

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**APPROVED SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MINUTES: Wednesday, February 14, 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; Andy Paquette, Business Manager; 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 6:01 p.m.

### **II. Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching Award**

Introduction of and praise for Jessica Carriveau, GMS teacher, recipient of this year's Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching award.

### **III. Public Comment**

Speaking in support of decommissioning Green River School to allow for other uses, and asking for clarification of the process: Kate Broughton, Susan Worgaftig, and Jesus Leyva, all of Greenfield. Mr. Leyva recommended converting to affordable housing.

### **IV. Report of Student Representatives to the Committee**

S.T. reported on GHS activities including Student Council, Best Buddies program, UMass Honor Band.

### **V. Reports of the Administration**

#### **A. Business Manager: Budget Update**

Andy Paquette, Business Manager, presented February reports. Continuing year-end closing, moving expenses between local budget and revolving accounts. Nothing concerning at this time. Reminder of request for training members how to read budget.

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

Karin Patenaude summarized recent work including professional development, curriculum updates including civics engagement through YELO forum, Title I support for Winter Carnival. *(Details in written report.)*

#### **C. Superintendent**

Dr. DeBarge presented recent work, including completion of the Superintendent's Budget with public hearing on Feb. 28; staffing changes and needs; weather-related decisions; potential state support for school libraries; registration for preschool and kindergarten. *(Details in written report.)*

### **VI. Consent Agenda**

**ED moved to approve the consent agenda. 2nd AC.**  
**Approve minutes of the January 10, 2024 meeting**

**Approve Designer Security Project Contract**  
**Accept Donation from Smith College for 10th Grade Field Trip**  
**Approve revised Wellness Policy**

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

## **VII. Business**

### **A. Contract for School Transportation Services**

KM moved to approve the contract for school transportation services [with FM Kusmeskus, Inc.]. AC 2nd. Motion passed 5-0-2 (abstain: ED, GJM).

### **B. Superintendent Evaluation**

Chair Johnson-Mussad noted dissatisfaction with the prior process, explained that no evaluation is needed this year for the outgoing superintendent. Will request professional development on process from MASC. Connection between goal-setting and evaluation content and timing.

### **C. YELO Follow Up** (DeNeeve and Sexton)

Youth Engage with Legislators and Officials (YELO) forum held at GHS in January. ED and SEE attended, met with small groups of students to explain the role and function of the School Committee. Students recommended improvements to schools including increased funding for field trips and music program; ability to earn credits for sports, music, other activities. Students requested more teen-oriented spaces and activities in the community.

## **VIII. Reports of the School Committee**

### **A. Report of the Chair**

Johnson-Mussad stressed importance of curriculum leadership and big-picture, holistic view of learning.

### **B. Budget & Finance Subcommittee** (Martini)

Report from last meeting:

Superintendent's Budget includes new positions: float custodians, AIs in special ed, elementary instrumental music teacher. Constituent support for music program.

New 5-year bus contract.

Budget ramifications of redistricting next year: Staff required for GMS full-year science, social studies, expansion of Spanish. Transitional social activities.

Presentation by Andy Paquette re: budget.

### **C. Policy & Program Subcommittee** (Johnson-Mussad)

Review of all policies continues, with revised Section I "Instruction" presented for second reading.

**SS moved to amend Policy I "Instruction" on the second reading, as presented. AP 2nd.**

Discussion:

- Policy Subcommittee to consider consolidating IGA and IGD, which seem redundant. Note that IGA and IGD reference different laws.
- IHB-AA: Incomplete version in packet. Understood that we are approving the correct version.

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

**D. Executive Subcommittee** (Johnson-Mussad) – no meeting

**E. Redistricting and Reorganizing Ad Hoc Committee** (Sexton)

Virtual meeting Feb. 21, 4:00pm, to discuss redistricting, Green River School.

**F. School Committee Handbook Ad Hoc Committee** (DeNeeve)

Working session March 27, 6-8pm, with goal of creating outline of topics. Inviting suggestions from community via email or from members at next meeting.

**G. Collaborative for Educational Services Representative** (Proietti)

Attended first meeting Jan. 31, will provide packet of information in March.

**H. City Planning & Construction Representative** (Childs) – Did not meet in February.

**I. Legislative Representative** (DeNeeve)

In preparation for Day on the Hill May 4, MASC giving legislative workshop for regional school committee members March 27, 6:30-8pm. Greenfield is hosting.

**J. Assistant Superintendent Search Committee Representative** (Martini)

From a good pool of applicants, 5 candidates interviewed. Two will be selected for second interviews, then decision. Start date to allow time for training by current Assistant Superintendent.

**K. District Wellness Committee Representative** (Proietti)

Noted that School Committee approved the revised Wellness Policy. No big changes from current policy. Superintendent will share new Wellness Policy with school community.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made, seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Farber  
Recording Secretary

## **Meeting Materials**

1. Agenda: February 14, 2024
2. Draft minutes January 10, 2024
3. Student Report: February 14, 2024
4. Superintendent's Update, February 14, 2024
5. Assistant Superintendent Update, February 14, 2024
6. Financial Reports, February 9, 2024
7. Policies Section I, Instruction
8. Contract for School Transportation Services: FM Kusmeskus, Inc., January 3, 2024
9. Greenfield City Council order re: transportation contract, January 17, 2024
10. Smith College donation materials
11. GPS Wellness Policy, February 2024
12. Greenfield PS Security
13. Commendations for Michael Boudreau, Stacy Hyer, Teresa Martinez, Teresa Poirier
14. School newsletters