

Greenfield School Committee
Budget, Finance & Warrant Sub-Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2026

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 11:33 a.m.

AC read the Chair Statement relative to meeting recordings.

2. Roll Call of Members:

Present: Ann Childs, Chair (AC), Melodie Goodwin (MG), M. McKenzie Webb (MW)

Also present: Carol Kruser, Superintendent of Schools (CK), Andy Paquette, Business Manager (AP)

3. Public Comment:

There were no members of the public present for comment at this time.

4. Approval of August 3, 2026 draft sub-committee minutes:

On a motion by MG, 2nd by MW, the minutes were approved as presented. The vote was unanimous.

5. Strategic coordination of donations discussion:

AC noted that this topic was the result of discussion at the prior sub-committee meeting.

It is known that the community wants to help the district, not just parents, but grandparents, businesses, etc., with items such as Kleenex, Clorox Wipes, crayons, markers, etc.

CK shared that we need to be cautious of some of these items, such as Clorox Wipes, being students are not allowed to touch/handle that certain type of wipes. There are specific wipes that we can purchase that they can handle, but those types of items would be managed through the principal or custodial staff.

She also noted that although we are grateful for donations, we also need to be mindful of the guidelines/procedures that are put in place for any/all donations over \$1,000.

It was noted that anything we can do to engage our parents and community in our schools is another way to build that community partnership.

To wrap up discussion on the strategic coordination of donations, it was the consensus that we are always happy to accept donations, but we emphasize that, while they are appreciated and will be used, a child will not be going without if they do not donate.

6. August quarterly check-in of budget priorities:

AC reviewed the list of budget priorities that were passed at the full School Committee in March, including:

- Continue to fund and support high-quality instructional materials and assessment tools
- PD for intensive support beyond high-quality Tier 1
- Supporting the district's SEL curriculum and anti-bullying programs
- Expanding and maintaining art & music
- Opportunities for activities and programs aligned with grade-level standards
- Continue the support of exploratory integrated arts
- Maintain level of staffing for class sizes that are small/individual supports
- Consider additional resources to fill needs for substitute teachers
- Fully staff schools
- PD to support staff in teaching neurodivergent students

- Consistency if IEP implementation
- Resources for our English Learner (ELL) population
- PD for our instructional assistants
- Advance core values of equity, especially to advance anti-racism
- Restorative practices through PD for all staff at all levels
- Ensure equitable access to sports and extracurricular activities
- Increase accessibility for parent engagement in related district groups and events

Priorities to Watch:

- Goal to have full-year of science and full-year of social studies at GMS
- Meeting the guidelines for Time on Learning
- Integrated Arts offerings/scheduling
- Continued investment for restorative justice programs
- Possible additional funding for PA system repairs at GMS/Capital Improvement request?
- Staff vacancies

7. Budget Book discussion:

A review and discussion on the minutes from the December sub-committee meeting, including the draft 2027 Executive Summary budget booklet ensued:

- District Budget Administration
- Table of Contents
- Executive Summary
 - School Committee and District Administration
 - Superintendent's Message
 - Executive Summary
 - Revenue Change
 - Cost Increases
 - New budget Initiatives
 - Strategies to Balance the Budget
 - Areas to Watch
 - Graphic Breakdown
 - Budget
 - Employees
 - Students
 - Community
 - District Financial Overview
 - Summary of Revenue and Expenditures
 - Staffing
 - Benchmark Data – Student Achievement and District Performance
 - Per-Pupil Spending
 - Budget Trends & Projections
 - District Guiding Documents
 - Building the Budget

The sub-committee also reviewed sample budget booklet formats for consideration. They will revisit format options later in the budget process.

8. Policy DBD (Budget Planning) implementation planning:

- Determine which sub-committee member will reach out to the PTOs to confirm their fall meeting date so we can send a member of this sub-committee to the meeting to obtain their input on budget needs – MW volunteered and will be emailing the PTOs to schedule our listening sessions
- AP noted that, through ED Reform interpretation, it is actually the school councils, via building administrators to central administration, that provide budget needs
- CK agreed with AP and shared her concern with cross-communication and following budget process/order - Principals/Directors gather the information from their buildings, they share it with central administration via budget meetings, the information is compiled and then presented to the full School Committee

- The sub-committee noted, as stated in the policy, “*The first priority in the development of an annual budget will be the educational welfare of the children in our schools. However, the District will also attempt to balance the valid interest of the taxpayers*” – It is the opinion that the second part of this statement may have been lost in the process

After further discussion, a motion was made by AC, 2nd by MG, to bring Policy DBD to the full School Committee to request the policy sub-committee look into the policy versus procedure. The vote was unanimous.

9. Discussion of stipend positions for informational purposes:

CK provided a list of stipend positions, as outlined in the Unit A Collective Bargaining Agreement. She also noted that some of our stipend positions come about through our grants so they are not listed in the Agreement, i.e. stipend for Safety Committee, stipend for Curriculum Committee, etc.

She stated all stipend positions are posted annually, and interested candidates need to re-apply upon posting.

Discussion also ensued relative to the stipends for before and after school care. Before school care is a stipend position through GPS. Greenfield Recreation Department runs and funds the after-school program.

10. Adjournment:

On a motion by MG, 2nd by MW, the meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Approved: 9/2/2026