GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday May 13, 2026
Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St. Greenfield, MA 01301

I. **Call to Order 6:32pm**

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 de Neeve (ED); Mayor Ginny DeSorgher (GD).

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

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

Bill Gordon: I am a parent, taxpayer in this city and a voter in School Committee elections. I am here to follow up on a formal complaint and request for investigation that I previously submitted in writing to Committee Member Childs regarding a potential procurement issue within the school department.

On March 30, 2026 I observed a Budget and Finance Subcommittee meeting where there was a detailed discussion about expenditures for landscaping services at Greenfield High School. On April 1, 2026 I submitted a public records request seeking all current and future contracts related to landscaping services, including the specific contract discussed, as well as any quotes obtained in connection with that contract.

On April 14, 2026 I received a response that included an unsigned contract dated January 1, 2025 for Snow and Sons, covering services through June 30, 2026 totaling $35,892. The scope of work included seasonal cleanups, mowing, trimming, fertilization, irrigation services, and other maintenance. In addition I received invoices for various services across multiple school properties, bringing the apparent total cost for FY26 in landscaping to $42,627. (Public records request 26-208) Competing quotes associated with this contract were not included in this response.

I filed a follow-up complaint regarding the incomplete response. I was informed that the city's procurement department may hold the records, but after additional delays and multiple follow-ups, I ultimately received a final response that no responsive records exist within the City of Greenfield and the request may be directed back to Greenfield Public Schools. As of today, more than six weeks after my original request, I have not received any quotes. (Public records request 26-243)

I want to be clear that my concern is not with the vendor, Snow and Sons, as I respect local businesses and their work. My concern is with the process and compliance of procurement laws. Additionally, while I may question spending priorities, particularly given recent program

reductions in the schools and other city departments, those decisions ultimately rest with this committee, the mayor, and the city council.

I watched the Budget and Finance Subcommittee, May 5, 2026, where this topic was discussed, where the superintendent blamed the city procurement side once again claiming that the procurement was done three or four years ago even though the contract was made less than 18 months ago. The school is blaming the city and the city is blaming the school but no one is taking responsibility.

Based on the information available, there appear to be two possibilities. Either the requested records exist but have not been properly maintained or produced, raising concerns about compliance with public records law, or the records do not exist, which would raise concerns about compliance with Massachusetts procurement requirements.

While I recognize that this matter could be referred externally, including to the Attorney General's office, I believe it is appropriate to first request that this committee conduct a formal, transparent investigation. Specifically, I ask that the School Committee review whether proper procurement policies were followed, determine where any breakdowns may have occurred, and evaluate whether similar issues may exist in other contract procurement.

Thank you for your time, your attention to this matter and your continued service to the Greenfield community. I really do appreciate all of your service.

IV. Report of Student Representatives to the Committee:

Student Council - On Wednesday, April 29th, the Student Council hosted the Western Massachusetts Association of School Councils spring conference with 18 schools and over 300 students in attendance. The conference was a huge success.

May brings planning for mental health week in collaboration with many organizations at GHS. Events will happen during lunches and after school all of which are free for students

During teacher appreciation week (May 4th-May 8th) staff were treated to mocktails and muffins at the high school. Lastly, this month the council will hold their end-of-year banquet on Wednesday, May 20th from 6:00pm - 7:30pm.

Key Club - Before spring break, several Key Club students walked to AEL and spent a few hours reading and playing with students. The Kiwanis Club and United Way donated a book to each AEL student called The Koala Who Could by Rachel Bright.

Athletics - As of April 28th, records for our teams were as follows: Baseball 8-3 with 6 games remaining until playoffs. Softball 5-5 with 8 games remaining, Boys tennis 0-3 with 9 games remaining, Girls tennis is 2-2 with 6 matches remaining. Girls track is 0-1 with 4 meets remaining and Boys track is 1-0 with 4 remaining. Catch a game! All schedules are on arbiterlive.com. Baseball and softball games are played on Vet's Field, tennis matches are at

Davis St Courts and track and field are behind the high school.

French Club- Eighteen GHS students, staff, and families spent a magnifique 10 days traveling in France during April break! Our group marveled at the Tour Eiffel and impressionist art at the Musée d'Orsay, took a painting lesson on the banks of the Seine, cooked and prepared a raditional French dîner, learned to play the lawn game pétanque, discovered the palace of Versailles and Claude Monet's gardens at Giverny, sampled mustard in Dijon, wandered the quaint canals of Annecy and toured its alpine lake by boat. Merci beaucoup to all school and community members who supported our efforts to fundraise and make this dream trip a reality or our students!

Student Spotlight - Our own GHS senior, Ash Bigelow, participated in the Academy of Music Regional Youth Poetry Slam on Friday, April 3rd and won third place with a cash prize. In performing her original poems, Ash showed great vulnerability, courage, and strength and was an inspiration for all who attended the event. Congratulations Ash!

Library Club - On May 6th, the Library Club had game day on and on May 20th high school teacher, Ms. O'Leary will give a hands-on tutorial on how to create realistic scary stage makeup.

Band - May is a busy month for the GHS band! On May 8th, the Band participated in the annual performance at the Great East Music Festival. On May 14th, we have our combined GHS and GMS spring band concert at 7:00pm in the GHS auditorium. Our GHS concert band and jazz band will be performing as well as all GMS concert bands and small groups. Be sure to catch us in the Memorial Day parade and at graduation as well!

Spectrum - On Saturday, April 18th, Spectrum went to Pride Prom hosted by Franklin County Pride. This event was one of our group's favorites last year and provided fun new memories! During the first week of May, Spectrum partnered with the Student Council for Mental Health Week.

Trivia Team- Our As Schools Match Wits episode aired on April 11 and we congratulate our graduation seniors, Zach O., Evie F. and April R-A. All three were strong in their trivia knowledge and fun to be with. We have Gabe L. returning and two newer members, Henry A. and Esther B.joining.

Mosaic/Students of Color Club- On April 10th, the club hosted a successful 1st annual Dodge Ball Tournament fundraiser with 4 adult teams and 6 student teams participating. The club will continue to meet with Matt Allen, our mentor, monthly and have an end of the year bonding activity/cookout.

V. Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Program presentation from Fulcrum Energy Solutions, Inc.
See submitted documents.

RJ: Kendra Rosa visited our area and created a presentation relevant to our potential with her expertise in available grants and contexts of public charging stations installation and implementation.

RJ: Tell us more about the grant, how much, remaining costs for the district, and how the stations create revenue?

KR: Grant: 100% hardware and installation coverage. Software, networking not covered. We propose Autel charger: Red E network cost deferred to driver. If stations are underutilized, there may be idle fees from $1 to $60 per port per month.

MG: Charging stations at other areas, the grant would cover install but we would have to maintain the billing? Would we be technically charging someone to use it or does a driver have an app?

KR: Drivers have apps and maps to locate chargers. They have accounts that have their banking connected. You the customer sets what you would like to charge for your revenue. You are supplying the power.

GD: Getting the grant, does your company do the work for that?

KR: Yes. You would included on all communication with complete transparency. The back and forth with getting questions answered can take up to 6 months.

ED: Greenfield charges a lot more than any other area. There are not a lot of other chargers in this area. How would that be planned? What is the total up front cost? What happens to the charger if we sell a building? How does that work? What is that process?

KR: I will look more into that. I have never had that question. I imagine that because the grant is tied to the property, it would stay with the building. If it is public and its already installed, there are no stipulations that it would have to change to private. Look into what surrounding towns are charging. $.45/kw is average for this area. You want to stay around what homeowners are paying. I have seen as high as a $1. Red E is the App.

ED: There are a lot of inaccessible chargers around here.

KR: Town of Gill are decommissioning their chargers they are not creating enough revenue to maintain. They have the extra software network. They cannot offset that subscription service. There would be no maintenance cost with Red E.

AC: I am theoretically in favor if we are not paying for it. How wise would it be to put in chargers where parking is already really limited? If we installed at a few buildings, how hard would it be to add on later?

KR: It depends on each individual site. Sites like AEL would be a start from scratch because of its older infrastructure. Some place like the HS with newer infrastructure would be easier. Having 1 charger already is easier than none for adding stations later.

SS: For navigating concerns about public parking on school grounds; can available hours be set?

KR: Yes. Accessibility is set by whomever manages the software.

MW: Can we do some with the grant but not all and later after experiencing, can we reapply? Or is this a one and done?

KR: It is tied to each individual address. You would be able to start application from scratch for new buildings.

MW: for GD: We [school district] don’t own the school buildings, we would need city involvement.

SS: Who gives final approval?

GD: Confirmed that Energy Director Collins would be happy to work together. More than happy to work with you.

KR: We would need a W9 from whomever owns the building.

JD: In the future if we install solar, is it compatible or how does it work being tied into the grid.

KR: It would depend on where the panels are installed and access to panel.

RJ: We wanted to bring this up as an option. Sustainability and cutting down on waste. There is no doubt we see Evs. You could open to staff during the day. This doesn't have to be all or none. There are some good locations. I am pro looking into it and if it's free, it could serve the community.

SS: Maintenance?

KR: There is a 3 year warranty and fulcrum offers a 1 year additional. The district would be responsible.

MG: Other districts that have already done this? I am curious about the time to pay someone to do the management.

KR: We offer training after install. It depends who will be the admin. I can get you some references from other school committees.

ED: Are they level 2.

KR: Yes. There are no DC fast charging incentives and they cost many thousands more.

SS: To committee: If you have questions about his before next month please send them to Roland.

VI. Reports of the Administration:

A. Business Manager: See submitted documents

1. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Update
   a. See submitted documents.
2. Budget Reports Review
   a. See submitted documents.

MW: April vacation was lower than Feb. Was this the first year?

SSu: We did both last year and April was a little smaller then also.

B. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Report:

See submitted documents.

1. Professional Learning Update: The school department's final professional development half-day will take place on May 22, 2026. Staff will participate in a range of learning opportunities.
2. Grants Update: Most of the fiscal year 2026 grants are scheduled to close on June 30, 2026.
3. April Vacation Academy and the Break Challenge: Nearly 30 students participated in the academy during the April vacation. The work was focused on literacy activities and individualized skill development in small supportive groups. Nearly 100 elementary students across the district participated in the challenge tackling math or literacy activities.

4. Extended School Year Program (ESY): Preparation for the summer program 9s underway which provides continued summer learning opportunities for students who benefit from additional support to maintain and strengthen their progress.
5. Author visit at the Middle School: Christina Uss, author of Midnight Mayhem visited students on May 4, 2026.

C. Superintendent Report: See submitted documents

1. School Enrollment Update

a. Enrollment: 1345 students, down 4 from last month.

b. Great East Music Festival: Bands had great showing. GHS earned a gold medal on May 8th. GMS earned silver medal! Thanks to teachers, chaperons, and band directors who did a great job on that.

2. YONDR Pouch Update

a. The documents begin with the policy, followed by a memo from GMS Principal, then GMS policy and protocols, then an email from GHS Principal regarding their cell phone pouch procedures.

i. Cost $30/ea closed with strong magnet. Students get pouch back at the end of the day. GHS has them available. Not everyone uses them. If they are off and away, the result is the same. We have been including incoming Superintendent Kruser in gathering information and communication.

ED: I was here when we first had them initial cost was $16K and $12K/year afterward.

RJ: There is only a need to replace, but there is no buying new ones every year.

ED: It's wild we were told the cost of a contract is $12K per year. What does the overall picture look like, is it effective, are we actually paying $12K.

RJ. We only pay $30/pouch if one needs replacing. I reaffirmed whether or not they are used. They do bring out the magnets daily for those who do use them. Not all full scale, but they are being used.

JD: Is there a replacement fee for the families if a pouch is lost or broken. That would be a consequence. There are ways of hacking them. They sometimes just get smashed. I can see a situation where that could be rampant.

RJ: No.

JD: Sounds like we are on an honor system. What motivation is there at the high school for students to lock up their phone?

RJ: Yes. [Honor system] The motivation is to avoid dealing with the consequences.

MW: What did we spend last year.

RJ: FY25: $18,120 for GHS and GMS paid for with ESR money FY26: $9993 for GMS from Fare Share earmark.

MW: At GMS they give a yonder pouch whether or not you have a phone. I have two pouches unused and GMS will not take them back. It sounds like the High School is using honor system which sounds like it's working. There are way around improving the system. We should talk about how we are charging families that don't need them.

RJ: Point well taken. We will look into that.

MG: With the current trend to outlaw phones in school are there grants available to cover the cost of YONDRs? What are the consequences for breaking policy on phones?

RJ: The policy is there for you.

MG: A lot of children have phones but the parents are not aware of the consequences. They don't think it's a big deal. The consequences should be very public and easily accessible.

SS: Cultural impact to enforcing keeping cell phones out of the classroom, impact to our students, and on the teaching and learning process: do we have data on any of these areas? How do we know we are making progress? What is the broader impact? When new legislation takes effect, what is the applicability of these policies to our staff as well as students. There is a frustration when seeing staff on devices when students cannot be.

RJ: I have not read all of the legislation. Students raised these questions. Same with things like cups of coffee. There are differences in life but there is also role modeling. There are differences between students and the adults who are teaching them. In terms of the data I have not studied the data. Anecdotally they are paying more attention [without access to cell phones]. It is obvious. We understand the need for parents to reach their students. We will always get messages to students. In the case of emergency we would rather students not jam up the communication airwaves risking possibly getting out misinformation. 1300 phones could jam communication systems. It's a big inconvenience for parents to come in. Detention is a deterrent. There is a give and take. We have to weigh all the new laws. Our teachers are working hard. Phones are a distraction.

ED: I'm really thankful we are having this conversation to make adjustments. I don't believe a ban is a plan. I push for digital citizenship courses. Why can't we put our phones in a bin. Confiscation can happen. Are there other things we can do that might be cheaper, faster, more effective? Again. Digital citizenship- they may know how to use social media, but they may not know how to use their phones as a tool. Truly, you can run a business on a phone. They should know how to properly use these to enrich our lives. I hope we can continue to have this conversation.

JD: Teacher perspective. The difference is incredible. Looking at the difference from school culture and to now the difference has been huge. The states position is based on teacher experiences. We have to do this. Phones are too disruptive. I love the idea to teach them how to use them to enrich their lives also.

MW: We should be looking at this at the elementary level.

RJ: I have not heard that it is a problem at that level. We will address it if we need to.

SS: Enrollment Report: Do we know were those 4 kids went and why? If they are leaving we want to know where and why.

MG: Do we have a policy that bans phones? Can we move towards that? We have invested a lot of money. A teacher spends all day managing phone use. There is so much of that, at least six times per class. This addresses this. Can we have a policy about that?

SS: I am not sure we need a policy to ban phones if we have a law. A blanket ban policy does not address the in class enforcement. We need to fine tune the policy and system we already have.

RJ: The current policy is in the materials submitted. *Policy read aloud.*

MG: That answers my question.

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Vote to approve the minutes of February 2, 2026, March 2, ~~March 25, 2026,~~ and April 8, 2026.
B. Second Read and Vote of Revised Policy DK: Payment Procedures
C. Declare for surplus the Maintenance Department 2008 Black Ford Focus.
D. Approve the renewal of the contract for the Director of Pupil Services
E. Vote to approve the Greenfield High School February, 2027 Canada Trip.

Striking from A: March 25 minutes. [Not submitted]
MG: Remove item D.
~~SS Moves to approve Consent Agenda with the exception of Item D. GD Seconds. Vote: Yes: SS, AC, MW, MG, JD, GD. No: ED. Motion passes with 6 yes and 1 no.~~
AC: Point of Order: We did not have discussion prior to voting. Perhaps Member de Neeve has some information that would change our votes?
SS: Yes. The vote is stricken.

ED: [Item D] Contract is coming up in public session. I'm wondering does it have to be in public session? This is someone's personal contract. I don't feel comfortable with someone's personal contract being picked over in public. Why are we not doing this in executive session.

RJ: My fault. School Committee has to act on Special Education Director. We can move to executive session.

SS moves to approve Consent Agenda Items A, B, C, E. ED seconds. Vote: Motion passes unanimously.
ED moves to move Item D: Approve the renewal of the contract for the Director of Pupil Services to Executive Session. MG seconds.

AC: To clarify, we will discuss in Executive Session then come back to public for signing?
SS: Yes.

Vote: Motion passes unanimously.

VIII. School Committee Reports

A. Chair's Report:

1. Update on Student Internship conversation with City Council Community Relations Subcommittee

a. Attended meeting on April 27, to contribute to conversation. They are going to go back to the drawing board to see if this is something they are still interested after researching the regulations [under 18 participants] it would take to accomplish the task in a meaningful way for all parties.

2. **Report back from a conversation with a Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) member and their request for a member of the school committee to periodically attend their meetings**
   - **a.** They have a standing invitation to present at our meetings but they wonder if we would periodically send one of our committee to their meeting. We can choose ahead of time or designate a regular member.

     ED: It would be wonderful to rotate this experience where we all hear from these parents and learn about their experience. One person with all of the info might not get disseminated well. Everyone should have a chance to go. Is it virtual?
     MW: Yes. I have attended before. I brought to RJ they do meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Trying not to have conflicting schedules with City Council, they meet at Community Action Pioneer Valley (CAPV) Family Center, and have child care, they have information for parents attending IEP or 504 meetings, They have a flier with a QR code to scan for virtual attendance at their meetings. There is food for in person attendees.
     AC: How frequently they want us and anticipated dates? Agree we should rotate. What is the most efficient way to choose who is available to attend?
     SS: They have set monthly meetings. They would know when they want us. We can get the dates for the year ahead of time. We can discuss and vote in one fell swoop.
     AC: I would like that
     SS: They can tell us when they want us also. They have their final meeting of the year next Wednesday. They also launched a website. CAPV is expending a lot of resources to make this work. We are deeply grateful.

3. **Acknowledging the Human Rights Commission discussion on racism in the schools**
   - **a.** A significant portion of their agenda was spent discussing this. I do not want that conversation to go unnoticed. We have a responsibility to acknowledge this and act and live up to the mission of our schools. *Every* student. This is a conversation that goes beyond our schools, it's community, etc. But that doesn't mean we don't have a responsibility to act. We have to give it the time it deserves.

     GD: I watched that meeting and attended the beginning of last one. Suggested that members be in touch with school committee members. They may be following up here.
     AC: We can start by gathering info if there are race related disciplinary actions. Data. We need to know exactly is going on. I look forward to knowing what blind spots can be fixed in our curriculum.
     MG: As a citizen I was disturbed by comments about our staff. It is hard to hire people. The district has worked incredibly hard to attract to our staff. Some statements were not accurate about staff in our buildings. Misrepresented who our staff was. If you have questions about diversity of staff and don't have time, those are required state reports. Those are accessible online.

     SS: Everyone on this committee is committed to the well being and success of all of our students and our community.

B. Budget and Finance Subcommittee Report

1. **Update on the subcommittee meeting from May 13, 2026 which included discussion of the April, 2026 warrants.** See submitted documents.
   - **a.** We are interested in a standardized procedure. If this, than that. We are still just trying to find the information. We are waiting for answers as well.
   - **b.** Would like to ask the full committee to charge us to creating a transportation replacement schedule.

GD: Didn't we work together? [Directed at RJ] Do you go to Andy for procurement? What is your general practice? What have we done in the past?

AP: Regarding landscaping contract: Hiring was conducted by the then city procurement officer. She did everything by Docusign. Maybe the city office has access to Laura Phelps Docusign account for the signed contracts? It was done by city procurement officer. In the absence of, I was utilized on behalf of the city, not the school. For capital related projects even for the school, the city would perform the procurement. Laura Phelps took over the vans and air purifiers for the schools. Federal St. elevator; city engineer [GV] told me it was the city responsibility. Finance director, DPW etc. told me capital projects is responsibility of the city. Project related stuff, I am happy to do.

GD: All operational would be done by AP, capital projects would be done by city. Sounds like it's past due.

AP: It's currently under extension. I'm not sure why landscaping was taken over by her. [LP] It was coinciding with when the city also needed landscaping. LP put out the bid and awarded contract. Was signed by superintendent, business manager, and LP, procurement officer.

GD: Going forward who is taking care of that? The city does spend about $5k-$6k to that particular business. I would appreciate AP doing this if that is the will of the committee.

MG: We purchase YONDR-are those going out to bid?

AP: Those are exempt from 30B

MG: Bids are supposed to be kept for seven years. Where are those kept? Are they in Docusign?

AP: I would like to think somewhere in the city procurement there are files with the bids and contracts.

MG: In the business office? You have dealt with our district the longest. We are supposed to be keeping for 7 years. Where are they? When someone does a records request, this raises questions.

AP: Active contracts are in the business office. Old contracts are in other file cabinets. We seem to keep them for longer than 7 years.

ED: Going forward we need to have all the documents digitized with the warrants so the public can look at them. A standardized procedure should have happened a long time ago. We could be educated about that process. I have feelings about creating a transportation replacement schedule. You are not the transportation

coordinator. You shouldn't be picking line items apart. I would not support you in doing that plan unless the superintendent wants you to do that.

AC: It's not my passion project. The thought was in terms of budget in what we would need to have ready to pay for it.

ED: That is the business manager.

AC: Other subcommittee members want to respond?

MW: After the meeting we wanted to know how to move forward to come up with a 5 year stable financial plan. Vans are getting old etc. Revolving was being spent to address broken busses.

ED: You want to be on top of it. The process is to request the report from transportation coordinator. In subcommittee, I have to frequently check if I am working within my purview.

MW: Maybe it's more of just asking them to do it-

MG: Clarification. We brought it up; do we need permission from the full committee to come up with a five year plan? We are not doing prevention or planning ahead. We are not allowed to make that kind of decision. We have to take it to the full committee. We want to see a plan that reflects the needs of the future. Do we need full committee to ask for the plan?

GD: This needs more discussion. We are a climate leader and instituting a city wide program. Everything we buy gets checked with the energy director. Some vehicles are exempt, but if something comes out of revolving or capital expenditures or turn backs; In general – more discussion.

SS: Do we not already have a plan in place for transportation?

AP: We have 'run them into the ground'. No different than other vehicles in other departments. It has been 'run them until they can run no more.'

RJ: Was fortunate to have some time in transportation. It seems to me that after the study that we are are going to have a plan. To turn over 3/year or so.

SS: Green practices in place.

AP: We are. We communicate with the energy director.

SS: Yes, you should have access to reports.

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

1. Update on the subcommittee meeting held on April 27, 2026

See submitted documents.

SS: [Digital Use Policy] This is in New Business. Discussion will happen there.

ED: We would like to start to create an academic integrity policy to align with our digital use policy and an updated Vaping and Tobacco Policy based on feedback from the YELO Conference.

D. Community Engagement Subcommittee Report

E. Long-Term Facilities Use Advisory Committee

See submitted documents.

Break: 8:23 p.m. Return: 8:28 p.m.

IX. New Business

A. Motion from Member Goodwin to direct the Superintendent to conduct a literacy audit of the elementary schools before the end of the 2025-2026 school year. The audit should include all the components of literacy and be conducted by an experienced consultant who specializes in literacy and effective change.

1. Additional motivation: Reading should be a civil right. Our data reflects that we should do better. We need to understand what is going right and wrong. Auditing to get a handle what is going on would help us as School Committee members who make budgets and goals for our schools. We should give our new superintendent info on what is happening in our elementary schools; info we need to move forward. The transportation audit was helpful, and other districts have done this with success and come out being blue ribbons. I hope we can be that.

GD: This is a priority. Is this possible to do by the end of June?

RJ: If we are charged with this we would have to put this out to bid but maybe not impossible. Probably not get done but we could start on it.

JD: I support this idea. We have heard from other principals, important to acknowledge there is a nation wide literacy crisis. Useful for us to have clearer info precisely what is going on in our district and what constitutes best practices. An audit would be a starting place to a systematic approach to addressing it.

ED: We are in year 4 of a 5 year strategic plan. We have heard literacy rates have improved. Spending money on this at this time is not wise. This goes along with a new plan once we look at the info we learned from our current plan. I support the audit but not this time. I cringe about the busy work we would ask our new incoming superintendent. I would like to come back at this later. MASC tells us you have to allow for 3-5-7 years for full complete change to happen. I look forward to our strategic plan report and that data, then it would be worth while.

MW: Do we have any current data on reading stats now that we could have access to per each building?

RJ: Yes. We met with member Goodwin regarding some of this. Teachers are doing the hard work.

SSu: We have data, especially around early literacy. For at least 2 years since I have been here we have had a district instructional prioritization plan with a focus on literacy with the statewide system support team through DESE. They monitor, provide support, have expectations for identifying goals and plans specific to literacy. We spend significant time at our elementary schools setting up systems and structures so teachers know more about gaps that students have and have the tools and resources to address them. We are working with a consultant, literacy expert who is supporting this work. We are reporting to our DESE team on June 15. End of year benchmark closes on June 12. Students are doing end of year testing now. We have beginning of year to middle year data now. We used that data to change intervention grooves. We had our 2nd round of data team meetings at all three elementary schools today. We are working to set up systems and structures to address this. I'm not opposed to an audit. I'm confident what the audit would tell us. I

think we are taking steps to address those things in real time and always reflecting back on areas to adjust.

MW: Should we be expecting a presentation on data you collected after June 15?

SSu: I don't know when that would be made. I did one in Feb.

JD: Is that data publicly available.

SSu: If it was in the reports, yes. What kind of data would you be looking for?

JD: Growth trends, achievement, per building, school report cards, this data doesn't cover any teaching practices, only results?

SSu: Included teaching practices when we do PD, we look if it is being implemented and the results.

SS: Specific classroom practices is not our job. We set goals and leave it in their capable hands.

SSu: These take years to take fruit. There are small jumps and we are seeing movement. The hope is that those are early indicators.

AC: The data I would like to see would be more granular or specifics. Rather than large groupings of 'Below Grade Level' I would like to see that broken up into areas of whether a student can read at all or if they just barely didn't make it at a grade reading level. If we are going to have a presentation, does it make sense to move the motion to that meeting?

MG: Understanding the bidding process; MA has struggled with performance to get the data before the end of the school year to plan during the summer to make effective change at the beginning of the school year. We can't see how people are feeling. They look at a big lens. They look at the writing and vocab. Things that go together. Having that kind of data at the end of the year allows to make meaning to plan the next year. If we do it in the fall, everything has already been put together. That was the idea, to have it to plan. It's never really happened. Greenfield has struggled for the last 15 years. We have not had a comprehensive plan. 94% HS doing better than ours. We have been waiting for a long time. The state does their thing but they don't live here and know the students could be doing a lot better.

ED: Thank you to the Chair for reminding us we do not do the day to day. We can put the mid-cycle data on the website. We need an achievement section. Not everyone knows how to look at the report cards. We could crow about the achievements like the eight students that went to ivy league schools. It would be positive. I will make a motion for new business for next time.

AC seconds. Vote: Yes: MG, AC, JD. No: MW, ED. Abstain: SS, GD. Motion passes with 3 yes, 2 no, 2 abstentions.

SS: To be clear, we need to understand that the timeline may not be met.

RJ: You are looking to hire someone?

MG: Yes.

RJ: We will be proceeding that way.

B. Motion from Member Goodwin to direct the Superintendent to determine the amount of screen time students in each grade are experiencing in the Greenfield Public Schools in the 2025-2026 school year. The amount should be categorized as either instructional or assessment and reported in minutes per day.
MW seconds.

GD: Is this attainable in the time we have left?
RJ: We would figure out a way to collect data depending on how significant of a report is requested.
MW: To MG: Are we talking about the screens that we teach with or computer screen?
MG: Smart board are instructional tools. We are talking about devices such as Chromebooks.
AC: Could the IT department help? Is there anything already in place?
ED: Same, this isn't our job. If it is Identified that our new superintendent wants to collect this kind of info as she enters and prepares her strategic goals, fine. But this is in the classroom and not our purview. We can ask for a policy to be created and compel the administration to create a report, we do that through policy. We do not give the superintendent busy work at the end of the year. If this is a policy, than send to policy, but this is just not what we do. This is making the meetings extra long. This is not ours.
MW: It important to collect data so the superintendent can direct us to make a policy.
MG: Some states and committees are making policy to shut down screens. There is concern about the amount of screen time in schools. Conversations are being had at every leave. Maybe this is something for the policy. Health providers are recognizing that screens are harming our children.
SS: Is this motion better served by broader discussion around how we feel about screen time in schools generally? We do have the purview to make policy. Too much is subjective. It is our job to decide what we believe is too much, but informed. Collecting data prior to discussion might not be the best way to move forward. Would you entertain withdrawing the motion?

MG: Yes**.**
MG withdraws motion. Those discussions need to happen.
MW withdraws second.

C. First Read of Policy IJNDB (Empowered Digital Use Policy)

ED This is really long. Can we read and digest it and come back ready to vote next month?
SSu: The policy is only the first page, but the procedures are longer.
SS: We will first read and move on.

D. First Read of Policy BEDH-E (Guidelines for Public Comment)

1. **SS:** Similar. Read it and come back next month.

E. Review and Vote to Accept of the Resolution Template as drafted by the Policy, Program and School Committee Handbook Subcommittee

SS moves. AC seconds. Vote: Yes: SS, AC, MG, ED, JD, GD. Abstain: MW. Motion passes with one abstention.
ED: There are no others online. This will be the first.

F. Review and Vote to Accept the Amended Executive Duties as drafted by the Policy, Program and School Committee Handbook Subcommittee

SS moves. ED seconds.

ED: The list we made in the policy manual that are set. The other things like who keeps keys or runs the zoom? These are just ideas for the extra things that could be delegated, like floating items for – just housekeeping.
SS: Language around mentorship of the vice chair and the desire for the vice chair to become the chair. The explicit expectation that it be, might restrict people running for the role.
ED: I just hate to take votes that then disappear. What we do with those votes.
SS: Suggested language: If the vice chair wants the chair position and acknowledges the plan for mentoring, that will be an opportunity. There is the opportunity for mentoring to become chair but it is not the expectation that the vice chair wants to be chair.
MW: Asks that running the Zoom aspect of the meetings is stated under the chair's responsibility as Zoom is also part of the meeting.

GD moves to postpone until next month. AC seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

G. Motion to direct the Policy, Program and School Committee Handbook Subcommittee to create an Academic Integrity Policy which should align with the School Department's Digital Use Policy
SS moves. MG seconds.
ED: See what others are doing
RJ: Background material includes a procedure for this.
Vote: Yes: Motion passes unanimously.

H. Motion to direct the Policy, Program and School Committee Handbook Subcommittee to update the School Department's Vaping and Tobacco Policy based on the student feedback from the YELO (Youth Engage Legislators and Officials) Conference
SS moves. AC seconds.

ED: To create something more robust. Only statement is that you can't smoke on school grounds and that someone will discuss smoking with you. They want to include language about vaping and consequences to create a more broad, robust policy.
Vote: Yes: Motion passes unanimously.

I. Update from the Superintendent regarding the request from the Policy, Program, and School Committee Handbook Subcommittee to create a revised practice for volunteers in the schools
RJ: We are in the process of loosening regulations. I called and spoke with our public commenter. Greenfield Staples fingerprinting was send to Springfield. Athol is now closed. They [Greenfield Staples] are looking to reinstitute fingerprinting. Maybe we have too stringent a policy? Things like field trips are different from on site book fair. Anyone who may have direct and unmonitored contact needs fingerprinting. We will work to define some of these responsibilities. There are quotes about online training that is not apropos for all volunteering. People who are doing field trips will have to do fingerprinting. We will not be loosening those requirements. We do things for reasons. We have to be protective of our

children. We are eliminating our online training and directing our principals to allow for less stringent policy for things like reading on site etc.
MW: Are we keeping the online training for things like field trips or just doing fingerprinting? Some of the trainings are valuable. Some are not. Confidentiality is useful.
RJ: Just fingerprinting. I will consider those trainings.
MG: Heartfelt thank you. We really want volunteers.
RJ: We still have people concerned. We can do CORI pretty quick. Fingerprinting takes weeks. Takes time. There will need to be planning involved.

J. Update from the Superintendent on the sculpture by Homer Gunn

1. In mid-winter I spoke with James Fotopulos, GHS class of 1954. A sculptor donated one of his works, Birth of an Idea, to GHS in the 70s. He [JF] was wondering where it was. It has been found. Homer Gunn (1919-2001) created Beating Swords into Plowshares on the Veteran's Mall and Fountain 1, the "Whale Tail" at the corner of Main and Federal. We might want to restore it and re-display it at GHS. We can apply for Community Preservation funds? We would like to find a location to honor the great artwork and gift to the school. We will get more information to continue this discussion.

X. Old Business

A. Set meeting dates for the Fiscal Year 2027 budget

1. **SS:** We will be going to Ways and Means on the 19th delivering a presentation on our budget. There is a subcommittee meeting on the 18th.

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

ED: It is part of our purview. The cost of health insurance is crippling us. We could do other things. This bill allows eligible workers to move to other forms of payment. It impacts us. We are paying a lot of money, up to a 19% increase. We have an agreement for the second half of the year to switch over to the GIC.
GD: I support it.

MW seconds. Vote: Yes: SS, AC, MW, ED, GD, JD. Abstain: MG. Motion passes with one abstention.

XI. Vote to enter into Executive Session: Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21 (a) (3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, (7) To comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements; and, (8) To consider or interview applicants for employment or appointment by a preliminary screening committee if the chair declares that an open meeting will have a detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants; provided, however, that this clause shall not apply to any meeting, including meetings of a preliminary screening committee, to consider and interview applicants who have passed a prior preliminary screening. The committee WILL NOT return to Open Session.

SS moves to enter Executive Session. AC seconds. Motion passes by roll call unanimously.

Reenter session 9:56
Roll Call:
Present: AC, ED, GD, JD, MG, SS, MW.

XII. Vote to approve the renewal of the contract for the Director of Pupil Services as presented.
SS moves. MG seconds. Motion passes unanimously by aye.

XIII. Vote to instruct the Chair to sign the Memorandum of Agreement from the Greenfield Education Association contract from consent agenda.
SS moves. MG seconds. Motion passes unanimously by aye

XIV. Adjournment
SS moves to adjourn. AC seconds. Motion passes unanimously by aye.
Meeting adjourned at 9:57pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Nan Sibley
Administrative Assistant