

Greenfield School Committee
Policy & Program Sub-Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2024

1. Call to Order

Present: Glenn Johnson-Mussad (GJM) (Sub-Committee Chair), Elizabeth DeNeeve (ED) Also present: Dr. Christine DeBarge (CD), Superintendent and Karin Patenaude (KP), Assistant Superintendent

The meeting was called to order at 11:33 a.m.

1. Public Comment

No public members were present for comment.

2. Approval of Minutes - March 7, 2024

On a motion by ED, 2nd by GJM, the sub-committee voted to approve the minutes as presented. The vote was unanimous.

3. Policy EEAA: Walkers and Riders

Dr. CD noted the current policy designates students that live 1.5 miles or more are bussed to school, and Grade 8-12 students are bussed if they reside more than 2 miles from school.

She stated students that reside in the Oak Quartz and Greenfield Gardens housing communities that are less than 1.5 miles of their respective schools are currently bussed. Students that reside past this development are not being bussed.

The administration is asking the School Committee to make an official determination of what their preference would be for the transportation policy. This would allow them to implement the policy based on a School Committee decision and not what appears to be a past administrative decision.

Dr. CD mentioned she and KP recently met with the bus company to discuss this matter. The bus company confirmed they could accommodate the change if we were to bus elementary students who live a mile or more (instead of the current 1.5 miles) from their designated school. However, they would not be able to accommodate that same change at the secondary level being the change would add approximately 130 students to the run and the need for 3 additional buses to the fleet to accommodate the request.

The administrative request to the Committee would be to either:

- Tell us to implement the policy as currently written
- Change the elementary designation to a mile or more away from school for transportation

A motion was made by GJM to change the elementary limit for bus transportation from the current 1.5 miles or more to 1 mile or more, leaving the policy the same for the middle and high schools.

Dr. CD reminded the members they can designate as they wish. She summarized that the bus company can accommodate a change for grades K-7, but not for grades 8-12. The Committee can vote to change to accommodate the elementary level (grades K-4) only, if preferred. She noted the practice has been inconsistent with the policy.

GJM revised his motion to change the busing distance from 1.5 miles to 1 mile for elementary and middle school students. ED 2nd his motion. Discussion ensued.

After clarification from KP, Dr. CD amended her statement:

- The bus company would not be able to accommodate the 1st tier – high school
- The bus company can accommodate the 2nd tier – elementary

After additional discussion, GJM made a final amendment to his motion:

GJM made a motion, according to policy EEAA, to change the elementary bussing distance from 1.5 miles to 1 mile, and the distance of 1.5 miles would remain the same for the middle school, and the 2-mile distance would remain the same for the high school. The motion was 2nd by ED. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. CD and KP left the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

4. Supermajority Requirements

- How would they identify what items require supermajority?
- Would it make a difference given the size of our Committee? (Majority would be either 5 or 6 with a 7-member Committee)

Major topics would be:

- Hiring a superintendent
- Firing a superintendent
- Budget

It was suggested to put in writing that a 5-member quorum would be required for these three aforementioned topics, should a legal determination be made to warrant such conduct.

It was agreed a legal determination was necessary as to whether we could have a supermajority requirement or if it would somehow conflict with the City Charter.

5. Adjourn

A motion was made by ED, 2nd by GJM, to adjourn the meeting at 12:03 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Approved: 7/11/24