

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES: Wednesday January 14, 2026**

**Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St. Greenfield, MA 01301**

**I. Call to Order** Meeting called to order at 6:32pm

**II. Roll Call: If members appear online, roll call voting must be used.**

Present: Stacey Sexton (SS); Elizabeth Deneve (ED); Melodie Goodwin (MG); Ann Childs (AC); Mayor Ginny DeSorgher (GD) Melissa Mckenzie Webb (MW); Jeffrey Diteman (JD)

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

**III. Public Comment:** Members of the public may speak for up to three minutes as recognized by the Chairperson per Chapter 49 -Hybrid Ordinance, members of the public attending virtually or in person may comment by raising their hand and stating their name and address or precinct.

**Pamela Goodwin:** Welcome new members. Attended reorganization. Public comment at 6:30pm is difficult timing for many. A lot of financial concerns during budget season. On the agenda to look closely at the question about that. Am focusing on city council business but looking at school business. Concerned about money spent on supplies that are not being used. As a teacher, I would like to have access to those as many teachers would. Wishing you all well. It is hard work.

**Judy Bennett:** Welcome to new committee members. I am an educator, part of Union leadership, living here in town. We want safe and fully resourced schools.

**Doug Selwyn:** Welcome to all. Bazaar for new members in the middle of the school year. Reaching out beyond Gnfld re: different issues. We are part of a large State dealing with large issues. 1. Hoping School Committee can make its voice heard to the governor's office to include reopening the budget to include reopening the Foundation Review Commission. It has been a while since that has been considered. 2. Funding: LMTA crisis approach. Seven bills they are supporting as an Org: Please consider those bills. Collectively will bring money to the schools. 3. MCAS supplanted with new high stakes standardized testing. Look seriously at their attitudes towards standardized testing. Reach out as strongly as you can to make our vision seen NOT going back to those systems.

**Rory Tallon Hicks:** I am a parent of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. Have struggled with how to make my concern known. 4<sup>th</sup> case of head lice in 4 months. We are really struggling getting this under control because there is not a collaborative effort to get this under control. I read the policy. The categorization of lice as a nuisance has downplayed the financial, social, emotional, and mental impact that this four month issue has had on multiple families. Please review the policy. Collaborate with families. Look at the classrooms for soft surfaces. Look at storage. Be more responsive and communicative with families. The impacted families have reached out to the school, the teachers, the nurse etc. We are not satisfied with the response. We need to work together to mitigate it.

**IV. Report of Student Representatives to the Committee: Kali and Lauren**

- **Student Council:** On Tuesday, January 20, 2026, from 2:15pm-3:15pm, the student council will host Cookies, Cocoa and Crammin' to help students study together and/or finish end of term projects. This event is free and open to all High School students.

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On Wednesday, January 28, 2026, a Music Bingo fundraiser is being held in the cafeteria from 6:00pm - 8:00pm for all families. Cards are \$5 each and all money raised will help offset the cost of leadership conferences.

- **Key Club:** Key Club has started a Shoe Drive where the proceeds will be donated to raise money for Camp Sunshine in Maine. Please consider cleaning out your closets and bring in your gently used, or new, shoes to the High School.
- **Athletics:** Tayler Bergeron has been named Brad's Place Athlete of the week! Her coach states, "Tayler is the Captain of the Girls Basketball team, who leads by example, giving 100% effort in practice and games while consistently pushing herself and her teammates to improve." Congratulations Tayler.
- **French Club-** The club looks forward to a busy Winter and Spring with Galette des rois this month, Ratatouille Extravaganza in February, Taste of World Cultures in March, and their ten-day trip to France during April break.
- **Drama Club:** Drama Club begins rehearsals for the Spring production of The Secret Garden adapted by Gary Peterson. This production tells the heartwarming tale of Mistress Mary (Quite Contrary), the folk she meets at Misselthwaite Manor and on the moors of Yorkshire, England. Mark your calendars to come see this production on March 27th and 28th!
- **Library Club:** Library Club is hosting a series of Book to Movie beginning with the Outsiders directed by Francis Ford Coppola on Friday, January 16th. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for pizza and popcorn and the movie will begin at 6 p.m. in the GHS auditorium. Copies of the book are available at the library for anyone who would like to read along. This event is free and open to the public. Many thanks to Greenfield Public Library for co-hosting this event and generously providing pizza.
- **Library - Green Wave Reads Reading Challenge:** This year's reading challenge has started. Any students who have read a book since September, can stop by the library to fill out a paper book spine and hang up the spine on the "bookshelf" window across from the library. At the end of the year, two winners will be drawn randomly to receive a \$50 Visa gift card. Please encourage your students to read and help us build a fabulous bookshelf of all the books GHS reads this year!
- **Trivia Team (formerly As Schools Match Wits):** The team has been prepping for their As Schools Match Wits match on January 17th against Minnechaug Regional. Currently, the team consists of several seniors, a junior and an 8th grader.
- **Mosaic/Students of Color Club:** The group will start meeting with Matt Allen from Mass Hire who will provide mentoring to the group.

**V. Reports of the Administration:**

**A. Business Manager:** See submitted materials.

1. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Update
2. Budget Reports Review
  - a. **GD:** The last four things, are these new?
    - i. **AP:** The December report has the same ones. Not new.
  - b. **SS:** The way we budget and the way we present the budget; do [these different numbers] reflect a miscategorization?



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any thoughts on how advertise in other ways we are open to that. In some cases we can shift and make moves during a school year, but things are assigned for certain spots.

- i. **ED:** The vacancy rate is between between \$500K-\$600K, not \$2 million?
  - i. **AP:** There are lines with balances left in them due to not filling the positions. I don't have the exact math tonight, but correct \$652,015 is the last calculated number.
  - j. **ED:** The end/total is the money we are going to have going into the next fiscal year assuming everything goes according plan. We are working below what we thought we were going to have due to out of district placements. Below 1 mil.
    - i. **AP:** That is fluctuating as well. The true cost numbers may change.

**B. .Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Report:**

- 1. Professional Learning Update: See submitted materials.
- 2. Grants Update: See submitted materials.
- 3. GPS Thunderbirds Stick to Reading Challenge: See submitted materials.

**C. Superintendent Report:**

- 1. We are up three students in the last two months.
- 2. We received a grant from Mass. Broadband Institute Connectivity and Online Program. IT Director Ian Edwards collaborated on this with Athena Lee Bradley, the city grant writer. We were awarded 450 Chrome Books, 100 docking stations, 12 carts, 15 laptops for the Library, Parks and Rec, and Housing Authority, and School Department. This was over \$250,000. This was nice work and collaboration between city departments.
- 3. I want to congratulate all the schools for all their concerts and events in December. I was able to get to the majority of them. We have some talented individuals and they are lead by great teachers and advisors.
- 4. I want to congratulate and thank our building director Mr. Beaudreau and his custodians for dealing with a water break on January 1<sup>st</sup> at Federal Street School, which they caught fairly quickly. They got a company in as well as doing their own work. We still have one teacher displaced but hope to have them back very soon. This was one of those unexpected things that happen from time to time that we have to be prepared for. We have a great crew of workers who will come in on their time off, whether it's the weekend, holiday etc. and make things ready for our students.

**VI. Consent Agenda 7:19**

- A. Approve the minutes of December 10, 2025
- B. Approve the minutes of January 8, 2026
- C. Approve Revised 2025-2026 School Calendar

**ED Moves to approve GD seconds**

**AC:** We should state what the calendar change is and why.

**RJ:** The change we are proposing is regarding March 5<sup>th</sup> for early release from K-4 to K-7. The middle school always had that half a day and had been overlooked.

**Yes: all. No: 0 Abstain: Motion passes unanimously.**

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**VII. School Committee Reports**

**A. Chair's Report**

**1. Subcommittee assignments:**

**SS:** All Members have reviewed subcommittee proposal. These assignments take into consideration desires expressed by members, as well as utilization of members' skills and experience. If you don't want the assignment. Please share and suggest alternative with the understanding that displacements may or may not be able to be accommodated.

**ED:** I have two things I would like to enter into the record regarding budget and finance.

**1.** In my opinion Members who have spread disinformation about the budget publicly should not be on the budget and finance subcommittee. There never was a slush fund of millions hiding in an account. Those false statements are in opposition to our mission of oversight and damage our district. I know multiple people have advised the chair against these appointments and I would like my opposition be added to the official minutes. Fact based oversight in budget and finance is what is required in order to retain any permanent superintendent and to do right by the tax payers. I would like to be returned to budget and finance. I have completed several additional trainings on the subject and I would be an asset. I would also like the record to reflect that I have never been adversarial and have never requested to not be on a subcommittee with any member.

**2.** Regarding the warrants for Budget and Finance Subcommittee (BFS) :

For those don't understand, the warrants come out every two weeks on a Monday or a Tuesday. They have to be signed by a Thursday. In 2022 we voted to have one person sign the warrants. Many districts have three people sign the warrants or have somebody physically go to the office to look at the warrants and sign in person. Some districts bring the warrants to the School Committee and vote on them at every meeting. Sometimes they have a warrants subcommittee. So there are a lot of ways that one can do this. If you bring warrants into the BFS, they meet once per month, maybe, during budget time, then they don't always meet once per month. How are they going to administer the warrants? Also the warrants are public. Taxpayers can view them and go into Central Office and look at them. When I went to the recent warrants subcommittee class in November, I learned that the warrants need to come to the School Committee and we need to look at them as a full committee and vote on them. Because they come out every two weeks, I would think it would be better to have a small warrants subcommittee that meets via zoom to vote on it. It is only about a five minute issue; to have more than one set of eyes on it. To bog it down in BFS will damage the subcommittee. Warrants are lines and lines of text. The only way to understand what you are looking at is over time to understand the trends in order to see what's unusual. That happens through experience. For the last few years I have been the only person signing warrants (with Glenn). We agreed to a 24 hours wait for people to look at them or for someone else to sign them, but I keep getting emails from Vera saying they are not signed, so I have been signing them. There has to be a way for people to see them and understand the trends to know what is correct and what is not. So I think that putting it in BFS is not the way to go.

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**SS:** Current policy is to meet budget monthly; work does happen more often than once/mo. I am expecting they will meet more often to meet the policy of warrants. I agree with getting more eyes on the warrants. A three person subcommittee is better with one person; the chairperson responsible for signing them will help make sure it is getting taken care of in a timely manner.

**GD:** Glad for a subset of folks to look at it. I sign the mayor side so I do not sign school side. It's less formal in a subcommittee. It is great to go through them together.

**ED:** Are you requesting an email stating whether or not we wish to take up this work that you have assigned?

**SS:** I would ask to get them approved this evening. But can email later. Made an effort to have them equitably distributed.

**ED:** I will email you.

**MMW:** I am perfectly fine where I am for subcommittees.

**JD:** Am happy with my assignments.

**GD:** Happy where I am as well.

**GD Approves subcommittee assignments as written. MG seconds.**

**Yes: AC, GD, SS, MW, MG. No: ED. Abstain: JD. 5 yes, 1 abstain: 1 no. Motion passes.**

**VIII. New Business**

- A.** Discussion on enrollment of Greenfield Public School students in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual School and the district's option to restrict future Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual School enrollment. See submitted materials.
1. **RJ:** Virtual schools have a cap statewide of 2% (of student population). We are at 1.23% of our district student population. (17 students enrolled currently. A 1% cap would be 12 students.) Must vote by 3/2/26 which makes our vote by 2/26. Nobody currently enrolled would be required to withdraw.
  2. **MG:** Birth of Virtual School was here. The state took it from us because we were making too much money on our virtual school. The state is getting those funds, it is comparable to school choice except the state is getting that money. Maybe they should put that money into our foundation budget for those 17 children. For every child enrolled in the virtual school the money is going to the state.
    - a. **AP:** Money goes to the Virtual School. It's their tuition. The analogy of school choice is correct. Their tuition comes from our chapter 70 money that goes towards them. Money doesn't just sit at the state, it goes to the virtual school.
  3. **AC:** Is there a hard cap imposed by Greenfield?
    - a. **RJ:** No.
  4. **ED:** When the vote came up several years ago, we had parents write in. This is for a very specific subset of students with medical needs or athletic (Olympic), film actors. It is very regimented for extenuating circumstances where these students need support. It's important to keep this in the forefront of our minds that it isn't just about money, but about very specific circumstances that our students find themselves in, very rarely, and still need support.

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5. **SS:** We don't have a vote on this scheduled for tonight. Parents, please send us your emails or come in person to tell us your thoughts. We have never voted to restrict. It will come back before us next month. Direct questions to Superintendent Joyal so we can have answers for you next month.
  6. **GD:** I am curious of Greenfield enrollment over the last several years.
    - a. **RJ:** The current numbers are based on enrollment of 1285.
  7. **GD:** What I meant was over time.
    - a. **RJ:** Will have that information by next meeting.
  8. **JD:** Is there info avail where I can learn on my own time about the criteria for eligibility.
    - a. **RJ** I will send you tomorrow.
  9. **MMW:** We have voted not to cap in the past. Do we have to vote to cap?
    - a. **SS:** No. This is a voluntary responsibility to vote annually.
    - b. **ED:** State cap is 2%. We can choose to cap at less than 2%.
- B. ED:** Two items of new business. 1. Add a motion to create a position for a non-voting student member of the committee. 2. Add a motion to create a procedure for a meeting with the student advisory counsel every other month in order to follow MGL part 1 title 12 chapter 71 section 38m.
1. **SS:** Those will be added to the agenda for next meeting.

**IX. Old Business**

**A.** Review of Yearlong Agenda:

**B.** Strategic Plan Review:

1. **SS:** wanted to clarify new members had a chance to review. We will be discussing next month.

- X. Vote to enter into Executive Session: Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 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, (7) To comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements; and, (8) To consider or interview applicants for employment or appointment by a preliminary screening committee if the chair declares that an open meeting will have a detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants; provided, however, that this clause shall not apply to any meeting, including meetings of a preliminary screening committee, to consider and interview applicants who have passed a prior preliminary screening. The committee WILL NOT return to Open Session.**

**7:46pm ED Moves to enter Executive Session. AC seconds. Motion passes by roll call unanimously.**

**XI. Adjournment**

**ED Moves to adjourn. AC Seconds. Motion passes unanimously.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nan Sibley

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Administrative Assistant

Materials:

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Assistant Superintendent Update
3. Virtual School Memo
4. January Student Report