

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday August 13, 2025
Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St., Greenfield MA**

I. Roll Call, Call to Order

- A. Present: Glenn Johnson-Mussad; (GJM); Elizabeth Deneeve (ED); Melodie Goodwin (MG); Stacey Sexton (SS); *attending remotely*; Ann Childs (AC); Mayor Ginny DeSorgher (GD)

Also present: Superintendent Roland Joyal (RJ); Assistant Superintendent Stephen Sullivan (SSu); Business Manager Andy Paquette (AP)

Absent: Kathryn Martini (KM)

With a quorum present (GJM, ED, MG, SS, AC, GD,) Chair Johnson-Mussad called the meeting to order at 6:32p.m.

II. Public Comment

- A. Pamela Goodwin: Support for passing the budget and future changes.

III. Reports of the Administration

- A. **Business Manager:** See attached Reports

1. Discussion:

SS: Describe maintenance effort? (Federal funding grants requirement)

AP: We are required to spend a certain amount from local funding to satisfy grant requirement. Special Education spending is a qualifying expenditure.

MG: How many unfilled positions last year?

AP: Many positions filled were soon vacated. Many overlapping positions.

ED: Expound on mandated maintenance effort? Constituents want us to lower cost.

AP: We charge for programs and out of district placement. We cannot lower our local maintenance contribution. Qualifying contributions also include transportation.

SS: Second evaluation services?

AP: We added \$200K. Still \$200k short because of unfilled positions that had to be contracted out.

SS: We need to work on filling those positions.

AP: Some of those were meeting some of those conditions.

MG: Psych evals are over \$1k and additional for language. Is there a posting for additional school psychologist?

RJ: No posting at time of meeting.

ED: What is the amount we need to spend?

AP: \$9,286,160.00

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday August 13, 2025
Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St., Greenfield MA**

ED: That is the minimum?

AP: We can spend federal funds, but the nine million local is mandated for special education.

**B. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Report
Competency Determination Requirements and Guidance Update. Grants Update.**

See attached reports.

1. SSu: Regarding Mahmoud vs Taylor Supreme Court Ruling; Attorneys have worked with us on our handbook language. We are working to prepare for such without knowing what might come of this. It will take some real life examples before we can be sure how to navigate specifically.
 - MG: Changes in the handbook should also go to Policy Subcommittee for consistency across both.
 - GJM: Bring a first draft to committee to incorporate feedback.
 - SSu: Will connect with attorney for that and have a draft for September meeting.
2. ED: Do you have a figure for the amount of funding through grants you were able to access for our district? We want to make sure to acknowledge the updated amount, and recognize that effort.
 - SSu: I don't have that exact figure at this time but will have it for the future.

C. Superintendent Report: RJ

1. Teachers are already in the buildings preparing for the upcoming year. We appreciate them and their hard work.
2. Superintendent Search Update:
 - a. We are ahead of schedule in the process to search.
3. Business Manager Search Update:
 - a. Refreshed and renewed previous postings.
4. Transportation Riders and Bus Numbers Update
 - a. Vacations have hindered communication. Enrollments are still happening. September meeting will have more complete report. We have maximized efficiency.
5. Open Positions Update
 - a. GPS website and School Spring have majority of our listings. Distance and travel seem to be a reason for people leaving. This is a challenge for us.
 - b. We struggle to keep Instructional Assistants. Base pay is insufficient.
 - i. MG: We should make a motion for an MOA to raise IA compensation. Need updated figures.
 - ED: Support increased compensation for IA. Support Central Office hours change.
 - GD: We under-spent on paras. I support increase for paras.
 - MG: Para salary spending counts toward local maintenance spending grant requirements?
 - AP: Correct.
 - GJM: Unanimous support for increase. We can ask budget committee to raise para salary.

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday August 13, 2025
Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St., Greenfield MA**

6. Congressman and Secretary of Education highlighted our summer eats program. We did a great job. SSu was with Just Roots giving out books. Thanks to all who go out to connect with the community!
7. **Student Enrollment Numbers Per Building**
 - a. See attached report.
8. **Central Office Change of Hours**
 - a. Would like to change office hours to align with school hours. Propose 7:30am-4pm.
9. Revisiting prior composting practices. Looking into cost and logistics. It is the right thing to do.

IV. Consent Agenda

- A. Approve the minutes of July 9, 2025
 1. Pass unanimous. Absent: KM
- B. Approve Central office and Information Technology (IT) Department surplus lists.
 1. Pass unanimous. Absent: KM
- C. Approve School Handbooks
 1. Pass unanimous. Absent: KM
- D. Approve the awarding of two Vulcan Electric Combi Ovens and Accessories and one Crown Electric Forty Gallon Tilting Kettle and Accessories
 1. Pass unanimous. Absent: KM

V. School Committee Reports/NO REPORT

- A. Chair's Report/None
- B. Budget and Finance Report/None
- C. Legislative Advocate Report/None
- D. Community Engagement Subcommittee Report
 1. ED: Last meeting was June. Next 8/25.
 2. Meeting with Superintendent and IT for calendar sync to ease communication.
 3. Create advisory counsel to work on super search.
 - a. See attached reports

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

- A. AC: Motion to appoint SS to represent School Committee at City Council meetings.
MG: Table to September meeting.
 1. Motion passes Yea: GJM, MG, GD. Nay: ED, AC. Abstain: SS . Absent: KM
- B. School Choice- Discussion and vote to increase the number of seats
 1. Discussion concludes support for Superintendent to increase seats.

VIII. Adjournment

- A. MG moves, ED seconds, Yea: unanimous Absent: KM. Adjourned 7:50

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Sibley

Administrative Assistant