

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, November 8, 2023
Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St., Greenfield MA**

Present: Elizabeth Deneve (ED) *via phone*; Susan Eckstrom (SE); Kathryn Martini (KM) *via phone*; Glenn Johnson-Mussad (GJM); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW)

Absent: Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

Also present: Christine DeBarge, Superintendent; Karin Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent; Members-Elect Ann Childs and Stacey Sexton; and citizens.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (ED, SE, KM, GJM, AP, JW), Chair Proietti called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

JW moved to approve draft minutes of October 11, 2023. GJM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Student Representatives Report

S.T. and T.T. reported on GHS Student Council, clubs, sports. Challenges continue with inadequate number of restrooms available to students.

IV. Update on Re-envisioning our School Facilities

Chair Proietti clarified that vote on redistricting is anticipated at December meeting, not tonight.

Dr. DeBarge provided an overview of the redistricting timeline, beginning in Sept. 2021 with tour of Green River School; discussions focused on equity; NESDEC consultants' preparation of data and options; consideration of options resulting in choice of Option 2B; detailed exploration of 2B including implications for intradistrict choice, special education programs, class sizes, staffing and staff schedules, transportation, union contracts. (*See details in Re-Imagining our Schools report.*)

ED and KM, currently attending a School Committee conference, left the meeting at 6:41.

AP stated that redistricting changes will be tied to policies on walkers and riders, attendance areas, assignment of students to schools.

JW, Chair of redistricting committee, stated initial goals: to address unequal funding and status of elementary schools, which favored Four Corners; to create equity; and to move 5th grade from middle school to elementary and 8th grade from high school to middle school. Noted that years ago Leyden Woods students were moved out of Four Corners to allow room for intradistrict choiced-in students. Concerns that allowing intradistrict choiced-in students to remain at Four Corners will result in crowding at that school.

GJM, redistricting committee member, praised community discussions held early in the process and stressed the importance of equity. School Committee will make decisions based on collectively what's best for Greenfield students, though with understanding of parents' concerns regarding their own children.

AP presented potential motions for December meeting:

Beginning with the 2024-25 academic year, the Greenfield School Committee and Greenfield Public Schools adopt the Reenvisioning our School Facilities option 2B, which redraws boundaries for the elementary schools, to better reflect the makeup of the City, and allow for three elementary schools housing Grades K-5, and moving Grade 8 to Greenfield Middle School.

Beginning with the 2024-25 academic year, the Greenfield School Committee policies JC, JCA, and EEAA are closely followed. Elementary students will attend the school to which they are assigned, based on district boundaries, even if they currently attend a different elementary school.

Dr. DeBarge clarified that Option 2B can proceed with or without intradistrict choice, and underscored the need to have a decision soon because of budget and staffing implications.

AP asked members remain open to hearing from the public and to consider any additional options prior to December's vote.

V. Public Comment

Greenfield residents spoke on issues of redistricting and intra-district choice:

Marguerite Rancourt	Rebecca Rideout
Rose Skriloff	Melissa Webb
Luke Martin	Tara Kurland
Sarah Chase	

VI. Budget Update

Andy Paquette, Business Manager, explained that deficits in budget report are due to encumbrances that have not yet been moved from local into revolving accounts.

Nine Franklin County school districts are cooperating on transportation bid. Five-year bid requires City Council's approval. Cost per-bus per-day contract will allow clear picture of changes to transportation costs due to redistricting.

VII. Business

A. Surplus: Ice Machine

GJM moved that the ice machine [belonging to the district] be declared as surplus. AP 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Policies:

1. Policy Section B, "Board Governance and Operations"

Section B had been voted on as two first readings rather than a first and a second readings. This vote is to correct and complete the process.

GJM moved that we adopt Policy Section B, "Board Governance and Operations," as presented on the second reading. AP 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Policy BDA, "School Committee Organizational Meeting"

GJM explained that current policy BDA is inconsistent with the Town Charter's requirements for organizational meetings. This revision aligns with the Town Charter and adds public comment before election of officers.

GJM moved that we approve the 1st reading of amendments to policy BDA “School Committee Organizational Meeting,” as presented. SE 2nd. Discussion supported alignment with Town Charter, differed on appropriateness of public comment.
Motion failed 1-3 (Yes - GJM; No – SE, AP, JW).

GJM moved to approve the organizational meeting policy revision on 1st reading with omission of the public comment period, that is, the 3rd paragraph of the proposed revised policy. AP 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Job Descriptions: Assistant Business Manager, Accounting Assistant

Andy Paquette, Business Manager, explained that new job descriptions clarify roles and additional responsibilities in the business office. AP noted that new job descriptions are not required to come before the School Committee, but this practice underscores collegial relationship and keeps members informed.

GJM moved to approve the job descriptions [Assistant Business Manager, Accounting Assistant] **as presented. JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

VIII. New Agenda Items - None

IX. Reports

A. Reports of the Administration

1. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Karin Patenaude summarized recent work including professional development; college and career readiness programs; grants; mentor program. *(Details in written report.)*

2. Superintendent

Dr. DeBarge discussed weather closures; GHS memorial for Donna Woodcock; staffing changes including new Director of Facilities Michael Boudreau.

B. School Committee Reports: Chair (AP)

School Committee interviewing Assistant Superintendent Karin Patenaude for position of Superintendent, on Nov. 14.

Congratulations to Ann Childs and Stacey Sexton, newly elected to 4-year School Committee terms beginning January.

Newly elected Mayor Ginny DeSorgher will also join School Committee in January.

X. Adjournment

JW moved to adjourn. GJM 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 8:33.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

1. Agenda: November 8, 2023
2. Draft minutes: October 11, 2023
3. Student Report: November 8, 2023
4. Superintendent's Update, November 8, 2023
5. Assistant Superintendent Update, November 8, 2023
6. Financial Reports, November 2, 2023
7. Policies JC "Attendance Areas," EEAA "Walkers and Riders," JCA "Assignment of Students to Schools"
8. Proposed Policy BDA "School Committee Organizational Meeting"
9. Policies: Section B, revised March 2022
10. School Newsletters
11. Job Descriptions: Assistant Business Manager, Accounting Assistant
12. Surplus: Ice Machine
13. Re-Imagining our School Facilities: Timeline, Summary of Options, October 2023
14. Street/Assigned School (draft)