

Georgetown School Committee

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Meeting Minutes

51 North Street
Georgetown, MA 01833
(978) 352-5777

Approved 4-24-2024

Michael Hinchliffe, Chairman
Cheryl Lachendro, Vice Chair
Lauren King, Clerk
John Cancellara
Stacy McMaster

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Attendance:

Michael Hinchliffe

Cheryl Lachendro

Stacy McMaster

John Cancellara

Absent: Lauren King

Hannah Stevens, Student Representative

Dr. Margaret Ferrick

Michael Hinchliffe called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve School Committee Meeting Minutes of 3-28-2024 and Negotiations Executive Session Meeting Minutes of 4-1-2024. Michael Hinchliffe mentioned that the 3-14-2024 will be approved at the next meeting. No objections. Motion carried.

Report from the Student Representative - N/A

Report of the Superintendent

Spotlight on Excellence Drama Club

Three students, Amelia Anderson (Stage Manager), Caroline Swenson (Drama Club Secretary) & Amy Winslow (Social Media & Crew Captain) came to represent the Drama Club. They spoke about the middle and high school plays and their roles. Currently they are working on the middle school play. The last high school event was the Drama Fest. The Drama Fest is an event where schools compete with other schools. Each school has a 40 minute production of their play. The preliminary round is 8 schools and only 4 move on. The semi-finals there are 6 schools and only 2 move on. This year's show was 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea written by the students because it was public domain. The middle school play this year is Game of Tiaras. May 18th is the show. Tickets are available on Instagram #GMHS_Drama. Some of the students are not able to participate in all events due to sports. Many students started in the Drama program in middle school. Drama Fest is only open to high school students. The Musical is open for grades 7-12.

Report of Progress - No update

FY25 Budget Update - No update

Information for the School Committee

The School Committee acknowledged the Penn Brook School Council Minutes of 4-3-2024.

1. Financial Report - N/A

- a. Quarterly budget report - N/A
 - i. Local Budget
 - ii. Revolving Accounts
 - iii. Grants
- b. Line Item Transfers - N/A

2. Subcommittee/Liaison Committee Reports - None

3. New Business

4.

New Curriculum Adoption

Laurie Greenwood and Kate Donlin joined the School Committee to discuss the new curriculum.

They presented a slide show which can be found here [**Curriculum Update 4_11_2.pdf**](#)

Laurie Greenwood and Kate Donlin acknowledged the GPS Curriculum Council Members.

Laurie Greenwood spoke about high quality curriculum and what led them to this point. Laurie Greenwood mentioned that some of Georgetown's Math Curriculum reported to DESE is from 1988.

Kate Donlin spoke briefly about ELA. Kate Donlin spoke about HQIM (High Quality Instructional Materials). Kate Donlin spoke about the award of grants to purchase curriculum materials. These grants must be spent by June 30, 2024.

Laurie Greenwood spoke about the HQIM selection process which consisted of criteria, presentations, site visits and feedback analysis. Laurie Greenwood mentioned that the site visits were very helpful. Laurie and Kate Donlin were able to see the different programs with different grade levels. They collected data from the teachers that went to the site visits as well. For ELA, Wit & Wisdom was selected. Kate Donlin discussed Scarborough's Reading Rope. (How to be a skilled reader). Wit and Wisdom's Curriculum will be more complex reading. Laurie Greenwood discussed the Math & Science Curriculum search as well. She acknowledged Beth Felides and Cerise Cauthron for their work in this process. The selections were made. Reveal Math by McGraw Hill and Amplify Science by Amplify Education. Laurie Greenwood spoke about the platforms of these Curriculums. Laurie spoke about these programs creating learning paths for students.

Laurie Greenwood talked about the science curriculum focusing on the "why". This curriculum will boost science literacy. Laurie Greenwood spoke about the "launch". She spoke about the first Professional Development on May 13th for the new curriculum. She discussed the PD for next

year that includes full and half days. Laurie Greenwood spoke about partnerships with other districts. These partnerships would assist the teachers and give them the opportunity to share resources. The District Leadership will be part of the implementation of the new curriculum. Margo Ferrick mentioned that Laurie Greenwood has only been in the district since December. Margo Ferrick thanked Laurie Greenwood and Kate Donlin.

Laurie Greenwood explained that the new curriculum will come with text for every student, an online platform and additional resources for teachers. Kate Donlin spoke briefly about the text for the younger students. John Cancellara asked how the new curriculum was analyzed. Kate Donlin and Laurie Greenwood responded and expressed the importance of HQIM. They spoke about the quality of student work based on the site visits. They spoke about students reading more.

Margo Ferrick spoke about HQIM being implemented over the next 3-5 years. Margo Ferrick said that data will be collected and the parents will see results. Kate Donlin spoke about teachers not having to find text because the new curriculum comes with everything the teachers need. Stacy McMaster asked about this curriculum being suited for special education students. Michael Hinchliffe asked how long before we know that we are moving in the right direction. Laurie Greenwood spoke about alignment and common practices and writing practices. Laurie explained that this change will not happen over night. Laurie Greenwood talked about not getting through all of the curriculum in the first year. Some will be removed and added in over the next couple years. John Cancellara asked for more information on the implementation of the new curriculum. Laurie Greenwood spoke about the PD schedule. She explained that this will take time and it will be worked on throughout the year. Kate Donlin sees herself coaching teachers next year. Support will make or break a new curriculum. "It's good to be learning something new together" - Kate Donlin.

Michael Hinchliffe asked about the disconnect between curriculum and scores. Margo Ferrick and Laurie Greenwood spoke about standards, grading, test scores and IReady. John Cancellara asked what the new Math & Science is replacing. Laurie Greenwood explained that the old curriculum was more about memorization and the new curriculum is more mind based. John Cancellara asked if the new curriculum comes with upgrades in case the standards change again. Michael Hinchliffe asked the life of the curriculum. Laurie Greenwood stated that the licenses range from 3-6 years. She spoke about consumable materials. Margo Ferrick spoke about needing approximately \$250K in the curriculum line year after year. She mentioned that Wit & Wisdom is being funded through this year's budget. Laurie Greenwood spoke about the curriculum cycles. Laurie Greenwood talked about not putting new ELA & Math Curriculum on the elementary teachers all at once.

Motion to approve Wit & Wisdom, Reveal & Amplify for the new curriculum for FY25. John Cancellara moved the motion. Cheryl Lachendro seconded the motion. Vote taken. All in favor. Motion carried.

Camp Kieve Trip Approval 11-4-2024 to 11-8-2024*

Corey Chenette joined the SC meeting to discuss Camp Kieve. He spoke about the fees being raised this year after no increase since 2020. Corey Chenette answered questions from the School Committee.

Is the program revolving? Yes, Camp Kieve has upgraded to a new social emotional Curriculum. Corey spoke about the connections that are built at Camp Kieve.

In years past, Kieve was offered to 7th & 8th grade as well. Corey Chenette explained that this stopped before COVID. Corey explained that some of the staff listed on the forms provided to School Committee are incorrect.

Motion to approve the Camp Kieve Sixth Grade trip from November 4, 2024 to November 8, 2024. Stacy McMaster moved the motion. Cheryl Lachendro seconded the motion. Vote taken. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of the Crest Capital Plan 2024-2030

Margo Ferrick spoke about Crest needing AC's. John Cancellara expressed Concern about Crest having a couple million in the wrong accounts and wondered If they could lower tuitions instead. For Crest to spend money out of operational accounts, it needs to be transferred to capital accounts.

Motion to approve the CREST Capital Plan.

John Cancellara moved the motion. Cheryl Lachendro seconded the motion. Vote taken. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of FY24 FC161 Grant Increased Amount to \$65,115*

Motion to approve - SM move, CL second. All in favor.

Approval of a donation from Georgetown Baseball in the amount of \$144 for the Class of 2024.

Motion to approve donation from Georgetown Baseball in the amount of \$144 for the Class of 2024. Cheryl Lachendro moved the motion. Stacy McMaster seconded the motion. Vote taken. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of a donation in the amount of \$1000 from the PTA for a Grade 5 Field Trip to the Lexington Historical Society. Cheryl Lachendro explained the PTA has \$1000 to spend per grade. Cheryl Lachendro will abstain from the vote.

Motion to approve the donation in the amount of \$1000 from the PTA for a Grade 5 Field Trip to the Lexington Historical Society. John Cancellara moved the motion. Stacy McMaster seconded the motion. Vote taken. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval to surplus old curriculum

Motion to surplus old curriculum as presented. Cheryl Lachendro moved the motion. Stacy McMaster seconded the motion. Vote taken. All in favor. Motion carried.

5. Unfinished Business

Last day of school FY24

Motion to establish the last day of school as June 18th. Cheryl Lachendro moved the motion. John Cancellara seconded the motion. Vote taken. All in favor. Motion carried.

6. Public Comment:

Pursuant to Georgetown School Committee policy BEDH, public comment is limited to 3 minutes per speaker; not to exceed 15 minutes in total, and the subject matter is limited to issues within school committee authority. Comments made during the public comment portion of the meeting do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the Georgetown School Committee.

Meg Johnson joined the meeting to address the School Committee about the uproar regarding the signs (Georgetown loves educators) and pins (Educators deserve dignity & respect) that the GEA has been wearing. She wanted to provide some context. She spoke about educators being on the receiving end of physical aggression every day. She spoke about being hit, kicked, spit on and having hair pulled. She spoke about IPADS, staplers and scissors thrown at them. She spoke about the Negotiations meeting being canceled yesterday with only 90 minutes notice. Meg Johnson stated that her understanding was that the Negotiations Team needed more time to better prepare for the meeting. Meg Johnson talked educators planning and making arrangements for this meeting. She spoke about a meeting in January where a member of the GEA was recovering from surgery and was unable to attend so the GEA asked to reschedule and that request was denied. The meeting went on without that team member. She spoke about a member of FinCom stating that all teachers should be let go and be replaced with new teachers during last year's budget discussions. Meg Johnson also stated that another member of FinCom stated that teachers who are around longer care less and are less effective. Meg Johnson spoke about teachers being notified about their change in positions during the school day. She spoke about teachers buying their own supplies and planning field trips for next year. She stated she planned a trip for the third grade, but won't be teaching third grade next year. Meg Johnson stated that comparing transfers in a school to other industries devalues the work that teachers do. Meg Johnson stated that their jobs are emotional work. Meg Johnson spoke about the teachers learning new curriculum. Meg stated that she felt the need remind the people that the teachers are part of the community and they work hard and they care deeply for their students. She said that the educators of Georgetown deserve to be treated with dignity and respect as highly educated individuals.

Nick Prendegast (Parent) joined the School Committee members to reiterate a little of what Meg Johnson said. He talked about the curriculum that was presented tonight. He thought it was great.. He spoke about the crossroads with the budget that the superintendent has talked about. He stated that the curriculum is a heavy lift. He spoke about upheaval in the community during the time of budget and new curriculum. He spoke about change being inevitable. He talked about the teachers being notified in April when they didn't need to be notified until July. Nick Prendegast stated that if teachers were not notified until July they would have been set up to fail in terms of setting up the new curriculum. He stated that he believes it had to happen in April. He stated that he is trying

to digest all of this. Nick stated that he believes everyone has the students best interest in mind but also wonders how much change can students take.

7. Executive Session - N/A

8. Motion to adjourn at 8:05PM. John Cancellara moved the motion. Cheryl Lachendro seconded the motion. Vote taken. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Tracy Parker