

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES: Wednesday, May 10, 2023**  
Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St., Greenfield MA

**Present:** Elizabeth Deneeve (ED); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Glenn Johnson-Mussad; (GJM); Kathryn Martini (KM); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW); Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

**Absent:** None

**Also present:** Christine DeBarge, Superintendent; Karin Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent; other school staff, & citizens.

### **I. Call to Order**

With a quorum present (ED, SE, GJM, KM, AP, JW, RW), Chair Proietti called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

**SE moved to approve draft minutes of March 10, April 12, and May 3, 2023. KM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

The Committee held a moment of silence in memory of Donna Woodcock, former GHS Principal.

RW expressed concern of open meeting law violation from differing versions of the agenda: City website shows earlier version as of May 9 and GPS website shows revised agenda as of May 10. AP held that the GPS website agenda is the official one and will follow the revised agenda but will check with legal counsel.

### **III. Public Comment**

Verne Sund, Greenfield, expressed support for School Committee, teachers, and adequately staffed schools.

Jesus Leyva, Greenfield, asked how much of FY24 operating budget is being paid with ESSR funds, which will not be available in FY25.

Doug Selwyn, Greenfield, thanked Members Deneeve & Martini for lobbying in Boston for better school funding; thanked City Ways & Means for their extra efforts to find more funding for schools; noted recent visit by MA Secretary of Education and need for school districts to work together to solve similar funding struggles.

### **IV. Reports**

#### **A. Student Representatives**

S.T. and N.J. reported on GHS clubs, classes, community service projects, music and sports events, and noted student opinions re: school funding and program cuts. *(Details in written report.)*

#### **B. Budget Update**

Dr. DeBarge provided budget summary. Close-out of FY23 budget underway. FY24 Circuit Breaker and School Choice: anticipate changes to FY24 amounts; concern that although best practice is saving this year's funds for next year's expenses, we need to use current year's funds for current year's expenses.

## V. Business

### A. Censure of a Member

**AP moved to censure Mayor Wedegartner for violating the confidentiality of this body, by sharing in a *Recorder* editorial, published April 16, 2023, how she voted in an Executive Session vote. SE 2nd.**

Mayor wrote in editorial that she “voted favorably on all settled contracts” in executive session.  
**GJM moved to table. ED 2nd.**

Discussion: Concern that “Censure of a Member” on agenda wasn’t specific enough to allow members to consider. Perhaps need to discuss censure with legal counsel. Censure was on revised agenda; concern that agenda is revised frequently.

**Motion to table passed 4-2-1** (Yes - ED, JW, RW, GJM; No - SE, KM; Abstain - AP).

### B. Food Service Summer Pay Rates

**JW moved to approve the pay rate for Summer 2023 for food service workers, to be increased as outlined in the April 21, 2023 memo from Greta Shwachman [Food Service Director]. ED 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

### C. Second Reading and Vote on Condom Availability Policy

**GJM moved to adopt Policy JLCDA Condom Availability as presented on second reading. AP 2nd.** No changes from first reading. Wording of “may be made available” to allow flexibility re: supplies, pattern of mischievous mis-use, etc.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**GJM moved that the School Committee encourage the administration to develop procedures to make condoms available to students without restrictions. ED 2nd.**

Dr. DeBarge reported that legal precedent set by Falmouth MA case is that condom distribution program in public schools does not need parental permission, opt-out or counseling.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

### D. Second Reading and Vote on Cellphone Policy

**GJM moved to adopt Policy JICJ Cell Phone Policy as presented on second reading. AP 2nd. Motion passed 5-2** (Yes - SE, GJM, AP, JW, RW; No - ED, KM).

### E. Surplus

Vote to declare curriculum materials and books at GMS & AEL surplus

Vote to declare technology equipment surplus

ED moved to consider both surplus topics as consent items. 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

**AP moved to declare both the curriculum materials and books at GMS, as well as the itemized technology equipment, as surplus, as outlined in the meeting materials. JW 2nd.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

### F. Superintendent Evaluation Update

AP described problems with DESE evaluation form, presented her revised, simplified form.

Discussion:

- Request to consider at June meeting to allow members time to review
- Desire for better evaluation process in future years.

- Reminder that School Committee members communicate directly with Superintendent, not discuss with staff.
- Suggestion for outside person to collate responses/data
- Progress on goals reflected in Superintendent's monthly reports

*SE left the meeting at 7:27 p.m.*

## **VI. Request for New Agenda Items**

School Committee Self-Evaluation, including post-mortem of last year's evaluation.

## **IV. Reports (continued)**

### **C. Reports of the Administration**

Karin Patenaude summarized recent work including professional development; high school math curricula; grant-funded projects; summer school; acknowledged with gratitude Teacher Appreciation Week and School Nurse Day. *(Details in written report.)*

#### **2. Superintendent**

Dr. DeBarge presented recent work including GHS Civics projects; meeting with area superintendents and MA Secretary of Education; new hires Merrill Miceli as Director of Early Childhood and David Messing as Director of Pupil Services; strategic planning; redistricting including feasibility of Option 2B, effect of intra-district choice; budget concerns. *(Details in written report.)*

### **D. School Committee Reports**

#### **1. Report of the Chair (AP)**

Celebrating all Greenfield educators during Teacher Appreciation Week.  
Work on City-side of budget continues, including Ways & Means meetings

#### **2. Policy Subcommittee (GJM)**

All-policies review continues. If anyone has particular policies to suggest for revision, tell GJM.

#### **3. Report from Advocacy Day (ED and KM)**

ED and KM reported on MASC's Day on the Hill at the Statehouse on May 4, including legislative priorities, challenges facing school districts, and useful networking with other school committees.

**VII. Executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a) (3): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; (7): to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements** (approval of executive session minutes from March 8, 2023, April 12, 2023, and May 3, 2023 meetings). *The committee will return to Open Session.*

KM moved to enter Executive Session. JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Entered Executive Session at 8:24 p.m.

Returned to public session at 8:50 p.m.

### **VIII. Unit A MOA**

**GJM moved to approve the MOU with Unit A re: 504 coordinator positions. JW 2nd. Motion failed 1-5 (Yes – GJM; No – KM, JW, ED, AP, RW).**

### **IX. Adjournment**

KM moved to adjourn. ED 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Farber  
Recording Secretary

### **Meeting Materials**

1. Agenda: May 10, 2023
2. Draft minutes: March 10, April 12, May 3, 2023
3. Superintendent's Update, May 10, 2023
4. Assistant Superintendent Update, May 10, 2023
5. Financial Reports, May 1, 2023
6. Superintendent Evaluation Draft
7. Memo from Greta Shwachman [Food Service Director] to Christine DeBarge, Supt. re: Pay Rates for Summer Eats 2023, April 21, 2023
8. Recycled Technology: Desktops
9. Library Weeding Lists: GMS, AEL (May 10, 2023)
10. JLCDA: Condom Availability Policy
11. JICJ: Cell Phone Policy
12. School Newsletters