

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday March 11, 2026
Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St. Greenfield, MA 01301**

I. Call to Order Meeting called to order at 6:31pm

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

Present: Stacey Sexton (SS); Melodie Goodwin (MG); Ann Childs (AC); Melissa McKenzie Webb (MW); Jeffrey Diteman (JD); Elizabeth Deneeve (ED)[Tardy]

Attending Remote: Mayor Ginny DeSorgher (GD)

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

Moment of silence for Brandon Hoyte, middle school student.

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.

Virginia Haskell This statement is being shared on behalf of the Federal Street School Elementary PTO.

We support the safety requirements for volunteers, including CORI checks, fingerprinting, and trainings. However, the current process requires multiple steps and at least one trip outside of Greenfield, which creates barriers for many families. Research consistently shows that when parents are actively involved in their children's education, student performance improves. We respectfully ask the district to offer a regular opportunity to complete COR

I checks within Greenfield, such as one scheduled day each month at a district school or office. Making this process more accessible will help more families participate and strengthen our school community.

Isaac Mass: I am a tax payer of Greenfield, have three children in the GPS, and am a spouse of an educator. Thank you for your hard work. and being engaged in the important work you do. I followed the reporting of last month's school committee meeting regarding going into mediation in executive session. I sent an email to the Attorney General because I had concerns on how that might violate open meeting law. You all have the response. Concerned with the school committee and its interaction with other bodies over the last several years. I sent this concern out but didn't receive a response within a couple of weeks. Then I heard only the chair can respond. If that is a policy, it's a poor one. You should all have the right to respond you constituents. If this is a misunderstanding of open meeting law, bu individually you have the ability. Be open and transparent with the public. Work cooperatively with mayor and City Council as budget comes up. You are doing great work, if I can be personally useful I am available at no cost to the city.

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Elizabeth Martin: VP of Newton School PTO. Our concerns align with Federal Street PTO also, We would like more families to have the opportunity to come and be in our schools. Would love for Community Engagement to look at the policies and reflect on the expectations for volunteers. That would make a lot of families happy and want to volunteer in our schools.

Rose Skriloff: Teacher at the Middle School. I love my job. I am a 5th grade teacher. There are six of us. Three are ELA/Social Studies and three who are Math and Science. I work with one other teacher and we teach the same group of students throughout the school day. The 5th grade students have two teachers and the 6th grade students have four. I am feeling confused about why the conversation about moving 5th grade to the elementary schools is still happening. The reason I am confused is because I love my job. The reason I love my job is because of the colleagues that I have. They are some of the most hard working, compassionate, dedicated, professionals I have ever met. We have so much joy that is happening throughout our building and also receive positive feedback from our families. We just had parent teacher conferences last week. Several families shared how afraid they were to send their students to 5th grade at a middle school and how thankful they are that they did because of all of the opportunities that are available to them. If we are not seeing the picture about why it needs to move, I am assuming it's coming from outside of the house. I would like to personally invite each of you to come to my classroom to see what it is all about. I teach math in the morning and science in the afternoon. On Fridays you will see our Walk to Reading literacy program that the ELA teachers painstakingly put together using data collection and analysis to give students targeted interventions and enrichment. When we are not teaching and students area at specials, you would be able to see seven different unified arts classes available to them. After school you will see six of the after school activities that are available to them. One of which was started by a 5th grade student this year; Writing club. If you are voting whether or not to separate us, you deserve to have the evidence that you are looking for as to why that needs to happen. If you come and visit our classrooms, I guarantee you will not find it.

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

- **Student Council** - Nineteen students attended a state leadership conference in Hyannis on March 4-6. While there, they had the opportunity to hear two national keynote speakers attend four student-led workshops and the seniors ran workshops. Everyone jumped in the ocean for the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics dressed as superheroes. As a school we raised over \$1000 for the Special Olympics.
- **Key Club** - Key Club is excited to be hosting a Blood Drive with Baystate Health on March 18th. If there is a lot of interest we hope to make this an annual, or biannual event.

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- **Athletics** - Winter sports are over. Our boys and girls basketball teams both lost. The boys team lost to Boston United in the first round of the MIAA State Tournament. The boys team finished with a 15-6 record. The girls team lost to Lenox HS. The girls team finished 10-11. Ice Hockey made the Sweet 16 after beating Boston Latin Academy 4-0 in the round of 32 and then losing to Wilmington 4-3. The boys track team went 5-0 and won their league! Congrats. The girls team went 4-1. Great seasons by all!
- **French Club**- French Club and Spanish Club co-hosted the 30th annual Taste of World Cultures on Tuesday, March 10th from 5:30-8:00pm. Taste of World Cultures is a celebration of language and culture which featured a buffet dinner donated by local businesses and performances from GHS students and community groups.
- **Drama Club** - "The Secret Garden" will be performed on March 27 and 28th in the auditorium. The story is geared towards all ages but especially children. We hope that the elementary schools will be able to enjoy a performance on the morning of Friday, March 27th. Tickets can be reserved ahead of time or at the door. A perfect event to celebrate growth, change and the beginning of spring.
- **Library Club** - The Library Club had its final book to movie event last Friday, collaborating with Mosaic, the students of color and allies club, to celebrate Black History Month. We showed Hidden Figures, a film and book about three brilliant African American mathematicians who worked for NASA during the 1960s space race. Coming up, the group will have a movie and bonding event on March 18th after school.
- **Spectrum** - In March, we will be discussing nationwide news, organizing a fundraiser, and making plans for Pride Prom! Pride Prom is a favorite event for our LGBTQ+ students, and we try to team up with Franklin County Pride to help them with organization and set-up.

V. Greenfield Public Schools School Presentations on happenings in the schools -**Michael Browning (MB), Principal of Greenfield High School -Michelle Fenimore (MF), Principal of Greenfield Middle School -David Potter (DP), Principal of Four Corners Elementary School**

- A. **RJ**: Welcome to the three principals here. We will have other principals come next month. We often focus on business and other things. It is nice to also hear what is going on in the schools and how they are dealing with things. Thank you to everyone who helped this week with the unfortunate passing of one of our students. The middle school did a great job and had assistance from other schools as well. Here they are going to give quick overviews.
- B. **MB**: We have incredible faculty and staff. There are so many good things that we do. Our first goal is on attendance. It was abysmal going into this last year. We were at 88% at this time last year, we are 92% now. Chronic absenteeism was at 40% last year. Our attendance team meets weekly to work on that. It is now down to 27%. Long ways to go but impressed with progress. EL population from 52% chronic now down to 33%. Math testing started at 8th

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grade, that is moved up to 9th-10th grade. Last year in ELA were at 38% this year is at 48%. Math last year was at 27% proficient, this year is at 36%. Staff practice: Staff Read: Grading for Equity. Collab teams are not dept teams. Critical reflections on how we grade, what those practices look like, and how we improve. We are 2/3rd through the book. Continuing to work on school wide and department wide improvements we can make. Peer visits, going to classes to observe and having other staff come to visit to observe. We do this quarterly, we are on the third one now. Observing some of the things we are doing and seeing things move in the direction they need to go.

C. MF: Will start by acknowledging the Hoyte family. On behalf of the entire GMS faculty and staff we are sending our condolences to them during this difficult time. I do want to acknowledge all of our teachers and staff who did something incredibly hard this week. They did it with such grace and class and love. And the kids are just so wonderful as well.

1. PowerPoint shown. Focused on Instruction, attendance, accountability, and student achievement. These came out of DESE putting us in a status. Slides: 3. Grade 5 at GMS: A Strong Bridge to Student Success. Student success bridge plan. 4. GMS Accountability Percentile Growth. 5 Daily Attendance 2022-2026 6. MCAS Student Achievement: 2022-2025 Growth. 7. DESE Accountability Classification Progression. 8. Aligned Curriculum and Instructional Practices Grades 5-7. 9. GMS Going Forward.

D. DP Shout out to district for the invitation and welcome. It is a very collaborative and collegial place to be. I have been very impressed and glad to be part of the team. At Four Corners. Our accountability status does not require assistance or intervention, having made moderate progress towards progress. We also understand that there are a lot of things going on and a lot of growth to be made, we have a wonderful staff. We are nearly fully staffed. We still are looking for one Special Education teacher, a building based substitute, and an IA. It has been very difficult to locate that Special Education teacher. School improvement goals: Worked with school council and invested parents. First goal is providing accelerated learning and literacy through the use of focused, data informed, small group, literacy instruction, daily. This would be with every classroom teacher, providing interventions as needed, working in small group settings with students with similar needs, in conjunction with our reading interventionist. Each grade level team is supported by a third teacher whose focus is reading as we all have been growing with professional learning taking on more ownership of this system and matrix of working with students in the science of reading determining through progress monitoring, bench marking, not just where you may be in the spectrum of progress, but why. We look at how issues and challenges may be similar to somebody else but different to other peers. Grouping is very important. We focus on the key elements that are holding a child back in terms of literacy and overall reading comprehension. This has been very spirit building for our community. I joined in the second year. Storming norming forming process. Been a wonderful experience for us. 70-80% success goal is plausible. We are supporting

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reading in many ways. Technology is being used in thoughtful and strategic ways. Students have access to independent reading instruction through Lexia. Teacher has access to different curricula online also. Continuing with that, teachers are able to use AI creating gap fillers has been successful. Third goal: Attendance: we are fortunate to have high rate of attendance but we continue to stress the importance of attending every day. Social and behavioral expectation. "Be here, be amazing". We follow up when there are absences and make meetings about how to support. Up the ante for positive behavior. Each month a student is acknowledged for being amazing and has lunch with me. It is a lovely way to get to spend some time with some students and reinforce attendance and being amazing. Playworks: a new program to the district. Enhancing how we handle recess and unstructured time. Introducing games we grew up playing like Rock paper scissors to teach ways /flip coin, settle conflict. We are utilizing the junior coaches aspect with about three quarters of 4th graders receiving training in games and going out as mentors to youngsters at recess.

1. **MG:** Thank you for coming. I once had to pay \$100 for a records request to find out how many first grade teachers were in the district. Thank you for being here to show us where you are striving to go and looking at every single dime and how it is spent.
2. **JD:** Thank you for being here. For Principal Fenimore, regarding 5th grade. Help us understand team teaching. What would be the consequences for moving back to ms.
 - a. **MF:** There are fifteen students on average. Teacher Skriloff teaches math and science and Miss Murphy-Davis teaches ELA and social studies. 20 or so students switch back and forth. I think that many of you have received letters this week from our 5th grade teachers, they are tenacious. The biggest benefit: we concentrate our resources. We have cohesion aligning our teaching practices and curriculum; mitigating the worst growing pains. A model designed by 5th grade teachers with Superintendent Sullivan, for intervention focused on literacy and math. It's efficient having everyone in the same building-concentrating resources. We have access to two interventionist full time. (Math and Reading) Moving them would lose the cohesion and the school culture. Delaying that beyond 5th grade is not a good idea. Yes, there are issues, but they are very happy there. Parent teacher conferences -all families are very happy to have their kids there. Look at the people who have actually sent their kids to our school. What is the problem that we are trying to solve with moving 5th grade. It sounds like something is wrong with 5th grade; we are the solution.
3. **AC:** Years 21-22 was when everyone was back from Covid?
 - a. **MF:** Yes.
4. **AC** Congratulations on that growth that was so hard mentally and developmentally on our students. Thank you for all of the events!

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5. **SS:** Mr. Potter: Staff, how are they doing morale wise. Also, you have us right now. You are in regular communication with RJ, but while you are looking at us right now, how can we help you? What is your biggest need?
 - a. **MB:** Stability is biggest need. Staff are great and doing great. Minimal hiring run this year tells me they are doing great. Staff are involved with in the class and after school in several different ways. Stability the biggest need. Budget leads to what to consider. We are there and have done work to get out of this status. Want to preserve what we have to move forward.
 - b. **DP:** I can echo that. Staff have energy and spirit and create joy with the kids. They work hard for sure. Over all the spirit is very caring, analytical, how to do what is best or differently. Room for social emotional support and outreach. Building off what Mike was saying Need: continuity. Things feel positive and progressive. Allowing time for more data to see more growth to maintain and support what is happening.
 - c. **MS:** I think they are happy generally. They have been amazing and show their dedication. We have a collaborative staff and they are willing to help each other. Very a-typical to have the staff that I have in a middle school. Genuine wanting to see everyone succeed. They are doing great. I would ask for, echo, stability. The budget; there is more to the numbers online, there is reasoning and rationale. We would love to be asked. Questions about 5th grade- would love you to come by and see, anytime. It should be seen and celebrated.
6. **ED:** Ms. Fenimore. I am sorry to bring up redistricting 5th to elementary after you have so eloquently asked for stability. The redistricting 5th grade discussion was only one side of the coin. What if 8th grade moved back to the middle school from the high school. What do you think that would look like?
 - a. **MF:** I'm not sure what that would look like. I haven't had much thought about that side of the coin. I know some are thinking about it.
 - b. **MB:** No. Don't move them back. I don't know how we would or how that would benefit them. They are placed well and doing well.
7. **ED:** Thank you for speaking to that. That is what we talked about when we decided to redistrict. You are experiencing through a different lens. Maybe we need new listening sessions? There is new data. Appreciate you coming in and telling us the info has changed.
8. **MW:** For Principals Bown and Fenimore: On tours we saw exploratory shops. What are you offering for UAs?
 - a. **MB:** Culinary, construction, sustain agriculture. Arts: ceramic, graphic design, GHS-TV, yearbook, students have seen more episodes from GHS-TV. Innovation Career Pathways building a team to start providing for students here so they don't have to look outside for manufacturing starting in 9th grade with a concentration each year

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leading to an internship. We have a close relationship with local manufacturers.
Foreign languages. Spanish and French. Band.

- b. **MF:** We have Makers Space for all grade levels, theater, graphic design. Art.PE, health, band for grades 5 through 7 and wind ensemble. Each grade level band meets daily and have lessons and prepare for their shows. Students have two unified arts per day.

VI. Transportation Study Presentation given by Richard Labrie (RL): See Report.

- A. I was Director of the Lower Pioneer Valley Collaborative for 25 years. We developed transport services for all seven districts and their 14K students daily, including 2500 Special Education students. We built four bus depots across the county. Learned a lot regarding school transportation both from a self operated standpoint and from a contracted standpoint. We were told to look primarily at SPED transport. That is out of context so we really cannot do that. Aprox 50% special education students ride general busses
- B. PowerPoint Presentation: Covered: Transportation Operational Efficiency, Determinants, Bus capacities, Operational Expenditures, special education actual expend vs. contracted regular transport expenditures, Transportation revenue revolving account, AM transportation routes metrics, PM transportation routes metrics, Conclusion regular transportation route, Special Education Transportation, Route Metrics, Conclusion Special Education Transportation, District Fleet Metrics, Recommendations, self operation cost-benefits analysis, Cost benefits analysis, Comparative cost analysis, Cost difference calculations, cost comparisons, cost difference calculations Amherst, Cost difference calculations Mohawk, Recommendations, Conclusion.
- C. **MG:** We used to stagger starting and ending times would that save us?
 - 1. **LB:** If you extended the tier one time by 20 minutes. Or splitting 10 minutes. We do not ever recommend adjusting bell schedules to accommodate transportation. Transportation is a support to the education system.
- D. **MW:** Is your analysis for 180 days or 365 days? Do you recommend buying vs leasing?
 - 1. **LB:** 180 to 220 days of actual operation. Recommend lease purchasing to keep vehicles under warranty. To level fund 8-9 years old to turn over busses for trade in to have less impact on the budget in the future.
- E. **RJ:** 10 passenger vans: What is the availability of purchasing all of those? If you have experience with 3 tier and would there be a cost savings?
 - 1. **LB:** Purchasing: The idea is to take the bumps out of budgeting. Lease purchasing allows for that. Regarding 3 tier system; you would end up some of your elementary schools on a different tier. Not a good idea. 1 tier for middle school, 1 for HS, but the elementary school are many more and drive the number of busses that you need.
- F. **RJ:** Are 10 passenger vans available?

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1. **LB:** Yes they are avail. 6-8mo delivery time ordered new. Ford transit vans. Not cheap. But build on a truck frame and run 10 years easy. Van pool uses then almost exclusively.
- G. **SS:** What is the deal with electric busses? Constituents may want to know. Have heard they can be a useful tool, and sustainability is important to the community.
 1. **LB:** We have three clients running electric busses. The cost for an electric bus is 2.5 times the cost of a diesel bus. Only makes sense with state and federal aid. They are 400k/ea. Battery life are warrantied 7-8 years and have to be disposed as hazardous waste. Replacement batteries are almost half the cost of the vehicle. Without support of state and federal aid for the purchase of the vehicles for the infrastructure to support the busses it is cost prohibitive. 2 billion dollars will be released from state and federal budgets for 4th round of electric bus acquisition. District selection is by priority. Poorest and tribal districts are first priority. Farther north are less reliable due to the cold and heaters etc. They are not feasible at all. Districts have purchased a propane fleet instead and have been happy with them. They are EPA fundable if you can qualify to be eligible for those grants.
- H. **GD:** Is what we are charging compared to other districts appropriate?
 1. We didn't look particularly at what the revenue was that went into the revolving account. We just looked at the total revolving account. I can look at that and send an opinion to the superintendent. If you have 50/50 is typical. Invite you to send questions to the superintendent and I will receive them. We are local and enjoy the work we do and would love to answer your questions.

VII. Reports of the Administration:

- A. Business Manager: See submitted materials.
 1. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Update
 2. Budget Reports Review
 - a. no questions.
- B. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Report: See submitted report.
 1. -Literacy Focused Professional Learning Update: On February 10, 2026, the district's leadership team held its mid-year progress monitoring meeting with our Department of Elementary and Secondary (DESE) Statewide System of Support (SSoS) team.
 2. February Vacation Academy Wrap Up: Thirty-seven (37) students from all three elementary schools participated in a week of engaging learning and enrichment. The program blended academic activities along with specials in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and Physical Education. A special thanks to all the staff that made the academy possible.

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C. Superintendent Report:

1. School enrollment is steady. Flood repairs are almost over for Federal Street School from the water main break on January 1st. Rooms will be turned over to teachers next week. Painting hallways during April vacation.
2. Come any time to see the great things that are happening at these schools, call to make arrangements.
3. Closing and delays: None are taken lightly. Safety comes first. Nobody wants school to go into the summer. We cant take risks with the ice in regards to safety. A delay on a scheduled early release day will be a cancellation. We are up to the Wed. 6/17 at this time.
4. Things take time, you heard these principals tonight. Many good things are taking place in that time.

D. MW: We really are looking forward to the cardboard challenge. We had 90 families last year.

E. MG: Is our enrollment grown?

1. **RJ:** Stable. (down 2 last month)

F. JD: For SSu: Do you feel like we have a sufficient number of interventionists at this time?

SSu: We do because we are building the capacity of our teachers to serve that gap. We have positions posted for 2 years that we have not been able to fill. We try to take a practical approach, but we could always use more.

G. SS: Love the PowerPoints..

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. Approve the minutes of January 14, 2026 and February 19, 2026.

SS moves MG: seconds. Roll Call

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

IX. School Committee Reports

A. Chair's Report

1. Review and discuss Subcommittee Descriptions

See written report

a. ED: You did not include the Ad Hock Redistricting and Reinvisioning our Schools Subcommittee.

2. SS: I do intend to ask us to dissolve that and ask us to replace it with Long Term Facilities Planning committee.

a. Please look this over and offer adjustments for our April meeting.

b. We experienced a snafu- all our group emails were locked down due to fishing. Our committee email is open again. Members of the public, you can email

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schoolcom@gpsk12.org. For committee members, I ask that we all set up and use 2 factor authentication.

3. Budget and Finance Subcommittee Report

- a. Recap of recent subcommittee meeting held on March 2, 2026. The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing updates on the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. Available at the Central Office are hard copies of the Budget Summary along with a detailed spreadsheet for the upcoming Budget Hearing scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2026 at the John Zon Community Center and on Zoom. The school committee is scheduled to then vote on the proposed budget at a special meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at the John Zon Community Center and on Zoom. The voted budget will then be submitted to the Mayor on April 1, 2026. The full committee charged the subcommittee to take on Warrants. Our discussion on what it would look like resulted in a proposition for the full committee. The full committee voted that a member of the BFC will sign the warrants at least 24 hours after they have been made available but within 72 hour period. Regarding reviewing: We would like to have a regular subcommittee meeting set during the week before the full committee meeting to go over and discuss all of the warrants since the previous meeting. We will provide meeting materials of the full contents of all of the warrants signed and discussed in that month period and a cover sheet where we would flag any questions, concerns, or explanations that arise during our discussions. If approved, we would implement for the full committee meeting for April.
 - b. Motion from Vice Chair Childs that the School Committee approve of the Budget & Finance Committee's recommendations for Warrant discussion and presentation at the regular monthly meeting.
 - i. **AC moves, MG seconds.**
SS: This cover sheet will become part of our regular meeting and available publicly?
MW: Bring actual paper copies to School Committee meetings.
 - c. **AC:** Meeting materials provided online would include all of that.
 - d. **MW:** They would be available digitally.
 - e. **Vote: Motion passes unanimously by roll call**
- 4. AC:** We continued working on the subcommittee budget priorities and guidelines documents that we would have our goals for this budget season. That was included in the meeting materials. We did not have a consensus and felt the full committee should weigh in.
- a. Curriculum and instruction was a priority. Continuing to support the high quality instructional materials and assessment tools that the district has adopted because they have ongoing costs. Continuing to invest in programs that are working really well like

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expanding the restorative justice pilot, anti bullying, etc. Maintain and expand art and music getting long term stability in these areas. Second priority is staffing and volunteers. We want to maintain level of staffing that supports small class sizes and have individual supports students need. This is the category that our question is coming from. Third category was professional development. Provide needed resources to staff teaching neurodivergent students, consistency of IEP implementation, resources to support staff in English learner populations, groups that we really want work with and improve the way we work with. Last, transportation. We want to make sure we have equitable access to sports and extra curricular activities and to increase accessibility to parent engagement in district activities.

5. Discussion item brought by Budget, Finance, & Warrants Subcommittee: Should the Greenfield School Committee request the superintendent add the position of Grant Writer into the budget?
6. **AC:** A good grant writer will more than pay for their own salary. The subcommittee discussed that we already have a fair amount of grants coming and going and those require personnel to implement them, bring up questions of capacity. Bigger discussion was that a grant writer is a good idea long term, but when students have a literacy crisis, do we need a grant writer or do they need their literacy person right now? Urgency and prioritization influence the question and its decision.
7. Discussion: JD: Is the position of grant writer a common feature of school districts?
 - a. **RJ:** Common? Probably not. Do they happen? Yes.
 - b. **ED:** Our defacto grant writer is SSu. All the assistant superintendents are grant writers. When we are looking for business manager positions, we ask that of them also. I wouldn't support in this budget climate to add that because we already have that talent on deck.
 - c. **MG:** I would go back to member JD's question. Districts that don't have a lot of poverty, grant writers know they are not going to get funded. High poverty areas get funded. Greenfield survived bankruptcy. Those people are still here. The poverty in Greenfield gives us access to grant funds. Unless we have somebody actively going to Worcester, meeting the funders, building the relationships; we are leaving money on the table. As a principal, I wrote grants. There has to be an expectation of grant writing. We used to have a full time grant writer and we lost that. She doubled her money. As a tax payer, if there is a way to spend somebody's else's money, I'm there for that. Looking at a 7% increase to our budget to have somebody come in and get money for us- grants have paid for chrome books, swimming lessons, reading programs, expanded learning time grants. Some of the things that are in existence did not come from our tax base. They are here because of grants. Somebody to go face to face to Worcester to build relationships with those funders, would more than pay for

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itself. We are the lowest in MA for bringing in money from business. Everything is on the tax payer. A grant writer is worth a try. In today's world it's a way to accomplish things we may not be able to afford.

- d. **MW:** Is it realistic for us to ask the business manager to also write grants?
 - i. **AP:** It's not common. We have staff on our team that do that but actively seeking out grants and writing them? MG isn't wrong- Are these grants that we are seeking going to be used to enhance existing programs or are they creating new programs? What is the goal. (expanded learning was phenomenal) Business managers do not do a lot of grant writing. They help manage them. Education goals and objectives. We are numbers people.
- e. **ED:** The day super Judith Hule canceled the ELT Grant was the day I decided to run for the school committee. I come from the flagship school of that grant. I was a recipient. When they gave that grant away w/o speaking to the community I became angry, and that is why I ran. I took a course with former member KM how to hire a business officer and they told us to specifically asked to ask about grant writing. All candidates we spoke to said it was not a problem. [SSu] We currently have \$2.4 million in grants over 16 months. We have had 5mil in grants. I am not opposed to having positions that we need. Many argue about admin and money. I don't see what the problem statement is and what is the targeted amount you think we should go after. I think we already have that covered.
- f. **AC:** It was a temp check, maybe a less formal, straw pole?
- g. **SS:** We don't have much to go on for what this role would be.
- h. **MW:** I think this was to test the waters to see what the numbers would be.

ED moves that the full committee direct the sub committee to investigate salary cost and what a grant writer could bring to the district. Cost benefit analysis. AC seconds.

- i. **AC discussion:** Budget hearing next week means we wont be asking in FY 27 about to come before us.
 - j. **MW:** for 27-28 budget? For the year after.
 - k. **Vote motion passes unanimously by roll call**
- 8. Motion from Member Goodwin that the School Committee direct the superintendent to post for a district Registrar.
 - 9. **MG:** This motion is based on the idea that we need to follow the money. School districts get their funds from the state based on data that is entered into Powerschool. The data is entered in many places by trained people who know the community through the

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registration process. They walk into central office, in many cases people register with one person. That person does everything with those people and coordinates everything with the schools. All of that is entered into Powerschool and monitored by the schools. That position no longer exists. My concern is that if there is a lot of people and there is change in our school secretaries, some schools they secretaries are changing very fast. That data may not be as accurate as we would like it. Chapter 70 funding is based on that information. A district wide registrar, which we had for many years, helped monitor everything. School choice, residency, kindergarten registration. The process was very effective. I didn't know that it had changed until I heard somebody say something about what was happening with a secretary and a principal at a school who were there until 9 or 10 o'clock at night because the secretary couldn't figure it out. My concern was to bring that to superintendent. That is a position that most districts have. It's critical for money.

a. MG motions JD seconds.

- b. SS:** Superintendent, you were referenced directly. Do you have any info you would like to share?
- c. RJ:** This came up last week. We cut our registrar last year. An admin assistant takes care of that in each school. We have a data specialist in our IT department who takes care of accounting and making sure things are reported to the state correctly.
- d. SS:** Do we have evidence that we have misclassified or are under-enrolling or do our administrative assistants get training, or do we fear that knowledge is getting lost. Is this problem a problem?
- e. MW:** Kindergarten registration; a PTO member stepped in to do kindergarten meet greet with families. There has been chaos in offices during registration. Some providing proper training to do the job may be good.
- f. MG:** One of the things that having a district registrar is institutional knowledge. If you have registered a family, you know about the siblings, if a person hears one thing, they can draw on institutional knowledge to help keep continuity of information. Sub populations and Child Find keeps track of children who move, student records for some who just disappear. Its the registrar who maintains those records. I have been subpoenaed as a student record holder. There is a lot of law included in it. I think we are missing an opportunity. There is so much involved.
- g. SS:** Sounds like we want to know more about how these duties have been reassigned.
- h. RJ:** The reassignment has gone to the administrative assistants at each building. There were three new administrative assistants started this year. Since then we have not had turn over. It was bargained into their contract. One person in each school received an additional stipend. I am not aware that we have lost any children. We will be sending out fliers for kindergarten registration. After working with city hall all

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census students are eligible for kindergarten. We found that we needed to reach out to our new students.

- i. **ED:** When we hire a superintendent. We trust that they are going to know how to do this aspect. When we have over \$1.89 mil in cuts and we have to make cuts. We trusted superintendent Pateneaud to make the right decisions. I trust that Superintendent RJ is not misreporting to the state. I am concerned that we are micromanaging the daily responsibilities of the faculty. I trust that RJ is doing a good job. We are about to hear about budget woes.

j. **Motion does not pass. Roll Call Yes: MG: No: SS, MW, AC, ED, GD, JD**

B. Special report from Mayor Desorgher on the City Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

1. See publicly posted report: Copy of 2026.02 Ways and Means Presentation Tax Rate Recapitalization Sheet
2. **MG:** The world is a mess. I just want a number. What do you need from us? What do you need us to cut? Are we cutting 1mil? How much to help with the process?
3. **GD:** I don't know what that number is today. I will pitch in from the city side what I can. I want our children to have the best we can give them. This health insurance is putting many municipalities over the edge. 1.7 mil increase in addition to the health insurance is not sustainable. It is killing every municipality in the state. It is a struggle that has to be fought on the local level. This is a very big problem.
4. **ED:** Thank you for all of this info. Are these health insurance companies that we are dealing with open to plan reform?
5. **GD:** Yes, we are looking at this with 14 unions. Every union would have to agree. It's pretty tough. We will be bringing something forward in the next couple of weeks. We reach out to every insurance company that we can. We may look at a change to the GIC but it would be a year before it passes.
6. **ED:** There is a house bill aimed at the medicare retiree situation. If we wrote a resolution signed by all committees would it be worthwhile for you and plead our case at the state level?
7. **MG:** It might. Legislators from all the towns are talking about this and struggling with this. The reform will take a long time.
8. **ED:** I will bring one.

C. **AC** I would like to motion we bump 10.0 up in the agenda

D. **SS:** Heard

SS 2nds. Yes: MW, AC, ED, GD, JD, SS motion passes unanimously by roll call.

X. New Business

- A. Motion from Chair Sexton to approve the contract with Carol Kruser, and authorize the Chair to sign.

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1. **AC Seconds. Yes: MG, SS, MW, AC, ED, GD, JD. No: 0 Motion passes unanimously**

- B. Motion from Chair Sexton to dissolve the Ad Hoc Superintendent Search Subcommittee.
 1. **AC Seconds. Yes: MG, SS, MW, AC, ED, GD, JD. No: 0 Motion passes unanimously**
- C. Announce meeting dates for Fiscal Year 2027 budget March 16th and 25th
 1. All information is online.
- D. Discussion and possible revision of School Committee Policy BHE-Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members
 1. **Moved to April.** ED. W
 2. Policy subcommittee are going to be doing policy for April and May and can be moved.
- E. Motion from Vice Chair Childs to revise policies BEDH Public Comment At School Committee Meetings and BEDH-E Guidelines For Public Comment to remove reference to “address” and replace it with “relationship to the schools”.
 1. **Moved to April**
- F. Motion from Chair Sexton to instruct the Policy Subcommittee to review Community Use of School Facilities (Policy KF-R) regarding after hours community facility use, including comparisons of our rates to comparable facilities; rate burden on potential facilities users; and likely outcomes of either lowering or raising facilities use rates.
 1. **Moved to April**
ED moves to move items D, E, and F to April. AC seconds. Yes: MG, SS, MW, AC, ED, GD, JD. No: 0 Motion passes unanimously.
- G. **Motion from Chair Sexton to Instruct the Policy Subcommittee to review Background Checks (Policy ADDA) and Fingerprint Based CHRI Checks (ADDA-E) regarding fingerprinting requirements for volunteers.**
 1. **MW:** Would like to look at this in community engagement before we make recommendations for policy change.
 2. **SS:** How do we conduct business that touches multiple subcommittees?
Motion seconded by ED:
 - a. **ED:** Policy has to look at it because of legal, Community Engagement: what does volunteering look like. Policy means legal ramifications only. Not volunteer jobs only the processes.
 - b. **RJ:** Policy issue for the Policy Subcommittee but the PS can invite a member to give opinions on what the policy could vote. You (Community Engagement Committee) can attend meetings but not vote or participate.
 - c. **MG:** It scares volunteers away. Looking at the process and sending right to policy is best. It’s daunting and scares people away.
 - d. **AC:** Can we partner with local law enforcement for finger printing? Mobile CORI?
 - e. **MW:** I think that’s why I wanted it sent to community engagement.

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7. **ED:** If people wanted to look at it they had to ask central office. People talk a lot about transparency. I would feel better if it was available in a more transparent way.
8. **AC:** The warrants come out a couple times a month. I strongly support this.
Vote: Yes, MG, SS, MW, AC, ED, GD, JD. No: 0. Motion passes unanimously.

M. Motion from Member de Neeve to request an update on the Yondr pouch program efficacy, current contract status, and cost.

1. AC seconds:

- a. **ED:** We have had it for a while. Is it still working are people using it.
 - b. **RJ:** We absolutely use that. If you have any specific questions please feel free to send them in the next week.
 - c. **Vote: Yes, MG, SS, MW, AC, ED, GD, JD. No: 0. Motion passes unanimously.**
- N.** Motion from Member Goodwin that the School Committee add two additional members to the Business Manager Hiring Committee; one from the SubCommittee of Business and Finance and one to represent the City of Greenfield.

1. MG: Having all stakeholders included might help make things happen. It seems stuck.

a. MW seconds.

- b. **ED:** I have taken volunteer training to do this and the budget and finance and was on the Budget and Finance Committee. We are a separate entity. We are elected in a separate body. Our job is to do oversight of our budget. The city does not oversee our budget. We oversight ourselves. There are 6-8 people in the room who are already doing this. Adding more people will make things take longer. I don't see the problem statement. It's not going to help anything materialize.
- c. **AC:** I see the concern about too many cooks in the kitchen. Superintendent: what is the usual make up of a hiring committee. Does a city have representation?
- d. **RJ:** They vary. Some do the screening. Smaller is always better. You hire the business manager. I may bring recommendations. The committee will bring finalists to move forward. I agree to separate from the city. We want to engage with the city council, but this is your job. "Smaller" is relative. The more you have the tougher it gets. I would like to involve the new superintendent on this.
- e. **MW:** I am curious, who is on the current committee? ED, RJ, SSu, ...?
- f. **RJ:** I will not be sitting on that but the new superintendent will be.
- g. **ED:** It's not a committee, its a screening. Anyone that we chose, I (as the liaison) would have to bring to you. I sit in on the interview. The "worthy" candidates would be brought to the school committee. The last pool said no and all pulled their applications.
- h. **MW:** Is there a crossover from the city to the school side?
- i. **ED:** One of the interview question was about relationships with the city.

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- j. **MW:** Would it be necessary to make sure that the city was comfortable with our choice?
 - k. **ED:** We are a separate organization. We are separate elected body doing the work we were elected to do.
 - l. **MG:** The mayor sits on the school committee to be that bridge and has the whole city/budget in her head. We have struggled with a collaborative approach in the past. A lot of blame. I would like to have the mayor on the search, she should appoint someone if she cant. I have seen 30 people on a hiring committee. There are 6 people who have applied. I would like to see a finalist in front of us by next month. This is about getting more energy into this.
 - m. **AC:** Being stuck and slowing things down -adding more people will complicate and slow down. Who do you think should represent City.
 - n. **MG:** The mayor or someone she appoints if she cant.
 - o. **ED:** What is the problem, or issue? Our mayor is very busy.
 - p. **MG:** I don't think one person represents all the stakeholders. When we searched for school committee members. It's not personal, both jobs are equally important. It's just not happening. We need to move forward. I just watched three people hustle a superintendent search, and I would like to see same energy for business manager. We bring energy to a group. The idea is that many hands make light work. How can we help this process move forward and also include stakeholders who will work with this person. If you don't want to include them, that is what your vote will say.
 - q. **GD:** I we had good energy for super search. I don't feel a big need to have oversight for what is happening. Compromise by adding a person from finance on it. So two people are looking at it. Maybe have one more person on it.
 - r. **SS:** Amendment? Drop second clause after "and" to remove city council, but add a person from budget and finance.
 - s. **GD: Moves to amend motion to remove city council and add a person from budget and finance. Seconded by MW: MG accepts amendment.**
 - t. **SS:** I appreciate the positive comments about he super search but that was a four month process.
 - u. **ED:** When I vote no that does not mean I am shutting out stakeholders. We should not attach meaning to someones vote. I am voting no because this is just job hiring. Gosh Andy thank you for sitting here and sticking through this while we have this conversation in front of you.
 - v. **SS:** Thank you for that reminder to not ascribe motive to someones vote;
 - w. **Vote: Yes, MG, MW, GD, AC. No: No, SS, ED. Motion passes.**
2. Budget and finance needs to nominate.
- a. **MG:** Nominates member Webb. To the screening group.

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- b. **MW: accepts**
 - c. **SS moves; GD; seconds**
 - d. **Vote: Yes, MG, SS, MW, AC, GD, JD. No: ED. Abstain: JD. Motion passes.**
- O.** Motion from Member Goodwin that the School Committee direct the superintendent to move the fifth grade to our elementary schools.
- 1.** **MG:** Constituents came forward feeling strongly to ask the school committee to move 5th grade back to elementary schools. Many people feel like we pushed this off. It is not about teachers or performance. Parents feel like they want the model of 5th grade in elementary. I have to bring to the committee what constituents bring to me. Middle School looks like a big school from the street. I have told parents to go see. A key group of people want to know if 8th grade was not added because of the cost. There wasn't a cost to 5th grade. There is room in the elementary schools. It's important that everyone is heard.

GD: seconds

- a. **ED:** I feel for these parents that feel this way. I was on the committee. We had so many listening sessions. I feel deep frustration in my soul that we have not done this. Delays due to meeting rules and then financial cuts, we couldn't do it. Now I am so thankful the teachers came to speak to us. They had to have a 'make it work' moment and now they have a great team with positive movement out of DESE status. A lot has changed since we first brought this up. There is harm and pain here. We completed part of the work by redrawing the lines as part of equity. We couldn't do it this year no matter how much we wanted to. We would have to revisit all of our discussions with our community and the building situations. There is a cost associated with all of it and brings up the 8th grade part too. There is a whole part of the problem. I know it's not an answer or a question but it's discussion. I am a no.
- b. **MW.** As a parent I had fears. The bridge from elementary to middle school is good. I had fear, but there are so many UAs and opportunities there. The transitions from two teachers to four teachers is well done.
- c. **AC:** Pragmatic: Looking at the timeline for next year, we paused last year because of money, we are more dire next year, I don't see this happening. We heard very compelling arguments to keep it there. The support teams are doing well, how could we multiply those for all the elementary schools? I don't like the idea of pulling the rug out from our teachers to redo all of the planning, budgets etc. We need to be transparent. Its not a quick, rapid turn around and if we rush it, it will be a terrible job. I think 5th grade has a need for PR. Would we be able to run calculations in time to juggle things around? Pragmatically we don't have enough time or money.

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- d. **JD:** If you had asked me a month ago it would have been a clear yes, move. We have heard a lot of support for the team teaching model and I don't see how that could work at all of the elementary schools. We had three principals ask us for stability. I will be voting no.
 - e. **SS:** For the reasons that have been named. I will vote no. There will be a lot of upset parents. I heard the question and desire for clarity. Trying to give parents clarity and teachers stability I won't support changing everything up in March for a Fall start.
 - f. **AC:** On what **JD** said about stability; this is probably something better presented to the new full time long term superintendent and not the outgoing interim. Long Term Facilities Use Advisory Committee could advise to use these facilities for 5th grade verses...
 - g. **GD:** Need for stability, and because of what the teachers have said I will be a no.
Yes: MG. No:SS, MW, AC, ED, GD, JD Motion does not pass.
- P.** Motion from Member Goodwin that the School Committee form an AdHoc committee to study the current state of literacy in our schools.
SS moves to move this to April. MW seconds.
Vote: Yes, MG, SS, MW, AC, ED, GD, JD. No: 0. Motion passes unanimously.

XI. Old Business

A. Review of Yearlong Agenda:

SS moves to postpone to April, AC seconds,

Vote: Yes, MG, SS, MW, AC, ED, GD, JD. No: 0. Motion passes unanimously.

B. Strategic Plan Review:

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

XII. . Old Business

A. A. Motion from Chair Sexton to have the Greenfield School Committee create a Long-term Facilities Use Advisory Committee.

B. B. Motion from Chair Sexton to rescind the mediation vote taken on February 19,

1. Seconded: MG

2. ED: Spoke to AGO

Vote: Yes, MG, SS, MW, AC, ED, GD, JD. No: 0. Motion passes unanimously.

C. C. Discussion about if and how to proceed with mediation or conflict resolution.

- 1. **ED:** We would like to work better as a body. You can't do this in executive session. But there are a lot of things you can do many things and we would love to advise you. We do not deliberate school committee business. We can do interactive functions as long as we are not deliberating. There is a way forward that does not have to be in executive session.

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AC: Dealing With Toxic People, was the literal title of the panel and was in no way language chosen by anyone on this committee.

- 2. MW:** As long as we are not discussing any school committee item agendas etc.
- 3. SS:** Would you please forward and emails you have.
- 4. ED:** Yes and I encourage anyone to call.

RJ: MW had asked about the warrants. They are posted on the city site all the time.

AP: The city uses open check book so you can see

XIII. Adjournment 10:43pm

AC moves. ED seconds

Vote: Yes, MG, SS, MW, AC, ED, GD, JD. No: 0. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nan Sibley
Administrative Assistant