

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, May 8, 2024
Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St., Greenfield MA**

Present: Ann Childs (AC); Elizabeth Deneeve (ED); Mayor Ginny DeSorgher (GD) *(arrived 6:10)*; Melodie Goodwin (MG); Glenn Johnson-Mussad; (GJM); Kathryn Martini (KM) *via phone*; Stacey Sexton (SS)

Absent: None

Also present: Christine DeBarge, Superintendent *(left the meeting 7:28)*; Karin Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent; Andy Paquette, Business Manager *(via phone)*.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (AC, ED, MG, GJM, KM, SS), Chair Johnson-Mussad called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

AC moved to adjust our agenda to put Report of Students Representatives first. SS 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Report of Student Representatives to the Committee

S.T. and T.T. reported on GHS activities including Student Council, spring sports, club activities, community service. *(Details in written report.)*

II. Executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a) (3): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

The Committee will return to Open Session.

ED moved to enter executive session. SS 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Moved to executive session at 6:12 p.m.

Returned to public session at 6:27 p.m.

III. Contact for BOE IT Employees

SS moved to approve the contract for BOE IT employees. GD 2nd. Motion passed 5-0-1 (Abstain: GJM; MG out of room during vote).

IV. Public Comment

None

VI. Reports of the Administration

A. Business Manager / Budget Update

Business Manager Andy Paquette reported on recent work focused on year-end closing, reviewing encumbrances. Deficit in revolving account for prepaid tuition will be resolved.

Discussion:

- Requests to describe specific line items
- Request for Andy Paquette to investigate whether warranty covers \$1300 expense for water pump in Honda van.

- GPS vans do bring in income, steadily increasing amount during past 5 years. Understood that transportation will never be self-supporting.
- Are funds left in GHS capital loan to pay for energy-efficient LED lights for GHS field? Unclear. Such an expenditure would need review by Bond Council, legal advisor.
- Not a predictable pattern of increase/decrease of special education costs. Circuit breaker has never met promised 100% reimbursement.

B. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Karin Patenaude reported on recent projects including professional development; civic engagement; Title I library field trips and April Break reading/math activities. Working on transition to Superintendent effective July 1. *(Details in written report.)*

C. Superintendent

Dr. DeBarge announced celebrations of Teacher Appreciation Week and National School Nurse Day. New administrators at Four Corners, Newton, GHS. GHS graduation June 1. Awaiting City Council's vote on final GPS budget. *(Details in written report.)*

VII. Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of minutes from April 10, 2024 meeting
- Approval of the Central Office Receptionist / School Registrar job description
- Approval of Food Service Workers Pay Raise for 2024 Summer Meals Program
- Declare Picnic Tables surplus

GPS will keep some tables for school use, and the rest will be offered to City departments.

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

VIII. Policies

A. First Readings

Most changes are adoptions of MASC versions which comply with current laws. Send questions and suggestions on H, K, L to Policy Subcommittee.

1. Section H "Negotiations"

GD moved that we approve the first reading of amendments to Section H "Negotiations," as presented. MG 2nd. Motion passed 6-0-1 (Abstain: GJM).

2. Section K "Community Relations"

GD moved to approve the first reading of amendments to Section K "Community Relations," as presented. MG 2nd. Motion passed 6-0-1 (Abstain: GJM).

3. Section L "Education Agency Relations"

AC moved to approve the first reading of amendments to Section L "Education Agency Relations," as presented. SS 2nd. Motion passed 6-0-1 (Abstain: GJM).

L is the last section, so upon 2nd reading/approval, full policy review will be complete, and then MASC will host GPS Policy Manual as online searchable database.

B. Second Reading and Vote

1. EEAA: Walkers and Riders

GD moved to amend policy EEAA “Walkers and Riders,” as presented, on second reading. AC 2nd. Motion passed 6-0-1 (Abstain: GJM).

IX. Proposal: Donna Woodcock Field

Superintendent has received proposal to name the GHS field hockey field in memory of Donna Woodcock. GHS School Council supports. Next step is opportunity for public input. We invite comments during public comment at Committee’s June 12 meeting.

X. Superintendent Evaluation Training

Liz Lafond, Massachusetts Association of School Committees, provided explanation of the superintendent evaluation process. *Slides included in meeting materials.*

XI. Day on the Hill Report Back and Next Steps / Legislative Representative

ED reported on May 6 MASC “Day on the Hill” event. Met with legislators to advocate for goals created collaboratively by Western Mass. districts. Next steps: continue to build this coalition starting in fall, meet with legislators quarterly.

GJM invited ED to bring new resolutions to Committee.

XII. Subcommittees and Representatives

A. Subcommittee and Representative Assignments

New member Goodwin will assume former member Proietti’s assignments: Policy & Program Subcommittee; representative to CES and to District Wellness Committee.

SS moved to approve revised subcommittee and representative assignments dated May 2024. AC 2nd. Motion passed 6-0-1 (abstain: GJM).

B. Subcommittee Functions and Duties

GJM, in collaboration with Supt. and Assistant Supt., is completing descriptions of subcommittees’ functions and duties, as required by policy. Invites members to submit suggestions re: their subcommittees.

XIII. School Committee Reports

A. Chair (Johnson-Mussad)

Tonight’s training by MASC fulfills a big strategic goal for Committee this year.

B. Budget & Finance Subcommittee (Martini)

Working on updating FY25 budget, annual budget calendar for School Committee.

Supt. DeBarge explained that \$400K budget reduction will be covered by adjusted (reduced) fees of bus company and using special education revolving fund.

XIV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made, seconded, passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

1. Agenda: May 8, 2024
2. Draft minutes April 10, 2024
3. Student Report: May 8, 2024
4. Superintendent's Update, May 8, 2024
5. Assistant Superintendent's Update, May 8, 2024
6. Financial Reports, May 6, 2024
7. Pay Rates for Summer Eats 2024, Greta Shwachman, April 26, 2024
8. Request to Surplus: 6-Foot Recycles Plastic Picnic Tables
9. Job Description: Central Office Receptionist/School Registrar
10. Letter of Support from Mike Kuchieski, Athletic Director, re: Donna Woodcock
11. Policies EEAA "Walkers and Riders," Revision (April 2024)
12. Policies for First Reading: Section H "Negotiations"; Section K "Community Relations"; Section L "Education Agency Relations"
13. Commendations: Addison Massa, Alan Gates, Jana Purington, Michelle Fenimore (2)
14. School Newsletters