

Gardner School Committee

Regular Meeting – January 3, 2023

City Council Chambers, 95 Pleasant Street, Gardner, Massachusetts

Members present: Mayor Michael Nicholson, Chairperson
Jennifer Pelavin, Vice Chairperson
Rachel Cormier, Secretary
John LaFreniere, Finance Officer
Shannon Leighton
Anne Hurst
Robert Swartz

School Personnel present: Dr. Mark Pellegrino, Superintendent
Terri Hillman, Recording Secretary
Amber Cameron, GHS Student Representative

Call to Order

Mayor Nicholson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm. The meeting opened with a roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was broadcast live on Channel 8 (Gardner Educational Television Station).

Open Time for the General Public

No one from the General Public requested to speak.

Reorganization of Committee - Officers

Mayor Nicholson stated that nominations for the Officers of the School Committee would be made from the floor. No second is required but other members may second the nomination just to show their support.

- **Vice Chair**

Mr. LaFreniere nominated Mrs. Jennifer Pelavin to serve as Vice Chair of the Gardner School Committee for the ensuing year.

Nomination seconded by Mr. Swartz.

Mayor Nicholson asked three times if there were other nominations for Vice Chair. There were none.

Mr. Swartz moved that nominations for Vice Chair be closed.

Seconded by Mr. LaFreniere.

Mayor Nicholson abstained from voting.

Vote - so voted.

As required, a roll call vote was taken on the nomination of Mrs. Pelavin.

- **Mrs. Cormier** **Mrs. Pelavin**
- **Mrs. Hurst** **Mrs. Pelavin**
- **Mr. LaFreniere** **Mrs. Pelavin**
- **Mrs. Leighton** **Mrs. Pelavin**
- **Mrs. Pelavin** **Mrs. Pelavin**
- **Mr. Swartz** **Mrs. Pelavin**
- **Mayor Nicholson** **Mrs. Pelavin**

Count – 7 in favor - Unanimous.

Mrs. Pelavin will serve as Vice Chair.

- **Finance Officer**

Mrs. Pelavin nominated Mr. John LaFreniere to serve as Finance Officer of the Gardner School Committee for the ensuing year.

Mayor Nicholson asked three times if there were other nominations for Finance Officer. There were none.

Mr. Swartz moved that nominations for Finance Officer be closed.

Seconded by Mrs. Leighton.

Vote - so voted.

Mayor Nicholson abstained from voting.

As required, a roll call vote was taken on the nomination of Mr. LaFreniere.

- **Mrs. Cormier** **Mr. LaFreniere**
- **Mrs. Hurst** **Mr. LaFreniere**
- **Mr. LaFreniere** **Mr. LaFreniere**
- **Mrs. Leighton** **Mr. LaFreniere**
- **Mrs. Pelavin** **Mr. LaFreniere**
- **Mr. Swartz** **Mr. LaFreniere**
- **Mayor Nicholson** **Mr. LaFreniere**

Count – 7 in favor - Unanimous.

Mr. LaFreniere will serve as Finance Officer.

- **Alternate Finance Officers**

Mrs. Hurst nominated Mrs. Jennifer Pelavin and Mr. Robert Swartz to serve as Alternate Finance Officers of the Gardner School Committee for the ensuing year.

Mayor Nicholson asked three times if there were other nominations for Alternate Finance Officers. There were none.

Mr. LaFreniere moved that nominations for Alternate Finance Officers be closed.

Seconded by Mrs. Cormier.

Vote - so voted.

Mayor Nicholson abstained from voting.

As required, a roll call vote was taken on the nominations of Mrs. Pelavin and Mr. Swartz.

- Mrs. Cormier Mrs. Pelavin and Mr. Swartz
- Mrs. Hurst Mrs. Pelavin and Mr. Swartz
- Mr. LaFreniere Mrs. Pelavin and Mr. Swartz
- Mrs. Leighton Mrs. Pelavin and Mr. Swartz
- Mrs. Pelavin Mrs. Pelavin and Mr. Swartz
- Mr. Swartz Mrs. Pelavin and Mr. Swartz
- Mayor Nicholson Mrs. Pelavin and Mr. Swartz

Count – 7 in favor - Unanimous.

Mrs. Pelavin and Mr. Swartz will serve as Alternate Finance Officers.

• Secretary

Mr. Swartz nominated Mrs. Cormier to serve as Secretary of the Gardner School Committee for the ensuing year.

Mayor Nicholson asked three times if there were other nominations for Secretary. There were none.

Mr. Swartz moved that nominations for Secretary be closed.

Seconded by Mr. LaFreniere.

Vote - so voted.

Mayor Nicholson, Chairperson, abstained from voting.

As required, a roll call vote was taken on the nomination of Mrs. Cormier

- Mrs. Cormier Mrs. Cormier
- Mrs. Hurst Mrs. Cormier
- Mr. LaFreniere Mrs. Cormier
- Mrs. Leighton Mrs. Cormier
- Mrs. Pelavin Mrs. Cormier
- Mr. Swartz Mrs. Cormier
- Mayor Nicholson Mrs. Cormier

Count – 7 in favor - Unanimous.

Mrs. Cormier will serve as Secretary.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Pelavin moved that the District School Committee vote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 12, 2022, as recommended by the School Committee Chairperson.
- Approval of the following Warrants as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee:
 - Warrant #23-24 dated 12/15//22 in the amount of \$360,381.65
 - Warrant #23-25 dated 12/22//22 in the amount of \$406,068.90

Seconded by Mr. Swartz.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Nicholson, Chairperson, abstained from voting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. Swartz, Chairperson, said that the Facilities Subcommittee met on December 8, 2022. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

At GHS, windows on the 2nd & 3rd floor are being left open (Mr. Anderson will check on this), a study plan is being conducted to revamp the HVAC system in the auditorium, cafeteria and library, and contractors are working on the interior of the Watkins Field concession stand through the winter.

At GMS, spots of mildew have been spotted on blocks around the building. Mr. Anderson will check.

At GES, adjustments to the electrical system continue and also work on streetlights on the access road.

Student Advisory Board

Amber Cameron, Student Representative, reported on the many activities at GHS. A banquet was held for the baseball team members, the winter sports program is off to a great start, the Christmas concert was very well attended, and try outs are being held for the Spring musical.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #3474 – Second Reading of Policies

Mrs. Hurst moved that the District School Committee vote to approve the following policies for a second reading as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee:

- **Policy ADDA Background Checks**
- **Policy ADF Local Wellness Policy**
- **Policy BBA School Committee Powers and Duties**
- **Policy DD Grants, Proposals, and Special Projects**

Seconded by Mrs. Cormier.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Nicholson, Chairperson, abstained from voting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Pellegrino told the Committee members about School-based Residencies. He plans to spend a full week (last week of the month) at each school participating in daytime and evening activities. He will visit classrooms, lunchrooms, and CPT meetings. He will offer open office hours for students, staff and parents. His goal is to become acquainted with the culture, pace and unique personality of each school.

FINAL COMMENTS

Mrs. Leighton wished everyone a Happy New Year and said she has now served on the School Committee for one year.

Mrs. Hurst wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked Amber for her reports. She appreciates hearing about all the activities.

Mrs. Pelavin wished everyone a Happy New Year. She is looking forward to continuing to serve as Vice Chair.

Amber Cameron wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Swartz is looking forward to a great 2023 for everyone.

Mr. LaFreniere wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mrs. Cormier is looking forward to Dr. Pellegrino's reports on his School-based Residencies. She wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mayor Nicholson wished the best of luck to the GHS Cheerleaders as they depart for Texas to compete in the Nationals. He reminded everyone of the State of the City address that he will give on Tuesday, January 4, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LaFreniere moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mr. Swartz.

Mayor Nicholson abstained from voting.

Vote – so voted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.

**Rachel Cormier
Secretary**

Terri Hillman, Recording Secretary