

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES: Wednesday, February 28, 2023
Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St., Greenfield MA**

Present: Ann Childs (AC); Elizabeth Deneve (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; 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 6:54 p.m.

II. Public Comment

Speaking in favor of strengthening GPS's music program (*all of Greenfield*): Jenifer Gelineau; students N.W., G.A., H.A., E.A.; Erin Anhalt, president of Greenfield Band Parents Association; Pete Brown; John Anhalt; Melissa Webb

Melissa Webb also posed questions about student transportation.
Sarah Rashad urged investing in our town by investing in our children.

II. FY25 Budget Public Hearing

Motion made, seconded and passed, to open the Greenfield Public Schools FY25 Budget Public Hearing.

Dr. DeBarge provided budget presentation.
FY25 budget is 8.04% overall decrease from FY24 budget, primarily due to loss of grants that are expiring; and 5.29% increase in local appropriation over FY24 budget.

\$24,120,359 = total budget
\$ 7,917,112 = local funding request

- How budget is built
- Priorities for staff retention, professional development, technology, facilities, college/career readiness, specialized programs, strategic plan goals. Budget moves programs previously funded by expiring pandemic grants to local budget.
- Additional positions funded: Assistant Special Education Director; Elementary Instrumental Music Teacher; English Learner Teacher; Float Custodian; IT staff; HR/School Committee support
- Changes in individual school budgets are minor, primarily staff/contractual
- Anticipated grant funds and special funds (School Choice, Circuit Breaker, etc.)
- GPS is seeing improvement in attendance, reduction of chronic absentee rate; improved student performance in math/ELA as measured by RIT scores; positive results in HQIM for students and instructors; DESE's strength/need assessment of Federal Street and Newton.

Superintendent DeBarge led page-by-page review, noting significant changes in the FY25 budget cf. last year's budget. Many % increases/decreases are actually not changes but moving allocation to a different line in the budget.

KM moved to accept the Superintendent's Budget for FY25 as the School Committee Budget for FY25, at the total amount of \$24,120,359. ED 2nd.

Roll call: Yes – AC, ED, GJM, KM, AP, SS; Abstain – GD. Motion passed 6-0-1.

Motion made, seconded, passed to close the FY25 Budget Hearing.

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made, seconded, passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

1. Agenda: February 28, 2024
2. Notice of Budget Hearing
3. FY25 Superintendent's Budget