

**Greenfield School Committee**  
**Chapter 70 Ad Hoc Sub-Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 31, 2025**

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I. Roll Call

Present: Glenn Johnson-Mussad (GJM - Chair), Ann Childs (AC)

(This meeting was conducted via Zoom only.)

Absent: Elizabeth DeNeeve (ED) (She will be joining the meeting at a later time.)

Call to Order: 8:05 a.m.

GJM read the statement relative to the recording of this meeting, including the request for any other persons present and recording this meeting to notify this chairperson at this time.

II. Public Comment:

There were no public members present to comment at this time.

On a motion by AC, 2<sup>nd</sup> by GJM, this sub-committee voted, via roll call vote, to suspend Robert's Rules in order to conduct the meeting as a work session. The vote was unanimous.

III. Discussion of Ideas to present at the November 6, 2025 Chapter 70 Local Funding Contribution meeting:

- GJM noted that these talking points for ideas can be used for both scheduled Chapter 70 Local Funding Contribution meetings; November 6 and November 18. AC will be attending the in-person meeting on November 6, and ED will be participating in the online meeting on November 18.
- GJM shared talking points and a draft letter relative to the FY26 Local Contribution Study – Public Comment from the Greenfield School Committee for this sub-committee to approve and be presented to the full School Committee at their November meeting, prior to distribution
- In review of said draft letter, AC made the following suggestions:
  - A more direct statement to the one currently in the letter should be that the required contribution creates a false idea of what it takes to educate a student (as the formula has not kept up with the cost of doing business in the state and does not, actually, meet the minimum needs)
  - The formula creates a set point of expectations – We are going above what is being expected of us, so we are already doing more than we need to be doing when it doesn't even meet the minimum needs
  - Although this last talking point fits the high educational needs, it was determined it would qualify under problem “3” and Greenfield having a high educational need would be new problem “4” in the letter for consideration by DESE
  - Discussion on being held harmless, as in the case with Northampton, ensued – This means that the district funding is guaranteed not to decrease from the previous year, even if enrollment drops, to protect the sudden

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funding loss - The less students, the less money that is deeper in the hole as you are guaranteed that minimum funding level, but you also can't keep pace with your rising costs because of a decline in enrollment, so the aid stays the same

(ED joined the meeting at 8:14 a.m.)

- One point that we should highlight is that we are a low-income, high-needs district
- A requested change would be to revise the funding formula to reflect funding realities and the true costs
- Also discussed was the addition of the language that speaks to the fact that this needs to be part of a comprehensive reform and not the completion of this issue
- Another bullet point to be added is to implement changes within a comprehensive strategy that simultaneously addresses structural costs drivers, including special education services, transportation mandates, and the impact of charter school tuition assessments

On a motion by AC, 2<sup>nd</sup> by ED, this sub-committee voted to approve the talking points as a tool to use for discussing Chapter 70. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion by AC, 2<sup>nd</sup> by ED, this sub-committee voted to direct this sub-committee chair to revise the Chapter 70 letter, in accordance with the talking points document, for presentation to the full School Committee at their November meeting.

ED and AC thanked the chair for his work on these documents.

IV. Adjournment:

On a motion by AC, 2<sup>nd</sup> by ED, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m. The vote was unanimous.

Approved: