

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, June 14, 2023**
Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St., Greenfield MA

Present: Elizabeth Deneve (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; Strategic Planning Facilitation Team: Judith Houle, Casey Handfield, Paul Livingston; Andy Paquette, TMS Business Manager (via phone); 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 6:13 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

KM moved to approve draft minutes of May 10 and May 30, 2023. JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Jesus Leyva, Greenfield, asked the School Committee to support S303 increasing state share of K12 education from 41% to 46%, and encouraged the School Committee to be involved at the state level.

Tom Bevacqua pointed to increasing numbers of Spanish-speaking Americans, urged GPS to reinstate Spanish-language education at the middle school, and added support for world language instruction starting at elementary level.

Judy Bennett, Greenfield, GHS teacher, thanked members for their efforts during budget process, expressed support for candidates advocating for better state funding of education and support for teaching Spanish language.

Julie Carew, Greenfield, spoke in favor of funding music programs at all schools and Strings for Kids.

Melissa Webb, Greenfield, urged redistricting process to create equity, expressed support for music programs.

IV. Reports

A. Student Representatives

S.T. and N.J. reported on Student Council and clubs, band performances, summer reading challenge, Pride parade, community service, AP classes and final exams, end-of-year celebrations, volleyball team. June 22 is last day of school. *(Details in written report.)*

V. Business

A. Strategic Plan

The Strategic Planning Facilitation Team – Judith Houle, Casey Handfield, and Paul Livingston – summarized the process of creating the Strategic Plan. Mission statement: *The Greenfield Public School District is a place where every child is supported on their path to success.* Dr. DeBarge

described the strategic goals in curriculum/instruction, instructional supports, communications/outreach, operations. *Details in written report.*

Discussion:

- Request for regular updates to School Committee on progress on implementation of strategic plan.
- Importance of professional development, including for School Committee members.
- Potential need for additional staff such as enrichment coordinator or stipends for staff.

JW moved to accept as presented, and provided appropriate appropriations, the Strategic Plan for the Greenfield Public Schools, covering July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2028. KM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

GJM moved to consider tree donation next. ED 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Tree Donation

GHS Science Teacher Judy Bennett described working with the Greenfield Tree Committee, students and administration re: planting white oak tree at GHS in memory of Donna Woodcock.

Discussion: Support for plaque by tree.

RW moved that the Greenfield School Committee accept the donation of a tree from the Greenfield Tree Committee, to be planted at Greenfield High School in memoriam for the late Greenfield High School Principal Donna Woodcock. ED 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Budget Update & FY23/FY4 Comparison

Amy Paquette described tasks toward closing out FY23 in one month.

D. Final vote on Fiscal Year 2024 Budget

Dr. DeBarge presented updated version of draft FY24 budget, revised to reflect 8.6% increase in appropriation approved by City Council. Goal is to move all salaries from temporary ESSER grant into general budget to provide staff stability. Reviewed specific changes in new proposed budget, including what has been reinstated or reallocated.

Discussion:

- Music staff preference for funding secondary chorus over 4th-grade band. Sharp decline in GMS/GHS students' enrollment in music electives. Additional music teacher would cost \$80K. Subsidy of Strings for Kids is back in this budget.
- Middle-school Spanish position not funded in this budget. GMS students get 6-to-10-week introduction to Spanish. Number of electives related to need for teachers to have prep periods. 8th grade students take Spanish or French.
- Concern re: reduced line item for McKinney-Vento transportation.
- Currently-vacant positions are included in this budget.
- Increase in athletic funding related to increase costs for equipment, requirements for certified training-room staff.
- Concern that "painful cuts" will reduce enrollment.
- Consider cutting \$169K for textbooks from FY24 budget, request as capital expense for FY25.
- Possibility of supplemental budget request to City Council.

KM moved that the School Department make a FY25 capital request to fund textbooks for \$169,050 and fund the middle school Spanish position and secondary choral teacher. ED 2nd. Motion failed 2-5 (Yes – KM, ED; No – RW, JW, GJM, SE, AP).

SE moved to accept as presented the Fiscal Year 2024 budget for the Greenfield Public Schools. JW 2nd. Motion passed 5-2 (Yes – RW, JW, GJM, SE, AP; No – KM, ED).

E. Censure of a Member

AP referred to Policy BBAA and Robert’s Rules on Censure Motions. No action at tonight’s meeting.

F. Superintendent Evaluation Tool / Subcommittee Assignments

AP explained Committee’s frustration with previously-used tool. Creating ad hoc committee to develop better process: ED as Chair, members KM and AP.

AP presented new subcommittee assignments.

GJM moved to accept the updated Subcommittee assignment list as presented. ED 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

SE moved that "Superintendent Evaluation Form Ad Hoc Subcommittee" be charged with revising the evaluation tool used by the full School Committee in a format agreeable to both the Superintendent and the Committee for a written evaluation of Superintendent progress toward goals in 2024. GJM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Note that “revising” may mean entirely new format.

G. Greenfield High School Trips in April 2024: to Paris and the Chateaux; to the Mediterranean Coast.

GJM moved accept as a consent item and as presented both Greenfield High School trips, one to Paris, and one to the Mediterranean Coast, both occurring in April 2024. KM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Request for New Agenda Items

School Committee Self-Evaluation and School Committee calendar planned for July meeting.

IV. Reports (continued)

B. School Committee Reports

1. Report of the Chair (AP)

AP presented earlier the updated subcommittee assignments (*chart below*). Need to move to hybrid meetings, to be discussed at July meeting.

Budget & Finance Subcommittee	Eckstrom	Martini	Johnson-Mussad
Policy & Program Subcommittee	Johnson-Mussad	Proietti	Deneeve
Redistricting Ad Hoc Committee	Wall	Johnson-Mussad	Deneeve
Supt. Eval. Form Ad Hoc Committee	Deneeve	Martini	Wall
Rep. - Personnel & Collective Bargaining	Wall	Proietti (alt)	
Rep. - Collaborative for Education	Deneeve		

Rep. - City Planning & Construction	Proietti	
Rep. - Library Building Committee	Wall	
Rep. - Sick Bank	Martini	Johnson-Mussad (alt)
Rep. - Strategic Planning	Wall	
Rep. - Wellness Committee	<i>Proietti</i>	

* *Bold italic indicates change from prior assignments*

2. Budget Subcommittee (SE)

Subcommittee's work already presented during budget discussion.

3. Policy Subcommittee (GJM)

First Thursday meetings will continue. Goal is to review all policies so MASC will host GPS policy manual online as searchable document.

4. Redistricting Subcommittee (JW)

Superintendent has sent survey to all teachers re: Option 1, different buildings for K-1, 2-3, 4-5, and Option 2B, redrawing boundaries for schools and moving 5th grade back to middle school. Summary of options available on website. Subcommittee will continue to meet and then bring proposal to Committee.

5. Collaborative for Educational Services (ED)

ED shared data grid showing that GPS is one of the top users of cost-free CES services.

6. State-Level Legislative Advocacy

ED moved that the Greenfield School Committee accept Resolution S335, as presented. KM 2nd.

Resolution S335: WHEREAS we believe special education is a public service and should be funded appropriately through circuit breaker, we RESOLVE to support changing the special education reimbursement from 75% to 90%.

ED sees this as a longer-term commitment to state-level advocacy, consistent with Policy BJ, School Committee Legislative Program. **Motion passed 6-0-1** (abstain – AP).

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.

RW moved to enter Executive Session. GJM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Entered Executive Session at 10:16 p.m. Returned to public session at 10:43 p.m.

VIII. Public vote on Executive Session items

A. MOU re: 504 Coordinator

RW moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for the 504 Coordinator in the district, as presented. GJM 2nd. Motion passed 5-1-1 (Yes – AP, JW, RW, SE, GJM; No – KM; Abstain – ED).

B. Contract Proposals to the Administrative Assistant Association

JW moved to approve the initial contract proposals to the Administrative Assistant Association. RW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Adjournment

GJM moved to adjourn. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

1. Agenda: June 14, 2023
2. Draft minutes: May 10, May 30, 2023
3. Financial Reports,
 - a. FY23 Reports, June 6, 2023
 - b. FY24 Template, Cut List
 - c. State Funding for Schools (SOA FY23, FY24)
4. Student Representatives Report, June 14, 2024
5. Strategic Planning documents: GPS Data Report, Greenfield 2021 DESE Dart Per-Pupil Analysis; GPS Strategic Plan School Committee 2023-06-09
6. Spanish Trip Proposal, April 2024
7. France Trip Proposal, April 2024
8. MASC Public Policy Priorities 2023
9. Tree Donation Request, Judy Bennett
10. Policies: EC, Buildings and Grounds Management; BBAA School Committee Member Authority
11. Resolution June 2023 re: S335
12. CES: District Usage Grid
13. Overview of Robert's Rules on Member Discipline
14. "My Turns," Mayor Roxann Wedegartner
15. GPS School Committee Subcommittee Assignments, June 2023
16. School Newsletters