

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, July 12, 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)

Absent: Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

Also present: Christine DeBarge, Superintendent; Karin Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent; Andy Paquette, TMS Business Manager; Michael Placinta, Chair, Providence Christian Academy.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

KM moved to approve draft minutes of June 14, 2023. JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Budget Update

Andy Paquette, Business Manager, reported continued progress on wrapping up the year to meet the City's deadline of 7/24.. Retroactive pays have been calculated and paid out. Negative balance will be taken care of via reclassification.

V. Business

A. Move to a Hybrid Meeting Format

AP introduced community benefits of hybrid meetings. Hybrid technology is available in Community Center and the new library.

ED moved that the Greenfield School Committee adopt a hybrid meeting format for regular monthly meetings as soon as practicable, and ideally for the September 2023 meeting. GJM 2nd.

Members willing to be trained as tech support should notify AP via email.

Motion passed unanimously.

B. Providence Christian Academy

AP explained that we are following DESE process to review and approve private school.

AP moved that the Greenfield School Committee approve the operation, in the City of Greenfield, of Providence Christian Academy, beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. JW 2nd.

Discussion:

- PCA is not local, part of a franchise. Concern re: values within curriculum.
- Legal counsel advises strongly for approval. Cannot reject private school based on religious teaching. Request to delay decision to allow review of previous legal decisions.
- Private schools not required to have special education or teacher certification. Providence could run identical school year calendar. Private schools can use different methods of assessment.
- PCA's curriculum already approved as homeschool curriculum.
- GPS would be required to offer transportation to PCA.

- Approx. 31 students grades K-4
- PCA parents are our neighbors trying to do the best for their children.
- Idea for PCA began with noting many like-minded families are homeschooling.

JW moved to table until next month. GJM 2nd. Motion to table passed 4-2 (Yes: ED, JW, GJM, KM. No: SE, AP)

C. Surplus: Library Books at Greenfield Middle School

ED moved to declare the library books at Greenfield Middle School surplus, as inventoried and presented to the School Committee. 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Policies

1. First Reading Policy BDE Subcommittees of the School Committee

ED moved that we approve the first reading of amendments to Policy BDE “Subcommittees of the School Committee,” as presented. AP 2nd.

GJM explained 2 revisions: formatting error listing standing committees, and designation of Chair and Superintendent as ad hoc members of all standing committees. Proposed BDE is MASC model policy. Second reading likely at August meeting.

Support for holding organizational meeting to select officers separate from and in advance of January’s regular meeting. Subcommittee assignments announced at January’s regular meeting.

Policy Subcommittee also to review policy on ad hoc committees.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. First Reading Policy BDA School Committee Organizational Meeting

KM moved that we approve the first reading of amendments to Policy BDA School Committee Organizational Meeting, as presented. SE 2nd.

Only change is to allow public comment before election of officers.

Disagreement about appropriateness of allowing public comment on officer elections.

Motion tied 3-3 (Yes – GJM, ED, KM. No – JW, SE, AP).

GJM withdrew the motion.

SE moved to direct the Policy Subcommittee to revise Policy BDA “School Committee Organizational Meeting” to include an organizational meeting that proceeds the first meeting. ED 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

E. School Committee Calendar update

SE prepared calendar, now available to all members. Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary have editing powers; all others are Viewers.

Request to add benchmarks including budget season and deadlines, evaluations.

VI. Request for New Agenda Items

- Request to invite our state legislators to discuss rural schools bill in fall. GPS is not technically a rural school, but general improvements in that bill are applicable.
- Request to repeat School Buildings Tour this year. Dr. DeBarge will arrange.
- ED to contact Dr. DeBarge re: attending MASC conference in November.

IV. Reports

A. Reports of the Administration

1. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Karin Patenaude reported on progress with curricula: Illustrative Math for GHS; civics projects grades 8-12; elementary math curriculum updated to Eureka Math Squared; Imagine Math for K-12 for intervention & acceleration. Grants. Summer school. *Details in written report.*

Website in process of thorough updating. Request to have School Council meetings accurately posted. Suggestion for Subcommittee section to follow same format as School Committee or one page for all Subcommittee meetings.

2. Superintendent

Busy with summertime work, including planning by administrators, cleaning by custodial staff; new district-wide hires and open positions; administrative retreat. Re-envisioning School Facilities: working on details of Option 2B. *Details in written report.*

Re-districting Report (JW)

Surveys went out to teachers. Committee deciding when to bring report forward to community.

B. School Committee Reports

1. Report of the Chair (AP)

School Committee Self-evaluation: Liz Lafond promises MASC support for self-evaluation again this year.

Reports to City Council: Chair and Superintendent typically present in-person reports to City Council. In July and August, these will be written reports.

Summer Eats Program: Acknowledge hard work & success of Food Service Department in providing free meals for children 18 & under.

GHS Softball Team are Champions second year in a row. Congratulations!

C. Subcommittee Reports

1. Redistricting Subcommittee (JW) – *Report provided earlier in meeting.*

2. Budget Subcommittee (SE) – Will meet soon.

3. Collaborative for Educational Services (ED): CES finalized their budget.

VII. Executive session pursuant to MGL c. 30A, s. 21(a) (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 May 30, 2023 and June 14, 2023 meetings).

AP recommended not holding executive session to only approve minutes and instead move directly to adjournment.

IX. Adjournment

GJM moved to adjourn. SE 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

1. Agenda: July 12, 2023
2. Draft minutes: June 14, 2023
3. Superintendent's Update, July 11, 2023
4. Assistant Superintendent Update, July 12, 2023
5. Financial Reports, June 30, 2023
6. Providence Christian Academy: Notification, Curriculum, Additional Information
7. Policies: BDE Subcommittees of the School Committee; BDA School Committee Member Authority, revision
8. GMS Weeding Log, February-June 2023