

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, May 30, 2023
Greenfield MA**

Note: This meeting was held fully remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, §20.

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

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (ED, SE, GJM, KM, AP, JW, RW), Chair Proietti called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. 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.

AP explained that the expected documents are not yet ready. **JW moved to postpone Executive Session until regular June 14 meeting. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

III. Public Comment

Jesus Leyva, Greenfield, recommended dismissal of open meeting law complaint against Mayor; clarified 2 types of enrollment numbers, both showing decline in enrollment; urged state-level advocacy for funding.

Pamela Goodwin, Greenfield, spoke in support of open meeting law and for increased state funding for schools.

IV. Open Meeting Law Complaint from 5-16-23

Chair Proietti left the meeting. Vice-Chair Martini led the meeting.

KM read the alleged violations in the complaint filed by Chair Proietti against Mayor Wedegartner and outlined the required process.

Discussion:

Concern is deliberation via email, not the content of the emails.

Differing opinions: information-sharing or deliberation?

Support for OML training

Timing of various steps of OML complaint

Mayor Wedegartner left the meeting.

KM moved that each member of the School Committee review the text of the Open Meeting Law and do one of the following: review the Open Meeting Law Guide or attend a webinar training offered by the Office of the Attorney General, and inform the Vice-Chair as such by email, any time within the next 60 days. SE 2nd.

Discussion:

Preference for in-person training

Possible topic for the yet-to-be-created ad hoc committee related to the School Committee's self-evaluation.

Motion failed 2-3 (Yes – GJM, KM; No – SE, ED, JW).

GJM moved that the School Committee direct the Superintendent to coordinate an Open Meeting Law training within the context of a working session, informed by questions members submit to the Superintendent. ED 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

GJM moved that we direct the Superintendent to report to the Attorney General what we decided tonight to remediate the complaint. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Adjournment

KM moved to adjourn. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

1. Agenda: May 30, 2023
2. Open Meeting Law complaint