

GARDNER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting – November 9, 2015
Gardner City Hall
95 Pleasant Street, Gardner, Massachusetts

Members present: Mayor Mark Hawke, Chairman; James Boone, Vice Chairperson; James Abare, John LaFreniere, Jennifer LaRoche, Secretary; and Melody Phelps

Member absent: Carol J. Bailey

Others present: Superintendent Denise Clemons; Mallory Thompson, Student Representative; Terri Hillman, Recording Secretary; Dr. Catherine Goguen, Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Christopher Casavant, Business Administrator; Mrs. Susan Hui, Grants 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; Jesse Warrington, Student Representative; 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.

Open Time for the General Public

- Jonathan Dudley spoke on behalf of Ms. Irene Hernandez as a candidate for the next opening on the Gardner School Committee.
- Ms. Theresa Thompson spoke about issues regarding behavior at Gardner High School.

Recognition

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

- Crystal Williams Before School Program
- Kimberly Ramos After School Program
- Theresa Thompson Backpack Program
- Dawn Casavant Backpack Program
- Patrick Jee Student at Gardner Academy
- Jenny Ortiz Student at Gardner Academy
- Matthew Marchetti Teacher at Gardner Academy

Presentation of Warrants

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

- **Warrant #16-15 dated October 8, 2015 in the amount of \$256,129.88**
- **Warrant #16-16 dated October 15, 2015 in the amount of \$118,564.39**
- **Warrant #16-17 dated October 22, 2015 in the amount of \$274,627.19**
- **Warrant #16-18 dated October 29, 2015 in the amount of \$159,070.81**

Seconded by Mrs. Phelps.

Vote – so voted.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. LaFreniere moved to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2015 School Committee meeting as presented.

Seconded by Mrs. LaRoche.

Vote – so voted.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. LaFreniere, Chairperson, said that the Facilities Subcommittee met on November 2, 2015. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

The Subcommittee approved the use of Watkins Field to host a benefit field hockey game in support of GHS alumna, Dawn Starzynski, Class of 2001, who has been diagnosed with Cancer. See Item #2695.

Mr. O'Brien discussed the District Priority List and the School General Repair List. A time line for the Middle School roof repairs and construction options for the Waterford Street School and Elm Street School bathrooms was also discussed. Dr. Casavant was asked to obtain quotes to upgrade both bathrooms.

Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Boone said that the Finance Subcommittee met on November 3, 2015. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

The October Expense Report was reviewed and discussed. Other items discussed:

- The District Repair List and a possible time line was outlined.
- The possibility of creating an F.A.Q. on the GPS website to answer questions from the community about the budget process as well as the resources invested in the building/facilities.
- Creation of a PowerPoint listing points that highlight the District (Facility) Priority List to share with City officials.
- Donations were accepted.

Policy Subcommittee

Mrs. Phelps, Chairperson, said that the Policy Subcommittee will meet on November 16, 2015. A second reading of two policies will be voted on under Item #2690.

Technology Subcommittee

Mr. Boone, Chairperson, said that the Technology Subcommittee met on October 26, 2015. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

Items discussed:

- Rediker update – the family feature is being completed and the website is scheduled to be working soon.
- A demo of Google Docs and Drive will be a common area helpful to parents and students.
- A review of 1:1 initiative and policies was reviewed. Draft policies have been created and forms for parents are still being developed
- Mr. O'Keefe presented a demo of Plus Portals.

Student Representative to the School Committee

Ms. Mallory Thompson and Jesse Warrington, Student Representatives, read a report on October activities at Gardner High School. Activities included –

- Seniors won this year's Juniors vs. Senior powder Puff Football Game. The classes made close to \$300.
- Home Coming celebrations included a pep rally, a dance and a football game.
- The Pumpkin Palooza and the haunted house projects were very successful
- An assembly regarding disciplinary procedures to address the numerous fights was held. As a result, misbehavior throughout all grades has been discouraged.
- Grades closed on October 30.
- The Athletic Association Ball will be held on November 20 at the Polish American Citizens Club.
- Fall sports are coming to the end of their seasons. The annual Thanksgiving Day game against Oakmont will be played on November 26.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #2685 – Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Clemons gave a PowerPoint presentation of her goals for 2015-2016. They are a continuation of the goals from her first year as Superintendent. The plan includes the District Mission, District Improvement, Student Improvement, Communication and Professional Practice.

Focus areas in the elementary schools and the high school will be parent involvement and other student learning issues. In the elementary schools reading and mathematics will be a focus, and in the high school it will be academics.

Item #2686 – Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

F. Daniel Hill, Principal of Waterford Street School, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Waterford Street School 2015-2017 School Education Plan (draft 11/9/15). He presented the District Mission, the School Mission and the District/School Goals. Given the DIBELS data for both kindergarten and first grade students, improving reading fluency for all students is a focus for all staff. Improving reading skills will be the main focus as strong reading skills are a major factor in students becoming lifelong learners.

Dr. MaryAnn Pour Previti, Principal Elm Street School, presented information on student assessment data/response intervention. Instruction is being framed in response to information garnered from the DIEBLS and DRA Assessments.

Mrs. Phelps thanked Dr. Previti for her presentation.

Item #2687 - Special Education Update

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

Item #2688 - Business Administrator's Update

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

Item #2689- Grants Administrator's Update

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

NEW BUSINESS

Item #2690 – Second Reading of Policies

Mrs. Phelps moved to approve for a second reading, as approved by the Policy Subcommittee, the following policies:

- Policy GCRD Tutoring for Pay
- Policy BEDA Notification of School Committee Meetings

Seconded by Mr. Abare.

Vote – so voted.

Item #2691 - Donations

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

- from Bernke Wood, \$50 for the Gardner High School Weekend Backpack Program
- from Matthew R. Badger, \$20 to Waterford Street School

Seconded by Mrs. Phelps.

Vote – so voted.

Item #2692– Out-of-State Field Trip – Ski Club

Mr. LaFreniere moved to approve an out-of-state field trip for the Gardner High School Ski Club to the Round Hearth Lodge at Stowe, Vermont from February 26, 2016 to February 28, 2016.

Seconded by Mr. Abare.

Vote – so voted.

Item #2693– Out-of-State Field Trip – Washington, DC – Class 2016

Mr. Boone moved to approve an out-of-state field Trip for the Gardner High School Class of 2016 to Washington, DC, from March 30, 2016 to April 2, 2016.

Seconded by Mrs. LaRoche.

Vote – so voted.

Item #2694 – Central Massachusetts Ice Hockey

Mr. Abare moved to approve the request from the Central Massachusetts Hockey Committee to include Quabbin Regional High School in the existing Gardner/Murdock Hockey Co-Op. Expanding the Co-Op with Quabbin will get the team closer to the recommended number of 22 players.

Seconded by Mrs. Phelps.

Vote – so voted.

Item #2695 – Proposed Use of Watkins Field for Benefit Game

Mr. LaFreniere moved to approve the use of Watkins Field for an Alumni Field Hockey Benefit Game for Dawn Starzynski. All proceeds earned will go to Dawn for medical care.

Seconded by Mr. Boone.

Vote – so voted.

FINAL COMMENTS

Mr. Abare spoke about Veterans' Day which will be celebrated on November 11. He urged the community to get involved with the many activities that the students put on – sports, band, drama, etc.

Mrs. LaRoche thanked the GHS students for the friendly Halloween events held at the high school. The Middle School dance was very well attended and successful.

Student Representatives Mallory and Jesse spoke about the football team.

Mrs. Phelps attend the MASC Conference in Hyannis over the weekend. She attended a very interesting meeting on SAT's and PSAT's. Colleges are looking for students who are taking AP courses and Gardner is a leader in this area with the many AP courses offered. She also mentioned a first prize for a squash soup won by GHS and reported on the Boys and Girls Club. She thanked all the veterans and thanked all the Gardner citizens who elected her to another term on the School Committee.

