

GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES: Wednesday April 8, 2026

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

I. Call to Order: 6:30pm

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); Elizabeth DeNeeve (ED); Jeffrey Diteman (JD).

Also present: Superintendent Roland Joyal (RJ); Assistant Superintendent Stephen Sullivan (SSu).

Absent: Mayor Ginny DeSorgher (GD); 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.

Doug Selwyn: Volunteering: Renewing CORI near impossible. Process gives the impression that schools do not want volunteers. State level: Governor is pushing to bring back MCAS 3.0, end of year course tests. Standardized and run the MCAS process. Urge you to contact your legislators to slow down. We voted that we don't want those high stakes standardized tests. Argue against unfunded mandates. Funding: Insanity of trying to fund the schools. There are 270 other districts having the same struggle. Pushing the state to look at the funding formula 82.5% cap making sure that poor districts get screwed is part of the reason we are in dire straits. Our situation is part of a larger funding process.

IV. Recognition:

Lisa Morrison, Greenfield Middle School Health and Physical Education Teacher Recipient of the 2026 Grinspoon Award for the Greenfield Public Schools

RJ: Greenfield Middle School's Lisa Morrison received the Grinspoon Award! Had been selected as their sole 2026 Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award. Lisa Consistently goes above and beyond to create memorable experiences for students. She leads an intramural after school club, volunteering her time when it is not a paid position, and organizes the annual student teacher dodgeball tourney. Each Friday she recognizes a student as the MVP, celebrating not just their athletic ability, but character, sportsmanship, kindness, and community mindedness. By highlighting a wide range of strengths and uplifting diverse talents, Lisa fosters an inclusive environment where students feel valued and inspires to bring their best selves forward. Quoting GMS Principal Michelle Fenmore, "Lisa has a remarkable gift for seeing the unique gifts in every student and designing experiences that allow each one to shine. Whether it's building confidence in a hesitant learner, challenging a natural athlete to lead, or finding creative ways for students to demonstrate teamwork and perseverance, she ensures that everyone feels successful and valued in her class. Her commitment to inclusion, encouragement, and growth, make physical education a place where every student can thrive. Professionally, Lisa embraces school wide instructional initiatives and thoughtfully adapts to the unique context of physical education. She designs engaging dynamic classes that encourage full participation. Students are enthusiastic, active and eager to be involved. With a wide variety of activities that extend beyond traditional competitive team sports, she ensures that every student can find success and enjoyment in movement. A collaborative and positive member of the school community, Lisa exemplifies the

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social emotional qualities that she works to instill in her students each day.” We are honored to present this award to Lisa who will be honored at the celebratory banquet at the Log Cabin on May 6, 2026.

Principal Fenmore: All of that is what Lisa exemplifies on a daily basis. She is such a gift to the students and the staff at GMS. She takes such pride in what she does. Her PE classroom is one of the most academic classrooms I have ever been in. She has very high standards for kiddos and we are just so proud of her.

Lisa: Thank you for having me, I appreciate it. I would just like to say this whole experience has been really lovely. I don’t work alone, but feeling appreciated means a lot. This really feels like a massive win for the GMS team and I’m just this year’s captain. There is so much good stuff going on at GMS and I am just one small piece. Every colleague that I work with works just as hard if not harder on a regular basis. It feels like I work in a very special place. It’s like a family and I think that really starts at the top. We have leaders like Michelle and Alan who make their staff feel supported and valued on a daily basis. It makes us all come to work every day wanting to show up for the kids and for each other. I just feel very grateful to work where I work. Thank you.

V. Report of Student Representatives to the Committee:

Student Council - Student Council will be hosting a Fancy Formal Wear giveaway on Friday, April 10 right after school for GHS students only and then on Saturday, April 11, from 11:00 - 1:00 for all high school students looking for something formal to wear to prom or other fancy event. We collect items year round. If you have something you would like to donate please drop it off in the main office during school hours or at the Garden Cinemas, evenings and weekends.

On April 29th, Student Council will be hosting the WMASC Spring Conference; gathering students from all across Western Massachusetts to discuss and improve students' leadership qualities. The conference will run all day. Kayden Viencek will be campaigning and running for the regional board Secretary position.

Key Club - During the month of April, Key Club will focus on community service and picking up litter. There are some planned events to clean up downtown and the bike path on April 11th, and Key Club students will be cleaning up around the GHS campus and parts of Shattuck Park. The Club plans to schedule another trip to AEL as part of the United Way’s Read! Learn! Succeed! Program.

Athletics - Spring sports started on March 27th, with a 16-1 win for softball against South Hadley! Boys and girls tennis started on April 1st and 2nd and they had their first meet on April 7th. Please come out and support our student athletes! Go to arbitratorlive.com for all schedules. GO GREEN WAVE!!

French Club- Several GHS students, staff, and family members depart soon for a ten-day adventure in France during April break! Key spots visited will be Paris, Strasbourg, Dijon, Lyon, and Annecy. Mark your calendars for the Thursday, May 7th, Spring Coffeehouse

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Talent Show from 6-8pm in the GHS auditorium. Admission is \$5 for students and \$10 for adults which includes light refreshments.

Library Club - On Tuesday, April 7th, Library Club hosted the annual Poetry Slam and Writing Showcase in the GHS library.

AV Club - Join us for the 2026 GHS and GMS Film Fest on Friday April 17th, from 5:30 to 8:30 at the GHS Auditorium. There will be good food and good films. Submissions will be accepted through April 10th. Hope to see you there!

Mosaic/Students of Color Club- Students of Color Club is hosting a dodgeball tournament on Friday, April 10, from 6-9pm. Pre-register by scanning the QR code found on the posted flyers or contact Nate Woodard at natwoo126@gpsk12.org

VI. Greenfield Public Schools School Presentations on happenings in the schools:

RJ: Happy to continue what we did last month. We have principals from three of our elementary schools tonight. Carol Jacobs: Newton, Jill Taglia: AEL, and Kelly Halpin: Federal Street. They are here to tell you about some of the great things that are happening at their schools with their students, academics, and their attendance, and be available for any questions.

Kelly Halpin, Principal of Federal Street Elementary School: See *“Federal Street School Committee Presentation”* submitted documents.

Thank you so much for inviting us to share the wonderful things that are happening at our schools. Bragging about Federal Street is one of my favorite things to do. This is a real pleasure.

Carol Jacobs, Principal of Newton Elementary School

Thank you for having us. This has been a true treat. When I started last December 6th, it has been one of the best experiences of my 47 year career. We first started working on the culture and fostering a sense of community. After a number of leadership changes, Member Goodwin was the last long term principal, there was a feeling of people being in survival mode. We focused on stabilizing and building on the good things that were happening. We identified opportunities for immediate successes to begin reaching our goals. In my first meeting I declared that we are going to bring the joy back to Newton. Joy is a very big deal to me. Watching children and teachers learning and grow and work together is the ultimate joy. It is my hope and dream that the incoming principal will continue that experience and environment.

Every decision: What will be best for the students? Major areas of focus: Work with all the stakeholders. Build strength and a sense of hope and joy working together in the following areas.

Culture: Via structures and systems. We strengthened the arrival and dismissal process and the SST process. “The Newton Way” is the tagline for what we do. Discipline, culture building activities, and we recognize students for following The Newton Way and help students recognize where they need support to follow The Newton Way. I have been really proud of the kids.

PBIS: (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) All the systems in the district are tiered. Tier 1: Everybody gets it, Tier 2: A little more supportive for students who need more,

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and Tier 3: Related to what students can do and where they need support. PBIS and MTIS are systems that we used to approach our work. It is a work in progress, but good things are already in place. Small group instruction has produced measurable improvement through targeting what the students really need and basing instruction on those needs, and tracking their progress.

Data collection: Teachers are able to use it to track progress and wins, and needs for improvement. It is critical to know where and how we are effective.

Positive youth development. Mistakes are something everybody experiences. Practicing identifying personal responsibility.

Three goals for school improvement:

1. Performance on reading and math. Designated intervention blocks. Teachers have them every day. Support math and reading goals through our interventionist trained in math recovery. Targets instruction based on core skills. She is getting great results. Literacy in every single grade, well over 50% growing one or more levels. All students are making progress.

2. Building a school culture that supports ALL learners. Forming a PBIS committee. Instilling The Newton Way. Classroom incentives, PJ day where they made forts. They get to choose. Focusing on a multi-tier discipline with logical consequences and restorative practices. Playworks: Have seen results at recess. We have embraced the junior coach model with 3rd and 4th graders. We have classroom buddies. It's a blast to see the 4th graders reading with the kindergarten students.

3. Improved attendance. Goal was 92% average monthly. We meet weekly and track weekly. We contact the parents and meet with them. The goal is "How can we help you?" Every family we met with has improved immensely. We recognize perfect attendance quarterly. I meet with the students I am worried about. The conversations are making a big difference. Tardiness is still a challenge. Little progress. Kindergarten attendance needs some work also.

Successes: Title 1 improvements: Impressive growth in 1st grade. 5 students moved from 'below' up to 'on or above grade level'. 12 students in 1st grade with 7 'at grade level'. 2nd grade students are marked 'improvements'. 3rd grade: 50% have 'made significant gains'. 4th grade showed 47% growth. Teacher feedback: Positive change in curriculum practices. State representatives were impressed during their walk through. Social Emotional: 37% Reduction in incident reports. 15 students have been issued The Newton Way award. 25% of 4th grade students were selected as junior coaches at recess. Student leadership has been a priority. 94% parents attended parent teacher conferences. Increased attendance at our all school meetings shows that people are feeling more connected to the community. PTO doing a lot of work with double the participation. We do a celebration of growth where teachers pick students to showcase their choice of improvements for their families at a 45 minute event for them. Parent coordinators have been helpful. Raised over 600 tickets at fundraiser.

Next steps: Hire a new principal who will increase parent communication and work with SSOS next year. Stay the course and focus on student needs. Principal position was posted in December. Received 13 applications, will interview 7 or 8 after screening for certifications. Forming a screening committee with a date of the 17th to have chosen finalists.

I want to thank you. When I talk about joy, this has been a real joy for me; coming back home. I started here in my career many years ago. Being superintendent was an important job, I loved it and I did it for 20 years, but THIS is a job that brings me joy every day. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the Newton School community and the Greenfield Public Schools.

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Jill Taglia, Principal of Academy of Early Learning:

When I visit the elementary schools and I see the students who have been to AEL and what they are doing, it is powerful. You can see the foundation that has been laid and how they are able to grow from that.

See Presentation "AEL Presentation for School Committee" Submitted documents

Questions:

MG: Unfunded mandates: It took more time to take data than it did to teach. Teachers are heroes. We were proud to be a responsive classroom. Has restorative justice taken place of Responsive Classroom?

KH: There are a lot of teachers trained in Responsive Classroom but we are not currently training.

RJ: We are no longer using that.

SSu: We are no longer using that.

CJ: We are still using parts of it. Rules and logical consequences as opposed to "punishment". Some morning meetings to start the day by building community.

JD: Thank you all. It's wonderful to hear. A motion tonight to create an ad hoc committee to study study literacy in our schools. I am happy to hear we are making good progress. I look forward to working with you more directly. Is there anything you want us to know about the relationship between the literacy in our schools/tension with Ufly, Lexia, and computer based-spending too much time on computers. Is this an impasse? I would like to open a dialogue with you on how to overcome such an impasse. Also sugary foods in schools. It is our obligation to feed our kids healthy foods. Please take a look at this.

MG: Carol, Thank you so much. The journey to walk from Newton; It was the best day when I walked in and you were there. Thank you.

CJ: It's been a joy.

AC: Thank you for the collecting and providing the hard data and for caring about our kids so much.

SS: How are your staff doing? How can we help? What do you need?

CJ: They are hard working. They are a little anxious and had leadership changes that haven't lasted long. Somebody coming in will see the culture is strong. I reassure them. They feel some security that I am involved in the committee. There isn't enough time or money.

JT: I am grateful. Our teachers are fantastic. Paras: fantastic. We have a very skilled staff.

Everyone is probably at capacity. Need is intense and growing. Not sure of the solution, but its about time and funding to have adequate supports. At Pre-K level, we are not mandated. Sometimes it is devalued. We needed the supports like FTE school adjustment counselor. There are needs for children and families before they move on to the elementary schools. Investment in Pre-K will not be wasted. Anything you put there will pay off. They have the expertise. We need the support.

CJ: I can tell the students that have been to Pre-K when they enter Kindergarten. There are fewer. Thankful that we have AEL.

KH: Staff is amazing, committed, creative, courageous, willing to think outside the box and do new things. Done so professionally. Taken pride in our students. Instructional Assistants are fantastic. Custodians and kitchen staff is such a warm place to be. We did raffle fundraiser; whole staff willing to do silly things. Custodians dressed up, everyone did something silly to get

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kids excited. What I need from you is continued commitment to early literacy and some patience as we roll out our restorative practices work. It takes time to see the culture shift that we are hoping for.

CJ: Having a task force. I would ask that any committee that work on it be engaged in gathering information. Come in and look at it. Being told vs. seeing and engaging with the people doing the work are different. Assume positive intention. They would have a lot to say and you will get a lot of information from it.

JT: Shout out to leadership team. Roland, thank you for everything that you have done. In the time I have been here has become cohesive leadership team and initiatives have really gelled. Continued support for that team and really listening. It's a really strong team with great ideas but it takes time to pull it all together; but it's happening. Connections are being made. Keep on supporting.

VII. Reports of the Administration:

Moving forward we going to assume we have read the reports ahead of time and are prepared to present any questions at this time.

A. Business Manager: *See submitted documents*

B. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Report: *See "Assistant Superintendent Update 4.8.26" document.*

-Professional Learning Update: The final district-wide professional learning day will be on May 22, 2026 in the afternoon.

-Title I Events:

- a. The Second Annual Cardboard Challenge was held on March 14, 2026 at the Middle School
- b. March 26, 2026 was Elementary Literacy Night at each of the three elementary schools
- c. March 30, 2026 marked the start to our One Book One School initiative
- d. April Vacation Academy will take place April 21, 2026-April 24, 2026 at the Discovery School at Four Corners for grades one through four

C. Superintendent Report:

Acknowledging the absence of Business Manager Andy Paquette. He is at the induction ceremony of his two daughters into their National Honor Society. Congratulations to he and his family.

Congratulations to Kanza Nasrullah, on March 9th received the MLK Jr. Award at GCC.

-School enrollment update

See "Enrollment as of 4.3.26" document.

-(YELO) Youth Engage Legislators and Officials Forum at Greenfield High School conference: 4/17 hosted by GHS History Department with Dial Self.

-Attended the Secret Garden play. It was FANTASTIC. They did such a nice job and invited the 3rd and 4th graders for a daytime performance before the evening performances.

Congratulations to GHS senior, Ash Bigelow presented at Academy of Music Regional Youth Poetry Slam and won 3rd place with a cash prize.

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SSu and I attended GHS poetry slam. Students and faculty presented. I was amazed, very impressed at the creativity!

Spent time with athletic director before this meeting and our boys varsity baseball and girls varsity softball teams were winning!

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. Vote to approve the minutes of March 11, 2026; March 16, 2026 and March 25, 2026

B. Vote to approve the districts participation in the School Choice Program for the 2026-2027 school year

C. Vote to approve the 2026-2027 school year calendar

D. Second Read and Vote of Revised Policy IJOA: Field Trips

E. Second Read and Vote of Revised Policy BB AA: School Committee Member Authority

F. Second Read and Vote of Revised Policy JIB: Student Involvement in Decision-Making

G. First Read and Vote of Revised Policy DK: Payment Procedures

AC: Item A no March 25, 2026 minutes or item B still being produced. Would be appropriate to pull out B

Consider B separate.

SS: New consent agenda is item A with exception of March 25, 2026 minutes and no item B.

SS Moves to approve consent agenda. MG Seconds Vote: Yes: MW, AC, ED, JD, MG, SS. Consent Agenda approved unanimously.

RJ: Regarding item B: Each year it is presumed that schools are participating in school choice. If a district chooses not to participate, they have to let state know by June first. We are currently participating. This is taking students in who live outside of Greenfield. (Not sending out of district.) All districts are assumed to participate without an active refusal to participate.

To do it needs no action, to refuse would need to approve a motion to refuse.

MG: Moves that we continue to engage and follow the superintendent's recommendation for number of seats per grade. SS Seconds.

Vote: Yes: MW, AC, ED, JD, MG, SS. Motion passed unanimous.

IX. School Committee Reports

A. Chair's Report

1. Roberts Rules procedure: Calling the Question/Previous Question

In discussions motions, where there is repetition, the discussion can be called. Someone needs to make a motion to call the discussion. The motion to call the discussion needs to be voted and won by a 2/3rd before proceeding to the vote on the motion being discussed.

B. Budget and Finance Subcommittee Report

1. Review of two subcommittee meetings with highlights that include review of the most current warrants of the month which produced discussion topics for clarification: landscaping options and social media expenses and communication service subscriptions.

See "Budget, Finance, and Warrants" document.

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2. **AC (regarding social media) moves that School Committee request Community Engagement Subcommittee to work with administration to obtain information on our family expectations, needs, and engagement metrics so that we can ensure that we are paying for what best serves Greenfield families.**

MW: Seconds:

ED: Thank you for looking at social media costs. Past history, I brought this up in '22 and sent out a survey. Parents want social media. There are 4 or 5 active parent pages on FB and hashtags on insta. We don't in the district. We are not posting where the parents are. When you are ready to look at that I will give you the info where they are.

MW: Our buildings PTOs or GHS run their own separate pages. We are not finding them on the GPS FB page. They are at their individual building/school pages. Not the GPS page. AEL is on insta, not FB.

SS: Homework for Community Engagement subcommittee. How would they like that interaction to be structured. Learning about what content they are looking for. Leave it to you all to figure that out.

Vote: Yes: MW, AC, ED, JD, MG, SS. Motion passed unanimous.

C. Policy, Program, and School Committee Handbook Subcommittee Report

See "Policy Program and Handbook Subcommittee Report for April 2026" document.

1. The subcommittee met on March 30, 2026 for their first subcommittee meeting of the year. At this meeting, there were several goals discussed and set for the year.

JD: Did reach out to Mrs. Mass.

D. Community Engagement Subcommittee Report (None)

X. New Business

- A. **Motion from Member DeNeeve to have the School Committee develop a procedure for drafting, acting upon, and archiving resolutions. We are a legislative body and should task to use our city seat and put our weight behind beliefs to develop our school culture and should be a formal document that we do this and should be forwarded. Senator Jo Comerford's office said that the more bodies that put their weight behind something means something**

Seconds: AC

Vote: Yes: MW, AC, ED, JD, MG, SS. Motion passes unanimous.

- B. **Motion from Member DeNeeve to have the School Committee support bill H. 1399 to modernize retiree medicare healthcare for municipalities.**

This is a gift we can give to our mayor. How we can put our power behind this idea and show that we support this. From traditional group insurance to individual insurance plans. It is currently in the ways/means committee. Support mayor, seek city council support

MG: I will vote no. I looked at this they haven't answered serious questions. The concept is good but the details are not there. I want the details. Following really carefully. It is a reaction to the trends in healthcare. The details are not clear. I will vote no.

AC Seconds:

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Vote: Yes: AC, ED. No: MG. Abstain: SS, JD, MW. Motion passes.

JD: Moves to rescind the vote for item B. MG Seconds: Vote: Yes: Motion passes unanimous.

ED Moves to postpone B. AC Seconds. Vote: Yes: MW, AC, ED, JD, MG, SS. Motion passes unanimous.

C. Motion from Member DeNeeve to have the School Committee support bill H. 560/S. 391 about Climate Literacy brought to us by Mass Audubon Statewide Youth Climate Leadership Program.

Constituent emailed this to me asking us to support. I move that we support it. It aligns with our values, mission, tells youth we support them and understand their planet is suffering. It's lovely that MASYCLP contacted us. They understand that we are a body that can support them.

MG: Is there a cost? Do they have a structured curriculum.

ED: I don't have that answer but I will forward you the email and you can ask the sender. They have worked with many committees.

MG: okay.

SS: This is supporting legislation, not curriculum. Supporting a broad state initiative going through another years long process.

ED: Supporting our Amherst neighbors. Showing solidarity in a formal way.

JD: It calls for creating a separate fund this is a state level initiative for the state to create the fund.

SS Seconds: VOTE: YES: MW, AC, ED, JD, MG, SS. Motion passes unanimous.

D. Motion from Member DeNeeve to have the School Committee donate the historical documents and materials located in the Middle School Central Office hallway to the Greenfield Historical Society: In process already.

E. Vote to dissolve the Redistricting and Reorganizing Ad Hoc Subcommittee: pre-existing body that item A is doing. If does not pass, old members must agree to continue.

MG: AD Hock was a good start. Now we need to look at all the different options that are out there. Buildings, deflating enrollment. looking at bigger picture of our county. This was looking within. We need to look at our neighbors also. I have learned, all the children know each other. I'm a yes for dissolving it because we will create something bigger than that.

Ed: I'm fine dissolving it, but I think that we need to digest that this was the first subcommittee that reached out to the public for listening sessions from the perspective of a subcommittee. The amount of data we compiled is really valuable. Redistricting conversations leave behind that info. Make sure you get that info before you begin. We have a history of collecting info and then nobody knows where it goes. We worked hard to compile it and make it available. You can build upon that and not reinvent the wheel.

MW Seconds. Yes: MW, AC, ED, JD, MG, SS. Motion passes unanimous.

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XI. Old Business

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

1. As an advisory we can include members of the public. We would put out a process for numbers of parents, teachers, specific skills, those people could apply and we create a deadline of next May. Any options we have that we do our due diligence and grounded in our current sentiment and in our long term goals to provide rationale why we move forward the way we move forward. Not just consulting public but having them be a part of the process.

Seconds: ED

ED: Confirm this is an updated proposal?

SS: Updated: Changed the due date. Have a strategic plan or this first. Give us the rest of '27 to come up with a strategic plan. Potentially a task force of two or three people for info gathering and brings back to advisory group. Doing the legwork to make informed decisions. Sifting through that and bring that info back here in about a year.

ED: Thankful you are doing these templates and rationales ahead of time so we can do our reading and research ahead of time.

MG: I have been talking to people and we have been looking at this for 10 years. A big group should be small and dedicated. May of 27 you think?

SS: A year's worth of solid meetings, yes.

AC: I like having the community directly involved. And making sure its a full representation of the full community, not just all one representation or the like.

MG: Encourage you to look who was on building and sites.

ED: Is there provision for city council involved? Ways and means or capital planning? A liaison in mind?

SS: Not a particular person but we would have a discretion of choosing participants and would strongly encourage and do outreach for City Council to participate.

Vote: Yes: MW, ED, AC, JD, SS. Abstain: MG. Motion passes.

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

SS: Not a formal mediation but a structured place to talk together at least once per year. Is this something we as a group we would like to pursue and how would we like to do it? Our options: We are allowed to have working sessions where we do not discuss committee items. This does not require public session.

ED: Did you include my letter to the AGO?

SS: They did not.

ED: I published my letter online. In order to get work done, we don't have to have harmony. You can get work done in conflict. Passion can get work done. Conflict doesn't bother me. Harmony doesn't always work. Maybe as a body we don't need that. We don't have to like or trust people we work with to get work done. I don't expect that I will get what I will need from this committee, so I don't see it. I will support and engage with

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what ever we decide. Our attorney would not have allowed us to violate OML in such a flagrant way.

MW: We have done a lot of work since January without mediation. We have done good with putting our best foot forward.

MG: We are all working really hard to move forward. I forgot all about this.

SS: My experience I have not felt bad vibes and that has been the case. Conflict in and of itself is not a problem. Making sure that we have the kinds of processes to collaborate is important. If we feel that we are fine and folks are feeling great, lets move on.

AC: I agree with what has been said. Need for team build I am happy to set something up for us.

ED: I'm not into spilling tea, but if we went to mediation I would come with screenshots. That shouldn't happen, and I shouldn't have that but I do. If that won't happen again, fine, but if it continues, I will want mediation to happen. It reflects on all of us, causes hurt feelings, and damage. We can conflict, we don't have to like each other, but we have also done massive amounts of work. Let us be good examples to our students of what not to do to each other.

SS: As a baseline we need to treat each other with dignity and respect like any other human being. To resolve things right now we can move forward and deal with things if they come up. We can move on. I appreciate everyone sharing their perspective.

Thank you all for that.

C. Set meeting dates for Fiscal Year 2027 budget

- 1. RJ:** Don't have dates yet from city council on the order of things. Once we get those, we will be in contact. Nothing tonight.

D. Discussion and possible revision of School Committee Policy BHE-Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members

SS: I would like to postpone this

ED Moves. MG Seconds. Vote: Yes: MW, AC, ED, JD, MG, SS. Motion passes unanimous.

E. Motion from Member DeNeeve that the GPSC create a resolution to convene a new MA Foundation Budget Review Commission. Then send that resolution to City Council for approval, then send that to Senator Comerford.

This came from a public comment to revisit Chapter 70. We have not done that in a very long time. We've organized with other school committees, did the whole thing to try to get momentum to reopen chapter 70. Senator Comerford wants to do this. It would be good if we formalized support to reopen this.

Seconded: SS

MG: I have been writing to people. I thing their might be a different name. I'll go with it if you think that's what it's called.

ED: This prompted my resolutions. I wrote to Senator Comerford. She told us to do this formally. This is the first thing that brought this up. Foundation Budget Review commission. If there is another name you want to use.

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MG: I want equity- There is no equity in it. Lets go with what it is, and I will continue to write.

ED: We are not a rural district, but if we support our sister districts who will benefit.

AC: Senator Comerford invited us to a big event at the high school the place was packed. We need to keep the pressure on them. They wont do anything if we don't force them, to.

JD: To be clear, FRC existed in 2015? There has been no commission since then?

RJ: November review commission was first in 11 years. They are hoping to produce in June to take any thing they hear until then. Hoping to produce to legislators in June before their break until the fall. The fall and winter wont show change even for FY28. Slight chance. Nothing for FY26.

ED: They said FY29.

SS: This is a chance for us to get what we deserve. The formula needs to be equitable.

Vote: Yes: MW, AC, ED, JD, SS, Motion passes unanimous.

F. Motion from Member Goodwin that the School Committee form an AdHoc committee to study the current state of literacy in our schools.

SS: Not against this but do so in a written document with a plan with a specific charge and outcome to produce so we know really what we are voting on. Come back with this in May

ED Moves. AC Seconds to postpone until may. Vote: Yes: Passes unanimous

G. 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"

AC: Thank you to whoever looked up the specific policies. This is really invasive to ask for address. Relationship is important.

SS: seconds.

ED: This was already voted and sent to Policy. This is on the list for the Policy meeting for April 27. We will review it, change it, and bring it back for a second read.

H. 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

Same as above. [This was already voted and sent to Policy. This is on the list for the Policy meeting for April 27. We will review it, change it, and bring it back for a second read.]

XII. 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

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES: Wednesday April 8, 2026

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

preliminary screening committee, to consider and interview applicants who have passed a prior preliminary screening. The committee WILL NOT return to Open Session.

**ED Moves to enter Executive Session. MG Seconds. Vote: Yes: MW, AC, ED, JD, MG, SS. Motion passes by roll call unanimously at 9:19pm
BACK IN SESSION 9:49pm.**

XIII. Vote to instruct the Chair to sign the Memorandum of Agreement from the Greenfield Education Association.

AC Moves. ED Seconds. Vote: Yes: MW, AC, ED, JD, MG, SS. Motion passes unanimous.

XIV. Adjournment

**AC Moves to adjourn. ED Seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Nan Sibley
Administrative Assistant