

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES: Wednesday, March 13, 2024
Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St., Greenfield MA**

Present: Ann Childs (AC); Elizabeth Deneeve (ED); Mayor Ginny DeSorgher (GD) (arrived 6:07); Glenn Johnson-Mussad; (GJM); Kathryn Martini (KM) (left 7:05); Amy Proietti (AP); Stacey Sexton (SS)

Absent: None

Also present: Christine DeBarge, Superintendent; Karin Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (AC, ED, GJM, KM, AP, SS), Chair Johnson-Mussad called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a) (2): To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

Motion made, seconded, passed to enter executive session. Entered executive session at 6:04 p.m. Returned to public session at 6:18 p.m.

III. Contract for Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning

KM moved to accept the contract for Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning. SS 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Assistant Superintendent Patenaude introduced Stephen Sullivan, the newly appointed Assistant Superintendent. Mr. Sullivan summarized his experience and qualifications in education as teacher and administrator.

IV. Public Comment – None

V. Report of Student Representatives to the Committee

S.T. and T.T. reported on GHS activities including Student Council, club activities, successful winter sports season. *(Details in written report.)*

VI. Reports of the Administration

A. Budget Update

Supt. DeBarge provided summary of current budget work, typical for this time of year. Focusing on reviewing tuition and contracted services for Special Ed; making budget transfers as needed; closing out purchase orders. Planning technology purchases with last of ESSER grant. Revolving accounts will have expenses charged at year-end. 50% of preschool tuition yet to be collected. Looking ahead to rest-of-year purchase orders and outstanding invoices.

B. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Karin Patenaude summarized recent work including professional development; curriculum updates and civics field trips; curriculum mapping for ELA and science; homeschool data; reading and math challenges for February break. *(Details in written report.)*

C. Superintendent

Dr. DeBarge announced hiring of Sarah Crawford, Assistant Director of Pupil Services; reassured that staff turnover this time of year is typical. Current work includes posting open positions; Kindergarten registration; planning for April 8 eclipse. *(Details in written report.)*

VII. Consent Agenda

KM moved to approve the consent agenda. ED 2nd.

- 1. Approve minutes of February 14, 2024 and February 28, 2024 meetings**
- 2. Approve Job Descriptions**
 - a. Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent**
 - b. Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent**
- 3. Approve 2024-2025 school year calendar**
- 4. Approve the creation of the Adam Ouimette Memorial Scholarship**
- 5. Declare books at Federal Street, Discovery School at Four Corners and Newton School surplus**

Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Reports of the School Committee

A. Policy & Program Subcommittee (Johnson-Mussad)

AC moved to endorse the Wellness Program, as presented. KM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Redistricting and Reorganizing Ad Hoc Committee (Sexton)

Green River building: Committee is dealing with many administrative hurdles, actively working to create process to include community-oriented discussion.

Redistricting: Decision on school choice aging-out is done. Committee unanimously recommends allowing students who would otherwise be assigned to different school to age-out at current school. Next step is to draw the maps. Gathering information on transportation needs.

SS moved to allow students to age out of the school that they will be in at the time that district boundaries are redrawn in Fall of 2025. AC 2nd.

- Supt. DeBarge clarified that this motion allows families affected by redistricting to choose whether to have child remain in current school or move to the different school assigned based on family's street address. However, if older child remains in current school, younger siblings reaching school age would need to attend the newly assigned school.
- Kuzmeskus says bussing routes could be arranged.
- This decision would be consistent with Committee's previous decision allowing choice-in students to age-out of current school.

Motion passed 5-0-1 (GJM abstain).

C. School Committee Handbook Ad Hoc Committee (DeNeeve)

Working session March 25, 6:00pm, place TBD.

D. Collaborative for Educational Services Representative (Proietti)

Summary of CES projects included in meeting materials.

E. City Planning & Construction Representative (Childs)

Committee meets 2nd Tuesday, 4:00pm, on Zoom. No regular meeting last month; Committee toured new fire station.

F. Legislative Representative (DeNeeve)

Day on the Hill, May 6 (date change from May 4).

Legislative workshop for regional school committee members March 27, 6:30pm, Library.

G. MASC Division V Representative (DeNeeve)

ED offered information/transcript on relevant bills, potential aid, and preparation of resolutions following Day on the Hill.

H. District Wellness Committee Representative (Proietti)

AP described Committee membership, including parents, teachers, athletic director, and representatives from FERCOG, DESE, and School Committee. Meets quarterly. Recent meeting included big-picture review of wellness project and discussion of concerns re: vaping.

IX. Executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a) (1): To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. The individual to be discussed in such executive session shall be notified in writing by the public body at least 48 hours prior to the proposed executive session; provided, however, that notification may be waived upon written agreement of the parties; (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 January 10, 2024 meeting).

Motion made, seconded, passed to enter executive session.

Motion to adjourn public session made, seconded, passed. Public session adjourned at 7:25.

X. Adjournment (out of executive session)

Motion to adjourn made, seconded, passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

1. Agenda: March 13, 2024
2. Draft minutes February 14 and February 28, 2024
3. Student Report: March 13, 2024
4. Superintendent's Update, March 13, 2024
5. Assistant Superintendent Update, March 13, 2024
6. Financial Reports, March 8, 2024
7. Job Descriptions: Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent; Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning
8. GPS 2024-2025 Calendar

9. Adam Ouimette Memorial Scholarship: Summary
10. Surplus book lists: Federal Street, Four Corners, Newton
11. GPS Wellness Program, February 2024
12. GMS Penny Wars Fun-Raiser
13. Assault Summary Data Report, March 2024
14. Collaborative for Education FY23 Highlights
15. Commendation: Ashley Walsh