GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday June 10, 2026
Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St. Greenfield, MA 01301

I. **Call to Order 6:31 p.m.**

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) -Tardy.

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 relationship to the school district.

Bill Gordon:
Frustrated. Have not received complete records for previous FOIA request. Reviewed another procurement for HVAC system (FOIA 26-322). It begins with section 3, includes only the fee and payment terms, scope of work "Preventative maintenance." Requested all procurement records. No quotes or bids were provided. Directed to CommBuys TDR-01. "For purchases of $10,000 and above Buyers are required to solicit a minimum of three quotes from eligible vendors and obtain a minimum of three responses." No quotes were included in response to my FOIA. Serious concerns about procurement practices and record keeping. Pattern of possible procurement or record keeping violations. Request the school committee to order an independent audit of procurement records and investigate purchasing practices and make recommendations for improved policies and procedures.
Also, deeply concerned about the unauthorized entry at FSS. A broken door lock was not addressed. Ask the school committee to order an independent investigation of the incident including possible disciplinary actions for anyone that may have known about the broken locks and failed to act. Include a comprehensive review and audit of school safety and security practices.
Samantha Slater: At the call for the shelter in place I swept the nearby halls for any students that might have needed sheltering. Police were present, I closed and locked my door. Timeline is unclear. Was shelter in place called before the man was on premises? There is a lack of clarity and transparency with communication. Immense fear and uncertainty. Sat blind through the weekend leading to speculation and conflicting stories throughout the community. Preventable with transparency and better communication. We cannot know anyone's intention at the time of risk. Responses need to be made on potential risk, not on what we learn afterward. Teachers were not checked in on Friday or over the weekend. Transparency, accountability, timely communication are deserved and needed.
Doug Selwyn: MCAS: Governors Council post MCAS planning has not acknowledged any of the research they were presented and is rejecting the will of the voters. Our governor is introducing an 'End of Course' test rebrand for the standardized MCAS test. They are not 'finals'. They are standardized, prepared, and all scored by the state. Everyone takes the same test, one

size fits all. Ignores learning differences, special needs, ELL, those who don't test well, narrows curriculum, and an unfounded mandate. Please attend to what is released by the governor's council, be involved in the conversation. Connect with other districts, legislators, DESE, and the Governor's office. We have said NO. No means no.

Karinna K: Sophomore at GHS:

Peers at GHS agree that AI is a threat to school and nation. Is being used unethically, inhibits critical thinking, preventing individual growth. Where is the line where it is considered a useful tool vs. cheating? We conducted an internal study. 85% of GHS teachers believe students need more media literacy. 68% of respondents say GHS should offer a class on tech and media literacy. Considering the cost, I propose including a media literacy segment to class curriculum addressing how to use AI and media literacy. Educators believe students should be taught this before leaving high school.

Virginia Haskell: No standardized instant reporting across the district. Failure of door lock was brought up multiple times over time and never handled. Failure of communication and accountability. No standardized incident reporting, supply needs, building maintenance, or parent communication. Trackable, accountable, communication across the district is needed. It violates parental rights to not know. Failures of communication when I have discussed concerns with principal but those concerns never made it to superintendent. I met with Superintendent Joyal and have received his commitment to institute improved incident reporting. Dead children do not test well.

MW: Varied interpretations of STEAM Night.

SSu: We allowed principals to execute according to what would best work for their communities.

SS: RJ make a statement?

RJ: A door mechanism failed. A man being followed by GPD and a case worker entered FSS. GPD called to issue a shelter in place. Man was not considered a danger to himself or others. Man was exited with care and without escalation. An email was sent to families after shelter in place was lifted per standard practice. Often shelter in places are for medical reasons. Shelter in place is to close and lock doors, close shades, can still teach, and leave with an escort depending on the situation. Lock down: Doors locked, shades down, huddled into a corner, quiet, no release. The door was attended until it was repaired Monday afternoon. I attended several meetings with principal, GPD, MSPD, parents, staff. We studied what happened, how to improve. In review, the immediate response to the incident went well according to current policies. We recognize areas for improvement in the total process and written policy. Updates will continue to go out to parents. A shelter in place is for somebody that is not a danger to themselves or others vs a lock down where there is a threat of danger. GPD called the shelter in place, they were in the area and with multiple officers in control and able to get the situation to a close without further escalation. Any staff members can call a lock down. If the intruder was hostile, weapons related, or violent, a lock down would have been the call.

The door: There is a lot of talk that people knew the door was compromised. I have diligently searched for who knew without answers. I didn't know, the principal, the custodian of 3 years didn't know it was compromised. The door closing mechanism needed fluid to close fast enough to complete latching. The door was not latched closed. We have searched back 2 years and have not found a single report of this door needing maintenance in the work order system. Any

employee in the district can put in a request for maintenance. We cannot fix things unless we know. We are trying to learn from this. While this situation was very scary, it was handled in the moment, appropriately. We are reviewing our policies and procedures because nationwide and community wide, best practices to lock downs and shelter in place evolve. I have a commitment to parents. We take our job seriously to protect students.

MG: As a school committee member I should have heard. Proud of the Union for speaking up. Doors issue was in writing two years ago, facilities manager knew, they failed us. Please call school committee members if you are not being heard. Safety is always first. Administrators are inundated, but if you are not feeling safe, that is priority. School committee members should be included in the communications going out to the parents about this. I was informed by a parent who shared what they understood and attached the principal's email. In a small town talk moves quickly. Transparency and communication helps everyone understand what needs to be understood and creates trust. Our lock down process is the same county wide for consistency when students move to different schools. I am sorry for what happened. We need to do better about being honest, transparent, and communication. We need to earn the trust of parents.

ED: Thank the Union for their emails and coming to speak with us, giving us a better perspective. I am sorry for the experience you had. In the past, the committee would receive a general incident email. This let us know that communication was happening. We have not been receiving those this year. This leads me to consider how we onboard our new superintendent. We have not considered onboarding our new superintendent as a committee process. I would like to meet in July or August after she has had time to settle a little and meet with her as a committee to let her know the things we hope for, such as incident emails, and to set goals. I would like a report of what the findings were about this incident to know specifically where to make improvements.

RJ: Adding you to all call emails and communications is simple to do.

ED: Thank you so much for your receptivity and willingness to work in harmony with us.

AC: With the full report, we should discuss and sent to Policy Subcommittee. Are additional supports available to those impacted?

RJ: Yes. Principal is following up with staff and is planning to continue to update everyone.

MW: I knew about the door. I said there was a fault in the door during the capital walk through. Shelter in place vs. Lock down: Today's email said 'shelter while learning'. Differences are ambiguous and should be vigorously clarified.

SS: We will be returning to this topic in other meetings.

IV. Report of Student Representatives to the Committee:

Student Council:

On Wednesday, May 20th, Student Council held their annual banquet where they celebrated 15 seniors and the numerous accomplishments of all the members. Student Council is a year-round club. Students will be helping with the Summer Eats Kick off on Wednesday, June 24 at the Greenfield Swimming Pool. Class Officer elections from current grades 9-11 will take place on June 5 and current 8th grade and 7th grade in the fall.

Key Club:

Key club elected new officers for the 2026-27 school year.

Athletics:

Green Wave Baseball Western Mass Champs! Congratulations to baseball for their 17 inning win vs Lenox! Girls tennis won their prelim round over David Prouty and will be traveling to

Manchester Essex for a round of 32 match. Track had successful athletes in Western Mass and States. Mason Youmell placed 2nd in pole vault in states and Western Mass. Placed 1st in 110 HH and 400 HH in Western Mass and in states place 3rd in 110 HH and 2nd in 400 HH. Jack Laurie won the javelin in Western Mass! Congrats! Kyra Tamsin placed 2nd in 400m H, 3rd in 100m H and placed 6th in 400m H at states. 4 x 100 boys relay team consisting of Jack Laurie, James Iavorschi, Javion Williams and Kymel Ramsey came in 4th in Western Mass and States.

Library Club:

Library Club had its final meeting of the year on Wednesday, June 3rd with an end of year picnic and lawn games. Library Club Alumni were invited to attend as well.

Library: Summer Reading

Once students return all of the books they have borrowed from the GHS library, they may choose up to five books to take home over summer break as long as the students plan to return to GHS next year. The GHS library is not open over the summer, so students should hold on to their summer reading books until the first day of school next year.

Spectrum:

We're looking forward to June, not just for the end of the school year, but because it's Pride Month! We'll be marching in the Franklin County Pride Parade on June 13th. Family and friends are welcome, so if you'd like to walk with us, please contact Ms. O'Leary.

Trivia Team:

The club welcomed new members Esther Bakare, Dylan Collins-Harrison and Henry Anhalt and are still looking for a few more. Interested students are encouraged to contact Ms. Potee or Mr. Leaper if they would like to join.

Mosaic/Students of Color Club:

We are voting for new officers this month and planning for our end-of-the-year picnic at a local park.

French Club:

See Video

Artist of the Week:

Juliette Potee is the artist of the week/month. As the lead actor playing Mary Lenox in GHS' spring play "The Secret Garden", she was in almost every scene with more than twice the number of lines of the next lead actor. In the fall, she was both the Raven in the interpretation of Edgar Allan Poe's poem and a creepy Madeline Usher in "Fall of the House of Usher." She stepped in as a last minute replacement as Willa Scarlett. She has written poetry for years and recently read several at April's Poetry Slam in the GHS Library

MG: Congratulations to '26 and to the new incoming seniors.

V. Reports of the Administration

A. Business Manager

See posted documents.

1. -Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Update
2. -Budget Reports Review

B. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Report

See posted documents.

1. The district's final Professional Development day took place on Friday, May 22, 2026. Preschool, elementary, middle school and high school personnel all had a specific focus here the district packed a lot into the final professional learning time.
2. Grants update: Most of the Fiscal Year 2026 grants will sunset on June 30, 2026 while others, including ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) will remain open until September 30, 2026.
3. The district's Extended School Year (ESY) Summer Program will run from July 6, 2026 through August 13, 2026. This program provides support for students who benefit from services beyond the traditional school year.
4. Elementary STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) Night happened on May 21, 2026 at all three elementary schools. Each school offered a variety of creative, family-friendly activities that encouraged curiosity and problem-solving, along with door prizes.
5. Pages for Paws Reading Initiative which is developed in partnership with the Valley Blue Sox, concluded this past week.
6. Planning for the 2026-2027 school year: Planning is underway for the administrative retreat where priorities for the upcoming school year are set.

C. Superintendent Report

See posted documents.

1. School enrollment update.
   - **a.** Follow up to question of why are students leaving. Most recent who have left have moved out of the area, state, or country.
   - **b.** Positivity: AEL: New curriculum for fall. Four Corners: 15% increase in students reading at or above grade level. 70% of ELL improved by minimum of one proficiency level. Federal Street School: Restorative Practices learning pilot a success. Math scores show 65% achievement and 84% growth. Newton: Reading improved significantly. Newton Way culture, a success. Fourth grade Student Coaches practiced leadership. GMS: Fifth grade with disabilities had double digit gains on MAP assessments in reading and math. Seven multi-language learners graduated their MLL services successfully. GHS: Nate Woodard received Gary Rome award. Strong community and camaraderie throughout the school.

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Vote to approve the minutes of March 25, 2026 and May 13, 2026

B. ~~Second Read and Vote of Revised Policy IJNDB (Empowered Digital Use Policy)~~

C. Second Read and Vote of Revised Policy BEDH-E (Guidelines for Public Comment)

ED: Item B should be considered postponed. We had a memo from SSu regarding AI. We have not had a chance to discuss at Policy Council.

SS: We will postpone to August.

SS moves. MG seconds. Vote: Motion passes unanimously by aye.

VII. School Committee Reports

A. Chair's Report:

1. **Open Meeting Law complaint self report**.

a. Accidental full inclusion reply by a committee member to an email to a community member. Filings to state have been received. More to follow. Committee chair apologizes.

2. **Ideas for the July meeting.**
   a. **SS:** Review January to June. What can we do August - December. Six month check in as we have settled into our positions. Hopefully this will take some pressure off of incoming Superintendent Kruser at her first meeting. Maybe putting her in a better position to learn what we are doing here.
   ED: June and July are self eval times. The MASC has a summer institute. Review year long agenda. Set year long agenda. There is a lot on our plate. I would like to have some time with incoming Superintendent Kruser. We have not had a goal setting meeting. We could set those expectations. Thank you for telling us about the reading. I am willing to do that.

3. **School Committee Summer Reading** – Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. in July & August, 2026
   a. One of us during this time to read to children and be available to parents. This is voluntary. incoming Superintendent Kruser has agreed to do one also. See me for signing up for times.
   MG: Would love to read to children. Great idea.
   ED: Evals from Strategic Plan will be in for July. We should be getting them next month but maybe we should make sure we have that before setting planning meeting with incoming Superintendent Kruser?
   GD: AI. We have so much input on this. I am so glad we are taking it up with them. To make a policy with many perimeters.
   RJ: AI: SSu and IT Ian Edwards met with that class. They were doing a project and there is a lot going on with that.
   SS: we are looking forward to more education on this.

B. Budget and Finance Subcommittee Report

See posted documents.

1. Budget Update: Through use of revolving funds and vacancy savings, the administration was able to fund our next school year at level-service.
2. Warrants were reviewed and discussed
3. Next subcommittee meeting will include discussion on district transportation; bids and options for lease on vehicles as well as how the bid process works. Committee to ask for the plan. Creating the budget calendar and making sure more know how it is put together.
   MW: Thank ED. Strategic Plan says we are due a report for transportation.

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

See posted documents.

JD: There is no student advisory committee at this time.
ED: [SSu] I will email you the questions so that you can answer them at a later time.
ED: July 2nd 7:30 p.m. meeting will be fully virtual.

D. Community Engagement Subcommittee Report

a. Discussed wording of goals and agreed. Social media. We wanted to come back to committee with some of the changes. We would love a PTO member to work with us on those discussions.
SS: What is the decision you are looking to be empowered for.
MG: To decide that there should be a change on how we operate our social media.
SS: We would love to hear the options you discussed and why you settled on the recommendations you bring to us; how social media is staffed, content.

E. Long-Term Facilities Use Advisory Committee

See posted documents.

1. Soliciting applicants for the Advisory Committee which is due June 22, 2026.
2. Webpage on Greenfield Public School website
ED: The flier did go home to the parents.

VIII. New Business

A. Motion from member Diteman to create an ad hoc committee to assess literacy in the district.

JD moves. MG seconds.

JD: Adopting plans and policy require information. We seek to gain that info for those purposes.
MG: Purview. There a lot of school committees and subcommittees. I looked to see what others are doing. This is within ours.
ED: I applaud your passion in wanting to do this. Is this a good idea or not?
MW: I worry that this is an overstep.
SS: We are seven people stretched with subcommittees already. There is no way to invite non-school members. We voted to do an audit. What can we add to these conversations that don't become another meeting that people have to attend? Where does our money need to go? Are there legislative acts we can support? I cannot support as produced.
JD: Thank you all for your feedback. I expected a great deal of criticism. On policy, we need to come up with a new strategic plan in a year. This was intended to inform that with regard to literacy. It is our job to adopt a professional plan. To provide PD for members learn. If this is not the right form for that, I would like to work together to come up with ideas. I am not comfortable with the numbers I am seeing. Look at the school and district report cards. Please share my concerns. I am an educator and do not intend to undermine any educators. Inviting us to keep thinking about this.
ED: Working together is to identify it as a legislative priority. We should do a Zoom to discuss. Write goals around literacy for incoming Superintendent Kruser. We can impress on her that this is a goal When she drafts a new plan, she can look at it. It is a superintendent's job to find ways to fit our priorities into our budget. Where is policy failing? We can't mess with instructional learning.

MW: Strategic planning says 2028 and following up to see those reviews. There has been a lot of turnover. I don't know if the goals for June of 2025 were met. The current strategic plan could be a great resource for answers.

JD withdraws. MG withdraws second. Motion is withdrawn.

B. Motion from member de Neeve to have the Greenfield School Committee direct the administration to create and publish an ongoing academic achievement tracker on the gpsk12.org website.

1. Current achievements are data within reports, school report cards, and require searching out to access. This would remove challenges for families and create accessible, front facing engagement for the good things that happen.

ED moves. SS seconds.

SS: Amendment: Committee to plan discussion to understand what data to prioritize and how it would be built into our schedule and structure for review. Also, move that Community Engagement plan three ways to get community feedback on what this dashboard needs or could entail.

SS: Three part motion. 1. To do it. 2. Intentionally plan it. 3. Community input.

ED accepts amendment.

MG: I would like to see examples of others. What would it look like?

MW: As a parent- What makes a good school to one parent doesn't make those qualities a good school to another parent.

ED: Achievement dashboard does not have to be just numbers. Art can be photographed. I don't see enough good things. I know they are happening. Not just data, but achievements. Positivity. There is not enough. Eight graduates went on to Ivy League universities this year. The heart and soul is missing from our current websites.

GD: We don't know what tools we would use for this. What would we track? Do some of these motions need to go to a subcommittee to make sure they are ready before coming up in the meeting?

MG: Who builds our website?

SSu: IT helps update the site. It was originally overseen by CES, but that person went independent.

SS: People can update it?

SSu: Yes.

MW: Our parent engagement put up something at Newton. They wanted each classroom newsletter all in one place.

SS: I included the amendment to discuss so we can know what action to take before we vote to move forward.

SSu: The host site is through the GoDaddy platform.

MG: A dashboard is a good goal. Maybe we need to start with the website? Banners? It's better than it was.

AC: Website is related but a separate issue. Is this a communication priority? Then next steps to send it to Community Engagement. It makes sense to me.

ED: The way to get something into subcommittee is to vote it in as a committee. We can sort it to the subcommittee. We don't have to have the full discussion with the full committee. Send it to the subcommittee.

SS: If we vote yes, that is what will happen.

Motion passes by aye. GD abstains.

C. ~~Motion from Policy, Program, and Handbook Subcommittee to add an academic honesty policy to the district policy manual.~~

1. **ED:** This was postponed to be discussed further in Policy Subcommittee.
2. **SS:** This and Item E?
3. **ED:** Yes.

D. Discussion and vote on how to proceed and choose a vendor to provide a Literacy Audit for the district.

1. **RJ**: This is a result of the request from the committee last month. There are three bids.1. Keys to Literacy. 2. CES. 3. Teaching Lab.
2. **MG:** I would like to postpone to research the bids. Can we push this to July or August?
3. **SS:** Quotes are often time bound. The bids may change if we wait.
4. **ED:** The original goal was to have this by June. This is a lot of money. This is the cost of a teacher. I cannot support this. I would like a full statement of the cost of these. I would like a cost comparison. If we postpone, can we have an analysis on the cost?
5. **RJ:** They start at $15K for the elementary schools.
6. **JD:** I would like time to review these in detail. This is a big decision. I would like to know what we would be getting for this money.
7. **MW:** One of them says we would have a full report by 2026.

MG moves to postpone. AC seconds. Motion passes unanimously by aye.

E. ~~Motion from member Diteman for the school committee to add an academic honesty policy to the district policy manual.~~

F. Request to change Discovery School at Four Corners to Four Corners Elementary School.

SS: Request received by the school as inspired by the desire of its community.

SS moves. AC seconds.

MG: Changing the name of a school can effect people who have ownership in the name. Should go to Community Engagement to make sure alums of Discovery School wont be upset about the name change. Go beyond PTO and School Council. There are people who drive by who are alums. There are a lot of people who have feelings about it.

AC: "Discovery School" had a specific meaning at the time it was applied. Letter from school leadership states it is no longer a state approved discovery school, has not been for many years. Accuracy and clarity are important. I have only ever heard it called "Four Corners. We are not adding a new name, but reverting back to a name, which is more accurate.

ED: Ditto AC.
MW: Also acronyms have been confusing to hear it called "Four Corners" with the acronym DSFC. The community wants this.

Vote: Motion passes by aye. MG abstains.

G. Motion from member Childs to have the Greenfield School Committee request ~~an audit~~, legal council review of the bids process for the HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) contract with EMCOR Services (New England Mechanical Services, Inc.)

AC moves. MG seconds.

This seeks to make the process transparent and to discover any areas we need to fix or improve.

ED: What is the cost?
AC: What legal council invoices.
ED: Does that fall under the retainer or is this additional fee?
SS: Additional.
ED: I can't support until I know the cost. The bid process is accessible online. There are licensing for sports field grasses and reasons that things cost what they cost. I have questioned the cost of landscaping in the past. I don't think it requires an audit. We are at level service funding. If there are other ways, we need to look into those.
AC: Can we get an estimate from Admin?
MW: Could we set a price?
SS: This motion is about HVAC.
GD: You are going to ask the attorney to look at it. I don't think that would be extraordinarily expensive. Maybe a few hours. I think this is a very specific request. I wold be willing to vote in favor of it.
ED: Is it that you are specifically asking about the bid process for everything or just this HVAC contract?
AC: The bids process, but specifically through this as the example to look at it.
ED: Are you suggesting that it's been fraudulent.
AC: No. There have been questions and others would feel more comfortable with a third party transparency.
MW: Some of the bids have gone back out for re-bid.
ED: We talked about the bid process a lot. I am fully into being as transparent as possible. I don't want to spend money if I have not heard multiple complaints about this.
MG: This idea came from our business manager to go this way.
AP: The process normally: Chapter 30B: The Inspector General has a hotline, their direction is to consult your legal council. This is more of a legal compliance review of quote solicitation. On $10K-$100K you need to solicit three quotes, but you do not have to receive three quotes. This is a solicitation, different from a bid. If a solicitation is going to be protested, you have to consult your legal council regarding the legality of how this HVAC solicitation was procured. Suggest we ask for a 'legal review of the solicitation process.'
ED: So this is not an "audit". Having a lawyer look over the process is fine.
AP: They will do their due diligence. We need to improve the housing process.

AC amend motion language to Legal compliance review. MG accepts.

Motion passes unanimously by aye.

Break 9:02 p.m.
Reconvene at 9:10 p.m.

IX. Old Business

A. Discussion ~~and vote~~ on the Electric Charging Stations

See posted documents.

"vote" stricken. Discussion only.

SS: How this fits into city electric infrastructure and tap into the grid?

GD: If we have to have to talk to anyone else?

AP: We have to solicit at least three vendors.

MG: This belongs at the city, not the school.

RJ: It is school property.

AP: Yes the city is responsible for the building and the grounds, but during school hours and supervision and liability for off hours and insuring. It's a fine line. We are responsible for some things. Operations fall with the school.

GD: Green community, going forward with vehicles, we should speak with Director of Sustainability Collins as well.

B. Discussion and vote on the Fiscal Year 2027 School Committee Budget

See posted documents.

RJ: For the purpose of moving it to the next stage of the process, sending this to the city.

AC moves. MG seconds.

ED: Can you tell us what we have going into FY28?

AP: I cannot. There are receipts still coming in. Go back to the PowerPoint. The changes are negligible. The question is will we be okay for FY29. We should not be balancing a budget on the backs of vacancies. You will have a revisions once the books are closed.

Vote: Motion passes unanimously by aye.

X. 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. The committee will not return to Open Session.

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

XI. Adjournment

Public session adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nan Sibley
Administrative Assistant