

GARDNER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting – November 13, 2017
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

Absent: Nora Coxall, Student Representative

School Personnel present: Mark J. Pellegrino, Superintendent; Ms. Terri Hillman Recording Secretary; Robert Detweiler, Business Administrator; Dr. Meredith Pugh, ELL Coordinator and Grants Administrator; and Ms. Joyce West, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; and Ms. Paula Bolger, Principal, Gardner High School

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 Gardner High School students who have been awarded the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. Many of the students were present with their parents and family members.

Item 2896 – MSBA – New Building Project

Mayor Hawke asked if there were any objections to taking Item #2896 – MSBA – New Building Project – out of order. There were no objections.

Dr. Stephen Hemman, Consultant for the Gardner Public Schools, presented copies of the letter (October 25, 2017) from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). The MSBA has voted to invite the City to partner with them in conducting a Feasibility Study for the Waterford Street Elementary School. The vote follows the City's timely completion of all the requirements of the MSBA's Eligibility Period (Module 1).

Dr. Hemman reported on the project going forward with Module 2 – Project Team and Module 3 – Feasibility Team. He will continue to update the School Committee members on progress.

Consent Agenda

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

- **Approval of minutes of regular meeting of September 11, 2017.**
- **Approval of minutes of regular meeting of October 10, 2017.**

Seconded by Mrs. Phelps.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting

Subcommittee Reports

Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. LaFreniere said that the Facilities Subcommittee met on October 17, 2017. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

Mr. Tonet, Assistant Facilities Director, provided an update on the Honeywell project. The Univent valves at GHS, ESS and Central Office are not working properly and he has been in contact with Mr. Platt, Honeywell's Project Manager, and the problems with valves will be resolved.

Other items reviewed:

- The Elementary School Building Project
- Middle School clocks
- GHS fields project
- Need for more in-house maintenance staff
- GHS new sign

Policy Subcommittee

The Policy Subcommittee meeting was canceled and there was no report.

Finance Subcommittee

The Finance Subcommittee meeting was canceled and there was no report.

Student Advisory Board

Nora Coxall, Student Advisory Council Representative, was not present due to illness and Mayor Hawke read her report on GHS activities.

- News on sports teams and end of the fall season.
- The Marching Band received a silver medal for their MICCA finals performance
- Varsity cheer-leading team won “League Champions” and “Grand Champions” at their competition. The JV cheer-leading team won 2nd place in their competition.
- The Student Council will hold a blood drive on November 14, the fall play “Game of Tiaras” is scheduled for November 16 – 18, and MR. GHS is scheduled for November 30.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item #2890 – Policies for a Second Reading

Mrs. Phelps moved that the following policies be approved for a second reading as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee:

- Policy BDE Subcommittees of the School Committee
- Policy BDF Advisory Committees to the School Committee
- Policy BEDB Agenda
- Policy JKA Discipline of Students with Disabilities
- Policy JFADB Homeless Students – Enrollment Rights & Services
- Policy JKD-R Student Suspension/Expulsion Procedures

Seconded by Mrs. Hurst.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

The following policies have been referred back to the Policy Subcommittee for further review:

- Policy BEDA – Notification of School Committee Meetings
- Policy BDBB – Duties of Vice Chairperson
- Policy JIFCA-E – Hazing Procedures

Item #2891 – MCAS Data (Presentation)

Superintendent Pellegrino presented a PowerPoint of the MCAS 2017 Review. GHS students taking the traditional test had improved scores across all subject areas (ELA, Math and Biology). Students in Grades 3-8 took the MCAS 2.0 test for the first time and performed below the State average in English and Math. MCAS 2.0 is scheduled to be fully implemented in 2019 and is designed to be more difficult than the original MCAS.

Superintendent Pellegrino explained how GPS is preparing and changing for MCAS 2.0 to help the students. The curriculum is being aligned to State standards, there is a new reading series and a new Science curriculum. Professional Development for 2017-2018 will focus on the new MCAS. Parents and community members will be encouraged to engage in school activities.

Item #2892 – Superintendent's Evaluation

Superintendent Pellegrino presented his goals and benchmarks for the 2017-2018 school year.

- Goal 1: Fair, Effective Instructional Coaching and Evaluation
- Goal 2: Data Driven Instruction: Activities
- Goal 3: Superintendent Induction (Professional Practice)

Superintendent Pellegrino is taking the New School Superintendents' Induction Program. Mr. Joseph Buckley, Superintendent Pellegrino's Coach for the program, was present at the meeting tonight.

Item #2893 – Curriculum Coordinator's Update

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

Item #2894 – Special Education Update

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

Item #2895 – Grants Administrator's Update

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

Item #2897 – Organizational Meeting Date and Time

Mrs. Pelavin moved to hold the School Committee's Organizational Meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, at 6 pm in City Council Chambers.

Seconded by Mr. Abare.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

FINAL COMMENTS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mr. Abare congratulated Mrs. Hurst and Mrs. Pelavin on their re-election. He thanked Mr. Ruggiero for taking the time to run for a seat on the School Committee.

Mrs. Hurst thanked everyone who came out to vote.

Mrs. Pelavin thanked everyone who voted and congratulated Mrs. Hurst and Mr. Abare on their re-election. She congratulated all the students who earned the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship.

Mrs. Phelps explained for the public that there are 4-year terms for School Committee members and that every two years, three people have to run for election. She congratulated the Mayor on his re-election.

Mr. LaFreniere congratulated Mr. Abare, Mrs. Hurst, Mrs. Pelavin and Mayor Hawke on their re-elections.

Mr. Swartz congratulated the Mayor and the members on their re-election. He said citizens have a wonderful right to vote and so many do not take advantage of this right. He thanked the members for voting him to be the delegate at the MASS/MASC Conference. He spent a very busy three days at the Conference and attended as many meetings as possible. He encouraged members to attend the Conference in 2018.

Mayor Hawke mentioned several activities at the school:

- ESS had very good attendance for Book Bingo
- Plans for Watkins Field are continuing
- WSS had a wonderful Veterans' Day Concert
- GHS Veterans' Day Program was exceptional

Mayor Hawke and Mr. Swartz emphasized that the schools alone cannot help the students succeed. Parents and guardians need to be involved.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Swartz moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mrs. Hurst.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Hawke abstained from voting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Anne Hurst, Secretary

Terri Hillman
Recording Secretary