of December 14, 2015 were circulated at the table and two approvals and one not present at the session were recorded.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Facilities Subcommittee, the Finance Subcommittee and the Policy Subcommittee did not meet in December.

Student Representative to the School Committee

Ms. Mallory Thompson, Student Representative, told the Committee that GHS students did lots of charitable acts of giving during December.

- Students, faculty, and members of the community donated scarves, hats, and mittens to the warming tree.
- The Gardner Link Crew held a food drive with the CAC to provide families with food during the holiday season.
- The Leo Club members helped the Lions Club sell Christmas trees and participated in the Christmas Dinner at the American Legion serving members of their community and giving back.
- To help spread the holiday cheer, grades 8-12 participated in hall decorating the week before Christmas break.

All sports are well underway.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #2708 – Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Clemons welcomed Mrs. Hurst and Mr. Swartz as members of the School Committee. She looks forward to working with them.

Mr. LaFreniere moved that the School Committee appoint Mr. James Abare to represent the School Committee on the William Rockwell Educational Fund Committee.

Seconded by Mrs. Phelps.

Vote – so voted.

Item #2709 – Elm Street School Update

Dr. MaryAnn Pour Previti, Principal of Elm Street School, presented a PowerPoint report on Elm Street School for 2015-2017. The three school goals were outlined:

1. Address student social/emotional and behavioral growth through attendance, parent involvement and proactive intervention.
2. Implement targeted standards-based instruction based on common assessments that measure student academic growth.
3. Provide all stakeholders with transparent communication that is respectful, timely, consistent and inclusive.

Dr. Previti than explained how the staff is meeting these goals. A review of assessments revealed a consistent need for attention to comprehension and writing skills. Learning to read is very important.

This is year three of the Child Study Team which meets bi-weekly to review children of concern/behavioral/social/emotional/and academic needs. The average daily attendance to date is 96.18% which is an increase of nearly of 1% over last year.

Item #2710 – Curriculum Coordinator's Update

The Curriculum Coordinator's Update was included in the packets. Dr. Goguen was present to answer questions.

Item #2711 – Special Education Update

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

Item #2712 - Business Administrator's Update

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

Item #2713 - Grants Administrator's Update

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

NEW BUSINESS

Item #2714 – School Nurse Leader, Response to Opioid Epidemic: Narcan & SBIRT

Ms. Rebecca McCaffrey, School Nurse Leader, gave a PowerPoint presentation on how the schools are preparing to respond to the Opioid Epidemic. Initiative #1, Preparedness, is having Narcan, a lifesaving medicine that can reverse an opioid overdose, available in the school nurse offices. Initiative #2, Prevention, will provide SBIRT (Screening Brief Intervention Referral to Treatments) screening to 9th graders at GHS.

The plan is to implement SBIRT screening with 9th graders starting in the Spring 2016. Information on how this will be accomplished was presented. School Nurses, Guidance Counselors at GHS and Gardner Academy, and the Adjustment Counselor at GHS were trained in SBIRT screening in October 2015.

School Nurses were trained in Narcan in the Spring 2015 and are able to train others to administer in case of an emergency just like Epi-Pen administration. Ms. McCaffrey is requesting two Narcan kits for each school nurse office.

Item #2715 – Second Reading of Policies

Mrs. Phelps moved that the School Committee accept for a second reading, as approved by the Policy Subcommittee, the following policies:

- **JKA – Special Education Discipline**
- **JKD – Student Suspension/Expulsion**
- **JKD-R – Student Suspension/Expulsion Procedures**

Seconded by Mr. LaFreniere.

Vote – so voted.

Item #2716 - Donations

Mrs. Phelps moved to approve, as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee, the acceptance of the following donations:

- **Contribution from Williams Restaurant to the Gardner High School Back Pack Program in the amount of \$500.00.**
- **Contribution from Bernice and George Ouellet to the Gardner High School Back Pack Program in the amount of \$300.00.**
- **Contribution from Gardner High School Field Hockey to the Gardner High School Back Pack Program in the amount of \$300.00.**

Seconded by Mr. LaFreniere.

Vote – so voted.

Item #2717 – FLLAC 2014-2015 Annual Report and FY2015 Financial Statements

Copies of the Independent Auditors' Report for the FLLAC Educational Collaborative for 2014 - 2015 were presented for information.

FINAL COMMENTS

Mr. Abare welcomed the new members – Mrs. Hurst and Mr. Swartz. He congratulated Mayor Hawke for the inauguration ceremony. It was well run and well attended. The Committee will have problems in the new year and members will need strength and courage to take care of them. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mrs. Phelps said that beginning next month School Committee members will pick up their meeting packets at the Police Station.

Mr. LaFreniere welcomed the new members and looks forward to working with them. He commented on the high number of academic awards earned at GALT. Seventy students (out of 85) earned at least one letter grade with the distinction of Academic Achievement (B) or Academic Excellence (A). An awards night was held on December 10th with over 100 students, parents and faculty members in attendance.

Mr. Swartz thanked Committee members for electing him to serve as Vice Chair. He thanked Ms. McCaffrey for her presentation.

Mayor Hawke welcomed Mrs. Hurst and Mr. Swartz and thanked them for putting their names out there for election. He thanked Mr. Pellegrino and his staff for the arrangements for the inauguration. He attended a fantastic Christmas show at Waterford Street School in December. He reminded members that there will be a joint meeting with the City Council on January 19, 2016 to elect a replacement to fill the vacant seat on the Committee.

Regular Meeting

January 5, 2016

Page 6

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LaFreniere moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mrs. Hurst.

Vote – so voted.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Terri Hillman, Recording Secretary