

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, June 12, 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) *via phone*; Stacey Sexton (SS)

Absent: None

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

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (AC, ED, GD, MG, GJM, KM, SS), Chair Johnson-Mussad called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. Public Comment

Timothy Wagner, Chicopee City Councilor & former School Committee member, suggested closer look at GPS personnel retention, staff leadership, need for exit interviews. *Statement not finished due to three-minute limit.*

Doug Selwyn, Greenfield, invited all to Education Funding Forum June 18, 6pm, Zoom. Asked for community conversation re: redistricting, request to clarify what decisions have & have not been made & how public can be involved.

III. Report of Student Representatives to the Committee

S.T. reported on GHS activities including finals week, Student Council, sports, club activities. (*Details in written report.*)

IV. Reports of the Administration

A. Business Manager

1. Budget Update

Business Manager Andy Paquette reported on year-end close-out, preK tuition. He clarified that capital funds set aside to repair Green River Schools would return to City.

2. Food Service Point-of-Sale (POS) System

KM made a motion to move forward with the proposal [for Food Service Point-of-Sale system], **as presented. MG 2nd. Motion passed 6-0-1** (GJM abstain).

B. Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

“Celebrating Our Schools” – Supt. DeBarge and Assistant Supt. Patenaude gave a slides-presentation summarizing initiatives, accomplishments and improvements under their leadership, 2021-2024. *Major topics, with details in slides included in meeting materials:*

Superintendent

- Strategic Planning
- Budget
- Completion of School Committee Policy manual
- Redistricting
- Data collection and analysis, using Open Architects
- “Rethinking Discipline” Initiative

- Update to GPS website
- Achievements of E-Team (administrative team)
- Miscellaneous: Weekly Parent Updates; support for Families in Emergency Shelters; training room support for athletic teams; weather/snow-days in cooperation with DPW, transportation
- Collective Bargaining with 7 units
- District-Wide Protocols and Procedures – including attendance, student support team, Covid protocols, field trips, social-emotional curriculum, archiving personnel/payroll records
- Statewide System of Support

Data Summary for all schools

- Absenteeism; ELA/Math Assessment

Assistant Superintendent

- Mentor/Mentee Program
- Title I, Title IV and other grants
- Professional Development
- Homeschool
- Interns/Student Teachers
- Curriculum
- Courses/Conferences
- Principal Mentoring
- Instructional Leadership Team
- Educator Evaluation
- Grinspoon Award
- Instructional Technology

Achievements of Administrative Departments

- Pupil Services/Special Education
- Transportation
- Food Services; Nursing; Facilities

Discussion:

Noted additional achievements: GHS cell phone policy & pouches; support for School Committee; underscored Dr. DeBarge’s leadership during Covid.

Appreciation for Dr. DeBarge, as this is her last School Committee meeting before her retirement.

V. Consent Agenda

SS moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, items A through E. AC 2nd.

- Approval of minutes from the May 8, 2024 meeting
- Approval of the Student Opportunity Act Plan
- Declaring Greenfield High School science books surplus
- Declaring Food Service Department equipment surplus
- Declaring Technology equipment surplus

Motion passed 5-0-2 (Abstain: GJM, Martini).

VI. Business

A. Renaming Field behind Greenfield High School “Donna Woodcock Field”

GD moved to approve the field behind Greenfield High School being named “Donna Woodcock Field.” KM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Green River School

Dr. DeBarge gave history of usage of Green River School and process of closing a school building. Looking at 10-year enrollment projection and redistricting plans, GPS does not need this building. Was closed years ago due to failure of heating system, with plan to re-open upon repairs supported by MSBA. MSBA requires educational use for 50 years after funding. Awaiting MSBSA response to

proposed change of use. Non-profits interested in occupying Green River School building would have educational purpose. Recommend transferring building back to City. Currently clearing out school equipment from building.

MG moved for the School Committee to relinquish possession of Green River School effective Sept. 1, 2024. KM 2nd.

Discussion: Redistricting Committee has endorsed this decision. Invited public to send ideas, preferences for use to Mayor's office.

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

VII. Policies

A. Second Readings

1. Section H "Negotiations"
2. Section K "Community Relations"
3. Section L "Education Agency Relations"

MG moved that we approve the second reading of amendments to Section H "Negotiations," Section K "Community Relations," and Section L "Education Agency Relations," as presented. SS 2nd. Motion passed 5-0-2 (Abstain: GJM, KM).

B. First Reading

1. Amendment to JJH "Student Late Night or Overnight Travel"

Dr. DeBarge explained need for changes to JJH: International field trips organized with travel company that collects money as soon as trip is announced. If School Committee denies permission later in process, families would lose their money, thus need for School Committee to approve at start of trip planning. A second change clarifies that participants must be Greenfield school students.

KM moved that we approve the first reading of amendments to JJH "Student Late Night or Overnight Travel," as presented. AC 2nd. Motion passed 4-0-3 (Abstain: GJM, SS, ED).

VIII. School Committee Year-Long Agenda

Discussion:

- Purpose: Year-long agenda will guide School Committee members' work-flow and will inform public when to participate, offer comments.
- Will include annual timelines for budget process, superintendent evaluation, School Committee self-evaluation. Will also include timelines for unique projects related to School Committee goals.
- Suggestion to review at July Committee meeting the previously created list of possible goals; and to adopt goals this summer, with MASC guidance.
- Creating agenda and goals could be chair's job, or could involve a working session of full Committee.
- GJM will review Committee's most recent self-evaluation.

IX. School Committee Reports

A. Report of the Chair

GJM asked for each subcommittee to review the draft “Subcommittee Functions and Duties” and suggest revisions by July or August Committee meeting.
Suggestion to add how each subcommittee furthers the district goal of diversity, equity, inclusion.

B. Subcommittee & Representative Reports

1. Budget & Finance Subcommittee (Martini)

Will meet in July. KM training at MASC re: FY26 Budget, will share learning with Subcommittee.

2. Policy & Program Subcommittee

Multi-year overhaul of all policies accomplished.
Supt. will ask Liz Lafond when MASC will begin web-hosting of GPS policy manual.

3. Redistricting and Reorganizing Ad Hoc Committee

Endorsed Green River School proposal. Discussed mission, with focus on equity.
GJM noted that Ad Hoc Committee has completed its work: made decisions, set policies.
Administration is carrying out implementation. At July School Committee meeting, GJM will propose disbanding this Committee.

4. Legislative Representative (ED)

ED following education updates from Sen. Comerford’s office.

5. MASC Division V Representative (ED)

MASC opportunities:

- Conference Nov. 6-9, Hyannis. Register by July 15 for early bird savings.
 - Summer Institute July 12-13, Marlboro. Sessions on budget, negotiations.
- Members wanting to attend should inform Supt. to encumber \$. Funding available for PD for members.

GJM will clarify which member(s) will serve on contract negotiations.

XIV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made, seconded, passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

1. Agenda: June 12, 2024
2. Draft minutes May 8, 2024
3. Student Report: June 12, 2024
4. Financial Reports, June 6, 2024
5. “Celebrating Our Schools 2021-2024 (slide presentation)
6. Student Opportunity Act Plan, FY 2024
7. Documents re: Food Service Point-of-Sale System Award

8. Letter to Michael McGurl, MSBA, re: Green River School, May 30, 2024
9. School Committee Subcommittee and Representative Assignments, Subcommittee Functions and Duties
10. Policies: JJH "Student Late Night or Overnight Travel"; Section H "Negotiations"; Section K "Community Relations"; Section L "Education Agency Relations"
11. Surplus lists: 8th grade science books; Food Services equipment; Tech Equipment
12. Memo from Supt. DeBarge to Chair Johnson-Mussad, re: Staff injuries data, June 12, 2024
13. School Newsletters