

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

Present: Susan Eckstrom (SE); Glenn Johnson-Mussad (GJM); Kathryn Martini (KM); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW); Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

Absent: Elizabeth Deneeve (ED);

Also present: Christine DeBarge, Superintendent; Karin Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent; other school staff and citizens.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (SE, GJM, KM, AP, JW, RW), Chair Proietti called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. Interview with Karin Patenaude, candidate for Superintendent

Karin Patenaude offered an opening statement and responded to questions from members:

1. (AP) This is a two-part question. First, how would you spend your first six months as Superintendent, and at this time, what do you see as short-term priorities? And the second part: What would be your most critical long-range objective?
2. (JW) What inequities do you see in student experience and outcomes in the Greenfield Public Schools and what would you do to improve them? Can you speak to this question specifically with regard to students with disabilities?
3. (RW) Both recently and in times past, Greenfield Public Schools has served students placed in emergency shelters locally. Can you speak to both your educational philosophy on serving vulnerable populations and also your approach to community partnerships for serving such populations?
4. (SE) Could you please explain the job description of your current job as Assistant Superintendent and the job description of the Superintendent. How will you navigate this transition?
5. (GJM) When taking on the role of Superintendent, what do you envision the role of a new Assistant Superintendent would take on, and how do you envision that relationship would work? Some people think you should combine the jobs and not have an Assistant Superintendent. Do you think that would be feasible? Why or why not?
6. (KM) What is parent/family engagement to you, and how can a Superintendent practice and lead others in improving it?
7. (KM) I'm interested in your experience with facilitating mentoring and professional development for district administrators. How would you approach this work and what experiences have you had in your own professional path that inform that approach? Can you give an example of an effective mentoring relationship you've been a part of?

8. (GJM) What do you believe a School Committee is able to do to make the greatest impact on student achievement and how will you as a Superintendent collaborate with the School Committee toward that?

9. (KM) How can literacy be achieved for the most number of students and how do you use data to make informed decisions about this? What support does a Superintendent need to give to teachers and staff (and receive) in order to effect this?

10. (KM) Arts education has been proven to enhance wellbeing and academic outcomes for all students. How would you prioritize this throughout our schools and collaborate with educators and others to support this?

At Ms. Patenaude's request, School Committee members described their top priorities for the new superintendent.

III. Superintendent Decision

Motion made and seconded that the Greenfield School Committee enter into contract negotiations with Assistant Superintendent Karin Patenaude, to be our next Superintendent, beginning July 1, 2024.

Next steps: Discuss contract in executive session, work with MASC and legal counsel, and seek Superintendent DeBarge's advice.

Motion passed unanimously, to applause.

IV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made, seconded, and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

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