



Georgetown School Committee

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Meeting Minutes

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

Barbie Linares, Chairman
Michael Hinchliffe, Vice Chairman
Cheryl Lachendro, Clerk
Suzanne MacDonald
Lauren King

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Attendance:

Barbie Linares	Superintendent Jacobs	Collin MacDonald
Michael Hinchliffe	Suzanne Sutherland	Jack Tiano
Suzanne MacDonald		Margaret Maher
Lauren King		Jeff Carovillano
Cheryl Lachendro		

Absent: Mackenzie Beauvais, Student Representative

1. Call to Order:

Barbie Linares called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

2. Consent Agenda:

Motion: to approve Warrants #13V22 & #14P22. Suzanne MacDonald moved the motion and Michael Hinchliff seconded the motion. Vote taken. All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Audiences:

Barbie asked if there was anyone present for public comment. A member of the audience (Peter Andropoulos) asked if the comments could be made at the end of the meeting after the information was presented. Barbie granted permission.

4. Introduction of Student Representative did not take place, as she was not present at the meeting.

5. Administrative Reports

Superintendent Carol Jacobs updated the School Committee and members of the audience on the investigation regarding the football game on Friday, September 18th. She explained that under normal circumstances the investigation would be handled locally, however due the issue being escalated so quickly, it became clear that the investigation should be handled by a private investigator so that there is no bias. Carol explained that she has reached out to a few investigators.

Carol explained to the committee that her focus is to figure out a way to resolve conflict, and how to take a bad circumstance and make it a learning experience and figure out a way to move forward. She stated that she is 100% committed to resolving this problem and communicating with parents and

the communities. She spoke about her conversation with the KIP Director and how they are working together and that the football game on September 24th will take place.

6. Public Comments

Peter Andropoulos, 11 Prospect Street, Georgetown asked a question regarding the football game on Friday 9/24. Carol Jacobs explained that she had worked with the Athletic Director and the KIP Director to make the decision to play. She explained that there would not be any outside students allowed in the stands and only the players from the teams would be allowed. The stands will be set up differently and there will be a police detail as well. The game will be adequately staffed. Both teams agreed to come together to show support with the expectation that there will not be any issues. All players are allowed to have 2 parents or guardians present. Carol also stated that if there are any special circumstances, accommodations would be made.

Carol added that the district is already doing Equity work and has hired a consultant to help out.

Name Unknown, Patriot Lane, Georgetown asked what was being done about the Roxbury Coach throwing a Georgetown player to the ground. Carol Jacobs responded stating that only the process of the investigation could be discussed. She also stated that neither side may agree with the findings of the investigation, but the goal will still be to move forward.

Julie Genese, 1 Malcolm Street, Georgetown asked what was being done to protect the children of Georgetown and asked what the policy for fighting on the field was. Carol explained that the referees are in charge of the game and what takes place on the field. The coaches have a protocol that they follow. She also stated that the MIIA is aware of the incident. Julie also asked how attendance will be monitored at the game and if it was an honor system. Jeff Carovillano, Principal, responded stating that there is a Google Doc and people will have to check in. Julie asked if cheerleaders were allowed and during that time she received an email that they were.

Peter Lucido, 8 Railroad Ave, Georgetown responded to Julie Genese's question and explained how referees are assigned. He also thanked Carol Jacobs for meeting with the football team. HE then asked how protestors and the media will be handled for the game on 9/24. Carol Jacobs responded stating that she didn't expect there to be any issues. Pete also said that he feels we are treating our Georgetown students as guilty instead of innocent until proven guilty. Carol responded by saying that she was doing this only to keep the crowds to a manageable level. Pete Lucido also asked how the investigation would be viewed as unbiased if Georgetown was paying for it.

Manny Gasca, 12 Madison Ave, Georgetown expressed his concern that by not allowing students at the game on 9/24 is an admission of guilt. Carol Jacobs responded that this was a condition that was made for this game only. Manny asked why parents are not being charged for the gate fee for the game on 9/24. Barbie Linares stated that she agreed with the decision but that Ryan Browner was not available to comment. Manny also asked if anything will/has happened with the Roxbury coach throwing a player to the ground. Carol Jacobs responded stating that it has not been addressed at this time.

Carol Esposito, 5 Lisa Lane, Georgetown stated her support in Carol's decision. She believes there should be a cool down period to protect our students. She also mentioned that she wants everyone to stop speculating because both sides felt what they felt.

Name Unknown, 76 North Street, Georgetown wanted to know if Carol had reached out to Roxbury to let them know there would be an independent investigation. Carol Jacobs responded that she has and that Roxbury supports the decision. He asked if there would be another public statement made. Carol responded yes. He asked about the timeframe for the investigation. Carol responded that she did not know the timeframe but would like it expedited and resolved as quickly as possible. She stated that she will update as the information becomes available.

Robert Hoover (former School Committee member), Chestnut Street, Georgetown stated that he supports Carol and the School Committee.

Lauren King asked if this could be a teachable moment for the elementary school. Carol Jacobs stated that there is a format to discuss at that level. Lauren also asked if the game could be broadcast live. Barbie Linares mentioned that Ryan Browner may be able to do that.

5. Financial Report

6. Old Business

The Camp Kieve budget was discussed. The new cost per student is \$285. This price includes a \$1000 donation made by the PTA.

7. New Business

Motion: to appoint Tom Nuttall from the Law Firm of Nuttall, Macavoy & Joyce as the Georgetown Special Education Legal Counsel for the 2021-2022 school year. Suzanne MacDonald moved the motion. Michael Hinchliffe seconded the motion. Vote taken, all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Adjourn:

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 8PM. Michael Hinchliffe moved the motion. Suzanne MacDonald seconded the motion. Vote taken, all in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Parker
School Committee Secretary