

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BUDGET HEARING
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES: March 16, 2026**

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

I. Call to order: 6:37pm

II. Roll Call of Members - If members appear online, roll call voting must be used

Present: Stacey Sexton (SS); Ann Childs (AC); Melissa Mckenzie Webb (MW); Mayor Ginny DeSorgher (GD); Elizabeth Deneeve (ED).

Attending Remote: Jeffrey Diteman (JD).

Absent: Melodie Goodwin (MG).

Also present: Superintendent Roland Joyal (RJ); Assistant Superintendent Stephen Sullivan (SSu); Business Manager Andy Paquette (AP) Special Education Director David Messing (DM).

III. Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Public Hearing

See posted materials

RJ presents:

There are three primary drivers influencing the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget that will be part of the presentation: Priorities for '26-'27.

1. Curriculum and Instruction: Staffing/Volunteers, Professional Development, Transportation, Assumptions and Guidance Budgets and Numbers.
2. Contractual salary obligations.
3. Special Education: Out-of-District Tuition, Special Education Transportation

IV. Public Comment:

Pamela Goodwin: Taught for a number of years. Precinct 6. Congratulations on your hard work. I am thrilled that maintaining arts, music, athletics, and languages are prioritized. I was two and a halved when I was teaching foreign languages and had also lost my contracts years ago. Love restorative justice. I was teaching at elementary in Colrain, they were very involved in restorative justice and had to have that at the middle school a long time ago. I was hired to teach young IEP 5th or 6th grader at his apartment in all of his subjects. Maybe there was a lawsuit from mom to district. He had some tremendous behavior issues which were toned down with me working with him one on one. As a special needs student, I got him into Newton School. He was brilliant, he just had special needs. Mom wanted him to progress. I have had a number of experiences with special needs classrooms over the years. If they have to be driven out to get their needs met, we know that No Child Left Behind is where we are coming from, and we do have a lot of special needs kids, especially post Covid. Sometimes it's just behavior, and sometimes it's something much more serious. I had a number of IEP students in my classroom when I was teaching here in this school system and in others. I heard about many people who wanted to volunteer. If we can

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make it easier for them to do that, I would love to see that happen. Paying instructional aids is a big problem. If we can get more people in there on a volunteer basis to help with students, I would love to see that happen.

DISCUSSION:

ED: for RJ: What do we do with only 80% of Title 1 and can we add your PowerPoint to the webpage for public?

RJ: Yes on the PowerPoint. That loss is going to represent about \$149K. These are all what ifs right now.

SSu: We have been asked to plan for about 15% reduction. We can monitor how we are spending Title 1 for this year. Titles 1-4 are 27mo grants. We would have to look at potential changes to what we pay out of Title 1. We don't know yet if it will be long term or a blip.

ED: For Andy, thank you for making sure that we had enough money. Federal mandated minimum \$9.268 mil was what was the total we were spending? How much more are we spending compared to our maintenance effort from last year and going forward.

AP: I will have that number for you before the end of this meeting.

ED: This isn't any different than any other. I was thinking today that nobody here wants to cut any education for any of our students. Private healthcare is taking your child's education. If we can put as much energy as possible towards UHC, this is never going to stop. We need to do it now. Please help us. Send us email. All energy you put into the town facebook page, send it to Boston. Thank you Andy.

AP: \$9,944,779. Mr. Messing credit for this. \$9.28mil was last year.

MW: Title one is 85% do we know how many FTE we are paying out of Title 1 or is it that mainly for after school events.

SSu: Combo of supplies and personnel. We have allocated for 9 positions out of Title 1.

MW: Will we be able to maintain those positions with the cuts?

SSu: That is our plan. To maintain/prioritize the positions that are filled. It could effect transportation, supplies, things like that.

RJ: When we have to cut, we have to cut in personnel. We can't cut enough notebooks, materials for \$700K. We have to vote on teachers or activities at times, but those are the tough things to do. It's human beings. Different jobs have different jobs that go with them. We can't cover that with dry erase markers.

MW: Is summer school in this budget?

SSu: A couple of different places. Title 1 is one of them, line item local is another.

DM: Special Education grant we use the entirety \$23K to cover IA.

SSu: And summer school funding.

GD: Transportation, how many of those positions are unfilled this year?

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RJ: We could use one more CDL and another 7D.

GD: 22 positions that are filled?

RJ: We have two openings.

GD: IT: hardware, did the joint grant figure into the budget?

RJ: Yes.

GD: Were we adding teaching staff to middle school?

RJ: I don't believe so.

ED: Medicaid reimbursement?

AP: We do a claims that we file, goes to general fund revenue. We don't earmark General Fund Revenue.

JD: Increase for Middle School teaching staff salaries. How much of that percentage has to do with contractual wage increase and how much health insurance?

AP: It's all wage related. The city takes care of the health insurance.

RJ: That has to do with last year's presentation. With anticipated changes like 5th going to elementary, and 8th going back to high school. Those changes did not happen.

AP: Yes. JD can you tell me where you are getting your increase info?

JD: Line 85 GMS teaching staff regular education. I'm sorry, no it's not an increase. Sorry.

GD: Last year no FTE next to this year. Projected 64.8 before the changes that didn't happen. This year 65.8 When we got this budget it was adding.

AP: Was taking into redistricting. Actual revised for FY26-27 is 58.8. FY26 FTE were showing voted budget with redistricting. What we have now is without redistricting.

GD: The budget that we have for the budget we have in front of us says FTEs are 65.8 for FY27.

AP: That's FY26. We added in the PPT the FY27 FTEs.

SS: Budgeting from the High School. It looks like a decrease but it's not.

AP: When we look at personnel changes, there were higher cost people in FY26. We take some money from school choice and some Title 1 goes towards \$656K regular education teaching line.

SS: We are projecting that that is sustainable?

AP: We are reducing those substantially. We are looking at school choice- Special Education, transportation; a change for FY26 reduction 40% available. 18% projected available for FY27. total 50% normal best practices. There is potential for FY28 you would be using this year's receipts. Build up of reserves, ours are going down by 38.7%. Sustainability is a very valid concern.

SS: If we cannot use those funds what does that do to our FTEs

AP: We are looking about 6 FTEs.

RJ: Rainy day fund; right now it's raining. It's pouring. We cannot remember any good times when we could put money away. There is not many years left of that.

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MW: How many in the budget you just presented, how many vacant positions that we are reporting on in this budget? Also, the number we are seeing is for 58.8 FTEs and not 65.8 FTEs?

GD: For AEL; \$526197 in the revolving acct 1513 acct AEL wraparound tuition. Can we use some of that for AEL?

AP: There is not \$500K in AEL. Wraparound is \$55K. 1513 has \$55,676. Pre-k revolving offset of 526 would be up for discussion- we will end up using some of that. Six of one half dozen of the other. Look and see. Worthy of discussion.

GD: Go over on the whole budget, on the right what the source is for that? Where are you taking each one of those on the far right. (Totals)

AP: \$20K is IDA262 grant. \$50K above is tuition revolving/AEL PreK. \$161,762 is Title 1. Four Corners \$85,615 Title 1. Newton \$187,071 Title 1, GMS \$175,630 Title 1. That was for FY26. Going back to your vacancy questions: Federal Street \$171,930 Title 1, Four Corners \$60,802 Title 1, Newton \$186,012 Title 1, GMS \$172,938 Title 1, GHS \$156,614 Title 1, \$500K school choice. The balance is Title 1. Special Education out of district tuition \$2,647,000, \$820K is the IDEA240 grant \$1,527,398 circuit breaker, \$300 Special Education tuition revolving, Transportation: \$400k revolving.

MW: When was last tuition increase?

RJ: 2 years ago.

AC: This is a lot of info: I will announce Finance Subcommittee. Any members of the public are welcome to come and ask questions. Email me your questions ahead of time if you can so we can try to get answers for them.

SS: If you have any questions from any of these documents between now and then, please email AC or RJ.

V. Adjournment

Roll call to close public hearing: Motion passes unanimous by roll call.

Public hearing closed at 7:42 p. m.

AC moves to adjourn. ED seconds.

Motion passes unanimous by roll call.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Nan Sibley
Administrative Assistant