

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

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

Absent: None

Also present: Christine DeBarge, Superintendent; Karin Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent.
Attending via Zoom: Andy Paquette, Business Manager

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (AC, ED, GD, GJM, KM, SS), Chair Johnson-Mussad called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Public Comment

Melissa Webb announced successful PTO calendar fundraiser and 5th grade pennies collection and noted that students' requested reward for ice cream treats was denied due to health & wellness policy.

III. Electing a New School Committee Member

Chair Johnson-Mussad announced candidates for the open position: Melodie Goodwin; Jesus Leyva; Isaac Mass; Keith A. Urkiel. (*Sean Hoyt withdrew his name from consideration.*) Melodie Goodwin read her statement of interest. Other candidates had submitted written statements prior to the meeting.

GJM explained the process, and requested suspending rules of order to allow discussion. GD moved to suspend normal rules of order for consensus-building discussion. SS 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and non-binding voting followed. Supt. DeBarge explained that Isaac Mass, whose spouse works for GPS, would need to recuse himself from voting on any issue that would affect his spouse's employment.

SE moved to resume normal rules of order. AC 2nd.

KM moved to appoint Melodie Goodwin. AC 2nd. Motion passed 5-1 (No: GJM).

Mayor DeSorgher immediately administered the oath of office, and Goodwin moved to sit with the Committee members.

IV. Report of Student Representatives to the Committee

S.T. reported on GHS activities including Student Council members attending state conference, weather-plagued spring sports season, French Club's trip to France. (*Details in written report.*)

V. Reports of the Administration

A. Business Manager / Budget Update

Business Manager Andy Paquette presented budget reports. Routine work on year-end closing process, including reviewing open purchase orders and encumbrances; Chrome Books purchase; special education tuition.

B. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Karin Patenaude summarized recent work including professional development; field trips for GHS students and 3rd-4th grade students; author Jarrett Krosoczka visited GMS. *(Details in written report.)*

C. Superintendent

Dr. DeBarge presented staffing vacancies and new hires; attending job fairs; Mayor's budget response with 4% increase (vs. 5.86% increase requested in School Committee's budget); Green River School building and MSBA requirements; and eclipse experience. *(Details in written report.)*

VI. Consent Agenda

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

- A. Approve minutes of the March 13, 2024 meeting
- B. Approve Interdistrict School Choice seats for 2024-2025
- C. Approve GHS field trip to New York City
- D. Approve job description for Instructional Assistant

Motion passed unanimously.

VII. Security Camera and Door Hardware Bid

KM moved to accept the security camera and door hardware bid, as presented. AC 2nd.

Supt. confirmed adequacy of planned work and described process with contracted bid designer and bidding. Project awarded to lowest responsive bidder. There are additions to security measures as well as upgrades to current security systems.

Motion passed 4-2-1 (Yes - AC, ED, GD, KM; No - ED, SS; Abstain - GJM).

VIII. Policies

GJM requested approval on first reading to allow immediate implementation.

A. First Reading of Policy Section J: Students

MG moved to suspend the current practice of two readings for Section J, "Students." GD 2nd. Motion passed 5-1-1 (No - KM; Abstain - GJM).

B. First Reading of Revised Policy: EEAA Walkers and Riders

GD moved to approve Policy EEAA "Walkers and Riders" on the first reading, as presented. 2nd MG.

Updates done primarily by Superintendent; many changes are to comply with legal requirements.

Motion passed 5-0-2 (abstain: KM, GJM).

GJM moved that we approve the amendments to our policy EEAA "Walkers and Riders," as presented, on first reading. 2nd MG.

Supt. DeBarge explained need for amendments. The revised policy reflects our actual practice. SS noted that revisions will affect redistricting implementation.

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

IX. Reports of the School Committee

A. Report of the Chair (Johnson-Mussad)

GJM acknowledged Member Amy Proietti's service and leadership during Covid and superintendent changes. GJM thanked all who expressed interest in the vacancy and congratulated new member Goodwin.

B. Budget & Finance Subcommittee (Martini)

Working on FY 25 budget updates and creating annual budget calendar.

C. Policy & Program Subcommittee (Johnson-Mussad)

GJM reported that Deneve had requested consideration of policy requiring supermajorities for certain votes, e.g., approval of budget, redistricting plan. GJM discussed with attorney. Perhaps ineffective because the Committee can majority-vote to suspend policies, including a potential supermajority policy.

D. Executive Subcommittee (Johnson-Mussad)

Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary make up this subcommittee. MASC coming to do training re: superintendent evaluation.

E. Redistricting and Reorganizing Ad Hoc Committee (Sexton)

April 9 meeting was, by error, not recorded.

Redistricting: What is cost of transporting students to non-neighborhood school? Additional cost will change due to changes in Policy EEAA.

Need to develop communication plan re: changes involved in redistricting.

F. Collaborative for Educational Services Representative

Chair will appoint new representative to CES.

G. City Planning & Construction Representative (Childs)

Need for online dashboard for long-term plans and studies, including School Use Study (elementary schools). Positivity expressed for goal to move toward one elementary school rather than 3 buildings.

Green River School: City Planning & Construction wants to be kept up to date on transfer from school building to city responsibility.

H. School Committee Handbook Ad Hoc Committee (DeNeeve)

In March working session, created headers, table of contents, operating procedures. Recommend new title: "GPS School Committee Member & Community Resource Handbook." Some parts of content will need to involve School Committee discussion.

DeNeeve will prepare proposal for Handbook Committee's scope of work, and will email content topic list to members.

I. Legislative Representative (DeNeeve)

On March 27 School Committee members from Greenfield and four other districts attended training, hosted by GPS. Set goals for May 6 “Day on the Hill.”

X. Executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a) (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 March 13, 2024 meeting*). The committee will not return to Open Session.

Motion made, seconded, passed to enter executive session.

Motion to adjourn public session made, seconded, passed. Public session adjourned, moved to executive session at 8:00 p.m.

XI. Adjournment (out of executive session)

Motion to adjourn made, seconded, passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

1. Agenda: April 10, 2024
2. Draft minutes March 13, 2024
3. Student Report: April 10, 2024
4. Superintendent’s Update, April 10, 2024
5. Assistant Superintendent’s Update, April 10, 2024
6. Financial Reports, April 5, 2024
7. Available School Choice Seats for the 2024-2025 School Year
8. GHS Field Trip Request: Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration
9. Job Description: Instructional Assistant
10. Policy J: Students
11. Policy EEAA: Walkers and Riders
12. Commendation: Ashley Walsh