

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, January 10, 2024
Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St., Greenfield MA**

Present: Ann Childs (AC); Elizabeth Deneeve (ED); Mayor Ginny DeSorgher (GD); Glenn Johnson-Mussad; (GJM); Kathryn Martini (KM); Amy Proietti (AP); Stacey Sexton (SS)

Absent: None

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

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (AC, ED, GD, GJM, KM, AP, SS), Chair Johnson-Mussad called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Student Representatives Report

T.T. reported on GHS Student Council and clubs.

IV. Budget Update

Andy Paquette, Business Manager, presented January reports. Work continues on aligning accounts. Budget numbers are as expected.

Discussion:

- Request for training members how to read budget reports and/or a more easily accessible format.
- Staff vacancies: IA vacancies; using contracted services for some vacant professional positions, e.g., speech pathologist, BCBA.
- Request to include capital projects budget.

V. Reports of the Administration

A. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Karin Patenaude summarized recent work including professional development, curriculum, student teachers through UMass. *(Details in written report.)*

B. Superintendent

Dr. DeBarge presented recent work, including FY25 budget, staffing changes, school building tours on January 26, weather-related school closures and delays, music programs. *(Details in written report.)*

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of minutes from December 13, 2023, December 22, 2023, and January 2, 2024 meetings

B. Acknowledgment of Correspondence: School Newsletters

KM moved to approve the consent agenda. ED 2nd. Motion passed 6-0-1 (abstain: GJM).

VII. Subcommittee Assignments & Representatives

Standing (* = chair)

Budget & Finance: Martini*, Childs, DeNeeve

Policy & Program: Johnson-Mussad*, DeNeeve, Proietti

Executive: Johnson-Mussad*, Martini, DeNeeve

Ad Hoc

Redistricting & Reorganizing: Sexton*, Childs, DeSorgher

School Committee Handbook: DeNeeve*, Martini, Sexton

Representatives

IT Collective Bargaining: Sexton

CES: Proietti

City Planning & Construction: Childs

Legislative: DeNeeve

Assistant Superintendent Search Committee: Martini

MASC Division V: DeNeeve

District Wellness: Proietti

Proietti, as District Wellness Committee representative, sought clarification on how new wellness/nutrition standards would be added.

KM moved to approve the 2024 Standing Committee, Ad Hoc Committee, and Representative assignments as presented. SS 2nd.

Discussion:

- Next step: each committee to set up regular meeting schedule. Superintendent attends, so include with scheduling.
- School Committee Handbook will codify operational guidelines; e.g., self-evaluation process. Will work with MASC to develop.
- GJM considering Superintendent Evaluation Advisory Committee.
- Racial Justice Advisory Committee has not been active. All committees to consider equity and racial justice; racial justice is one focus of redistricting.

Motion passed 6-0-1 (abstain: GJM).

VIII. School Committee Handbook *Previously discussed*

IX. Review School Committee Calendar of Topics

Calendar will be a month-by-month list of recurring topics and responsibilities. Executive Subcommittee will develop.

X. School Committee 2024 Goals

Discussion of goals to consider:

- Planning to build new central elementary school; would include clearer picture of capital budget
- Professional development for members – e.g., reading the budget
- Meetings to be hybrid to allow remote public participation, as access issue
- Possibility of regionalizing schools (joining with other districts)
- Outreach to public; communication
- Organized focus on student outcomes
- Review of goals in June

Executive Committee will propose goals, considering School Committee capacity, and create operations plan including assigning goals to relevant subcommittees, perhaps creating new committees.

Members to send additional suggestions for goals to Dr. DeBarge by Jan. 17.

XI. Requests for New Agenda Items

- Hybrid meetings
- Consider changing meeting times

Going forward, process will be for requests to go directly to Chair Johnson-Mussad.

XII. School Committee Reports

A. Report of the Chair

GJM spoke to the importance of public institutions like school committees in democratic society; support for public input.

B. Subcommittee Reports

1. Redistricting

Redistricting process moving forward. Central office leadership working on logistics including timing; move students in phases or all at once; potential bus routes, negotiations with unions, financial impacts. Will look to School Committee for guidance, decisions.

2. Policy

Has been multi-year process, now at Section I. Goal to finish full revision of GPS policies with current Superintendent. Will update GPS website's policy section now; eventually GPS policies will move to hosting by MASC .

3. Budget

Superintendent's Budget must be complete by Feb. 2, so need to begin meeting next week.

Suggestions for budget priorities:

- Review funding for music program, including Strings for Kids
- Increased resources for restorative justice/social-emotional curriculum
- Mayor considering changes to City's budget calendar; most communities vote on budget in May and capital budget in the Fall.
- Request a master list of capital needs & improvements. On building tour, Supt. will note projects funded and approved but not yet completed (e.g., costs have increased beyond allocated funding).

4. Planning & Construction

January meeting canceled to allow time for transition in Mayor's office.

5. Collaborative for Educational Services

None

6. District Wellness Committee

Next step: Create GPS Policy to support and follow GPS Wellness Policy.

XIII. Executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a) (4): To discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto; (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 December 13, 2023 meeting).*

The committee will not return to Open Session.

KM moved to enter executive session. AP 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

AP moved to adjourn the public session. SS 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Public session adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

XIV. Adjournment

GD moved, AP 2nd, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned out of Executive Session at 8:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Farber

Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

1. Agenda: January 10, 2024
2. Draft minutes: December 13, 2023; December 22, 2023; January 2, 2024
3. Student Report: January 10, 2024
4. Superintendent's Update, January 9, 2024
5. Assistant Superintendent Update, January 10, 2024
6. GPS Tour Schedule, January 26, 2024
7. Financial Reports, December 8, 2023 and January 5, 2024
8. School newsletters