

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES: Wednesday, August 9, 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; Andy Paquette, TMS Business Manager; citizens and the press.

### **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**

**JW moved to approve draft minutes of July 12 and July 31, 2023. AP 2nd. Motion passed 6-0-1 (RW abstain).**

**III. Executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a) (2): To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; (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*).**

KM moved to enter Executive Session. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Entered Executive Session at 6:03 p.m. Returned to public session at 7:00 p.m.

### **IV. Collective Bargaining Agreement for Bus Drivers & Monitors**

**RW moved to approve the Settlement Agreement between the Greenfield School Committee and the Greenfield Bus Drivers and Monitors Transit Division, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026, as amended in the executive session. JW 2nd. Noted that amendment is to correct a typographical error. Motion passed 6-0-1 (ED abstain).**

### **V. Public Comment**

Emily Greene, Greenfield, spoke against tax money going to support Providence Christian School due to church's position on LGBTQ+ rights, and asked School Committee members to write letters asking DESE and elected representatives to strengthen separation of church and state and to consider inclusion in approving a private school.

### **VI. Budget Update**

Andy Paquette, Business Manager, reported that the FY23 close-out ended slightly better than anticipated, helped by vacant positions savings.

Discussion: The School Committee receives two identical budget reports, one in MUNIS format and the other in Excel format.

**GJM moved that the Business Manager provide the School Committee with only the MUNIS report. ED 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **VII. Business**

### **A. Phonak Roger Touchscreen Mic Surplus**

**Motion made, seconded, that the Greenfield School Committee declare the Phonak Roger Touchscreen Mic surplus district property. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **B. Donation of Phones from Hudson Public Schools**

**Motion made, seconded, that Greenfield School Committee accept the donation of telephones from the Hudson Public Schools with our gratitude. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **C. First Reading of Policies KF & KF-R, "Community Use of School Facilities"**

**Motion made, seconded to approve the first reading of amendments to Policies KF & KF-R, "Community Use of School Facilities," as presented.**

- Revisions are to update details and to move routine administration of rentals from the School Committee to the Superintendent.
- Fees charged to outside organizations are not covering expenses. Revised fees will include pay for GPS staff needed by the event.
- 2nd reading and approval at School Committee's September meeting.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

### **D. New Facility Rental Fees**

**Motion made, seconded that the Greenfield School Committee accept the revised Facility Rental Fees, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **E. Superintendent's Evaluation**

Discussion of and instructions on using evaluation form. Members to deliver to Chair Proietti or Central Office by Friday, August 25. Dr. DeBarge explained the structure of her report.

## **VIII. New Agenda Items**

- Request to add breaks to School Committee agenda.
- With election of new members in fall, request to review and discuss pertinent parts of Section B, such as BCA "School Committee Member Ethics," to orient new members and as reminder to continuing members. SE will review Section B, make recommendations on which policies to include.

## **IX. Reports**

### **A. Reports of the Administration**

#### **1. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning**

Karin Patenaude summarized recent work including grants, summer school, and strategic planning re: curriculum. *(Details in written report.)*

## **2. Superintendent**

- Formative evaluation document serves as Superintendent's report.
- Dr. DeBarge announced that effective June 30, 2024 she is retiring from public education to give attention to her family. She looks forward to good work and progress in the coming academic year and praised GPS' extraordinary staff.

## **B. School Committee Reports**

### **1. Chair (AP)**

- Move to hybrid meetings likely in October. ED, KM will join the tech support group. AP will schedule tech training.
- MASC November conference: ED, KM will attend; all arrangements set.
- Mass. FY24 budget includes continued funding of universal school meals - free breakfast/lunch for all students.
- Invite state representative and senator to Sept. or Oct. meeting to discuss Rural Schools Bill.

### **2. Subcommittee Reports**

#### **a. Redistricting (JW)**

- Planning continues for option 2B. School Committee will vote in October.
- GPS administrators planned room assignments in elementary schools for K-5 configuration and redrawing of city's school areas.
- Transportation costs for 2B are less than other options.
- Staff survey: 85% prefer 2B.
- Next steps: Draft plans for elementary specials, 8th grade move from GHS to GMS, intra-district choice. Meet with GEA re: impacts on staff.
- Equity in distributing low-income students among 3 elementary schools.
- Changes for 2024-2025, not next year.

#### **b. Budget (SE)**

ED presented opportunity to request capital-expense funding via earmarks in state budget. Budget Subcommittee to meet to identify projects and prepare to present at Sept. School Committee meeting. Mayor, city and school business managers will provide guidance.

## **X. Adjournment**

RW moved to adjourn. SE 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Farber  
Recording Secretary

## **Meeting Materials**

1. Agenda: August 9, 2023
2. Draft minutes: July 12, July 31, 2023
3. Superintendent's Formative Evaluation Report, August 9, 2023
4. Mid-Cycle Formative Assessment form
5. Assistant Superintendent Update, August 9, 2023
6. Financial Reports, August 3, 2023
7. Policies KF and KF-R, "Community Use of School Facilities"

8. Email from David Messing, Director of Pupil Services, re: sale of Phonak Roger Touchscreen Mic, July 25, 2023, and device datasheet
9. Letter from Ellen K. Schuck, Hudson Public Schools, to Dr. Christine DeBarge, re: donation of phones, June 14, 2023