GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday September 9, 2026
Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St. Greenfield, MA 01301
Meeting materials can be found online at gpsk12.org/school-committee/committee-meetings/

I. **Call to Order 6:30pm**

II. **Roll Call: If members appear online, roll call voting must be used.**

Present: Ann Childs (AC); Jeffrey Diteman (JD); Melodie Goodwin (MG); M. McKenzie-Webb, Stacey Sexton (SS); Elizabeth de Neeve (ED).

Also present: Superintendent Carol Kruser (CK); Assistant Superintendent Steven Sullivan (SSu)
Remote Attendance: Business Manager Andy Paquette (AP).

Absent: Mayor Ginny DeSorgher (GD)

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.

Michael Terrazzo: Late notice that there would be no elementary school band was a shock to families and disappointing to students who were looking forward to attending. Redistricting has split families between schools and is a hardship for those that share one vehicle or have to coordinate school events. Imbalance of students per class continues to go unaddressed between schools. Some have too many, others have significantly fewer. Strongly disapprove of the redistricting outcome, especially in the matter of grade five (5).

Michael Mastrototaro: Family is debating on choicing out of district for next year. Entire student body is about 1300. We are hiring two new administrators that are not in the budget. Music is important and we were promised no changes to the music program. I don't understand buying new instruments and then cutting Fourth (4th) grade band. The prioritization these budgetary decisions present is baffling. Administration is top heavy. I don't understand how these things are being prioritized. I am very disappointed. You are hiring positions that aren't even in the budget. Regionalization is important.

Doug Selwyn: AI classes starting in Springfield hired out to a private for profit corporation with kids sitting in a classroom for two hours with no teachers. States are choosing to sign into vouchers; if Governor Healey agrees, bulk of the funds go to private schools, not public. Please reach out to her to advocate for public schools. End of Course Tests; MCAS rebranded. It is being recommended. Please do not be passive about this. Voters do not want this. Please stand up to what is coming.

IV. **Report of the Student Representatives to the Committee.** See meeting materials (p.1)

Key Club - We will be welcoming returning and new members. One of our kick off events will be the Green River Clean up Event on Saturday September 26th. We will also be planning to

bring back traditional events like our Turkey Trot and trying out some new community service events. Looking forward to a fulfilling year.

Athletics - Fall sports are off!! They started August 24th and are excited to start games next week! We liked to welcome our new coaches. Coaching football is Jeff Bengtson and coaching Girls Volleyball is Brian Campbell. Get all schedules online at Arbiterlive.com. Hope to see you at a game! GO WAVE!!

French Club - French Club will hold its first meeting on Monday, September 21st after school from 2:15-3:00pm in Madame's classroom. All students are welcome to come hear about all of the exciting events we have planned for this year, including French movie nights, cooking classes, Coffeehouse and Taste of World Cultures, and a trip to Montreal and Quebec during February break! For students interested in the trip, they should plan to attend an informational meeting with an adult on Tuesday, September 29th from 6:30-7:30pm in the GHS Lecture Hall.

Trivia Team-We will start our weekly library lunch prep sessions in the next couple of weeks. We hope to have a local Franklin County trivia teams social event and begin to prepare for both the Blender Bowl and our As Schools Match Wits Match. We are always looking for new students who have memories for facts and like competing:).

Mosaic/Students of Color Club - We look forward to seeing current and new members on September 17 at 2:25 in the Fishbowl in the library. Events like the Dodge Ball tournament fundraiser, celebrating diversity throughout the school year and a possible field trip will be discussed.

V. Reports of the Administration

A. Business Manager: See meeting materials (pp. 2-22)

1. **Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Update**
2. **Budget Reports Review**

B. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Report

1. New Teacher Orientation on August 26-27, 2026 welcomed new educators to the district where they participated in professional learning and connected with their new mentors and colleagues.
2. Convocation on August 31, 2026 for all staff fro the start of the 2026-2027 school year.
3. PRISM II (Partnership for reading Success Massachusetts) grant which provides support for literacy at the Academy of Early Learning.
4. Greenfield Public Schools will participate in a Job fair on Thursday, September 17. 2026 from 2:00pm-4:00pm at the Hampshire Mall.
5. Curriculum Costs in Fiscal Years 2024-2026 which is an overview of recent curriculum expenditures.
6. Early Literacy High Dosage Tutoring in the 2026-2027 school year. Greenfield has been selected to participate in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education program that provides students with high-impact, evidence-based literacy support designed to accelerate reading growth.

C. Superintendent Report See meeting materials (pp. 23-39)

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1. Congratulations to School Committee Chair Sexton being presented the MASC's (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) Division V (Five) All-State School Committee 2025 Award. This will be presented at the November 6, 2026 dinner during the MASC/MASS (Massachusetts Association of School Committees/Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents) 2026 Joint Conference in Danvers,
2. Massachusetts. -Communication Plan -FRCOG (Franklin Regional Council of Governments) Health Survey Data

MG: Enrollment numbers?

CK: 1278; 69 at AEL, 186 at Federal Street, 166 at Four Corners, 142 at Newton, 311 and GMS, 368 at GHS.

JD: Parent Square is going well. "99.6%" refers to what?

CK: Everyone can receive messages on Parent Square, how they choose to get it. It is a positive start.

JD: I receive the messages but I cannot go into the app. The invitations have expired. Can we resend that for those that didn't respond quickly enough?

CK: Yes.

ED: I got an invitation to join. We were told we wouldn't but that changed?

CK: Yes. You have a GPS email.

ED: Congratulations; Stacey has won the All State School Committee award for 2025! I was 2024. I don't know any other towns that have two so close together. The last time Greenfield won was 2010. We truly are working towards student achievement, and it is recognized by the state.

CK: It is a huge deal and I am honored to attend with Chair Sexton.

CK: Working with the Subcommittee on a comprehensive communication plan that will be presented. It includes protocols and processes for crisis communication, and also for the good things that are happening and potential negatives.

Also working with FRCOG on health survey data to see what our students are saying about what kind of education we would like to partner with, what we should be focusing on, bullying, substance use; it is anonymous and will fuel our decision making in addition to talking to students directly.

MG: We have had requests for an update on the lights:

AC: Met with City Planning and Construction Committee. We have about 350 old fashioned high pressure sodium lights with about 50 outages spread throughout. We want to upgrade to an LED system. Due to the cost; about $500,000, we need to seek grants and out-of-city funding for the upgrade to save on electricity. Replacing the current bulbs or looking into the cause of the outages means looking into what it will cost. This would be a bandage approach. Because it is an outdated system, parts and support are getting harder to access. The city is working on current and long term solutions for this.

CK: We are working with city and athletics to address this.

ED: GHS is a Green School. Is it possible to go for MSBA grants?

CK: I don't know at this time. We are working with City Planning.

VI. Consent Agenda See meeting materials (pp. 40-82)

A. Vote to approve the minutes of August 12, 2026 (pp. 40-48)

B. Second Read and Vote of Revised Policy IJNDB (Empowered Digital Use Policy) (pp. 49-59).

C. Approve the removal of an old greenhouse and 15+ (plus) desks in disrepair at Four Corners School (pp. 60, 61)

D. Approve the high school field trip to Washington DC (pp. 62-65)

E. Approve the Director of Health and Wellness Job Description (pp. 66-69)

F. Approve new policy ACL: Protect Act Policy (pp. 70-82)

SS: Items to consider separately?

ED: Item B

MG: Items D and E

SS moves to approve Items A, C, and F. ED seconds.
Motion passes unanimously by aye.

SS moves to approve Item B. ED moves for the purpose of discussion.

ED: Would like to strike Item B until recommendation from AI Advisory Committee.

JD: I concur. Does anyone see a negative impact for pausing?

MG: Agree to pause. What is currently happening in our schools with AI?

CK: The downside is that we have to see what the kids have access to and teachers have to be vigilant.

JD: Clarification: Students only have access to programs on their programs that ensure privacy and security.

SSu: IT is monitoring info coming in and out of the district constantly. Go Guardian is also. IT is combating bad actors constantly. The overall cyber security is active.

CK: our IT is an excellent team.

SSu: The AI workgroup survey went out a week ago. Received 28 responses so far and will be open for another week. We are hoping to hear student voices. If we don't have sufficient student voices we may have meetings with students during the day for their input.

SS: We have some notes from the conference in the spring.

AC: We have a collection of student emails also.

ED: Reached out to Mr. Martin for student public comment.

SS rescinds motion to approve. ED approves withdraw.

SS moves to postpone Item B until the School Committee receives recommendations from the AI Advisory Subcommittee. MG seconds.
Motion passes unanimously by aye.

SS moves to approve item D. ED seconds.

MG: I didn't know who the teachers were or how many students. Are they using a company?

Principal Mike Browning: We will not be using a company to help us. Mrs. Warner will be leading the group. Budget will be finalized after we have the numbers. We are hoping for 70% of the class.

MG: Is it during school hours?

MB: It is slated for the last week of school.

MW: What is 70%

MB: High 60s.

MG: It's hard for parents -a $600 trip. Are there fundraising opportunities?

MB: Yes. Working with 8th grade teachers on that. We have scholarships for some families and we have payment options.

Motion passes with one abstention. MW abstains.

SS moves to approve Item C: ED seconds:

1. **MG:** I'm questioning the process. The position was eliminated in the budget. Do we need to vote the position before we vote the description?
   a. **CK:** Voting the description first allows me to go to Andy [Business Manager] to do a proposal who will budget it in from the vacancy savings. He will add that into his report. You would then vote at the October meeting.

Motion passes unanimously by Aye.

VII. School Committee Reports See meeting materials (pp.83-90)

A. Chair's Report

1. Please get your questions in as soon as you can so we can plan in advance, especially if it requires data or data sleuthing. Also encouraging subcommittees who would like to do related work to support the work of other subcommittees, we can do that. We can do more when we work together.

B. Budget, Finance and Warrants Subcommittee Report See materials. (p. 83)

1. Subcommittee met twice after the August school committee meeting.
2. Quarterly Budget Priorities review.
3. Budget Book format discussion and desired contents.
4. Subcommittee moves for Policy DBD (Budget Planning) review interpretation and implementation.
5. Warrant highlights include: warranty tracking on purchases and curriculum redundancy monitoring, update on van purchase.
6. Staffing Updates: district can use more instructional assistants, discussion of Assistant Director of Pupil Services workloads and the need for adding a nursing supervisor back into the budget.

AC moves that the School Committee ask the Policy Subcommittee to review Policy DBD's interpretation and implementation. MG seconds.
Motion passes unanimously by aye.

C. Policy, Program, and School Committee Handbook Subcommittee Report See materials (pp. 84-90)

1. Subcommittee met on August 24, 2026; policy updates were done and under legal review. Language was modernized in the tobacco policies. (pp. 84-88).
2. Year long agenda was created and past agendas were reviewed and checked to ensure topics were covered and completed.
3. October subcommittee meeting will include a discussion of the implementation of policy JIB (Student Involvement in Decision-Making).
4. November subcommittee meeting will discuss integrating an Academic Honesty Policy.
5. December subcommittee meeting will be goals for the 2027-2028 school year.

ED Moves for Files: ADC, GBED, IHAMB, AND JICH are approved for a first reading. AC seconds.
Motion passes unanimously by Aye.

ED moves that the full committee allow us [PPSCHS] to move forward with the following new business:

- **Policy JCA- Assignment of Students to Schools (AC will provide possible edits for this policy at the September meeting.)**

- **School Committee Handbook Update – School Committee Chromebook (Best Practices - Two-factor log-in) (AC will provide possible edits for this policy at the September meeting)**

- **Policy EEAG (Student Transportation in Private Vehicles) (CK will provide additional information on this policy at the September meeting.)**

MW seconds.

MG: If we are treating it like a consent agenda: JCA assignmnet of studetns to schools, we wanted to look at the impact of that. How can we measure that? Something to discuss in policy committee.

ED: We cant answer yet, but we will look into that.

Motion passes unanimously by Aye.

D. Community Engagement Subcommittee Report

1. No report at this time.

E. Long-Term Facilities Use Advisory Committee

1. First meeting will be at the end of this month.

F. CES (Collaborative for Educational Services) Representative Update

1. Dr. Portia Bonner is new Executive Director and is doing well.

SS: CES is based out of Northampton.
CK: I know Dr Bonner and have a meeting with her next week.

VIII. New Business

~~**A. Motion from member DeNeeve to have the School Committee revisit Roberts Rules regarding amending agenda items during a meeting**~~

B. Motion from member DeNeeve to have the School Committee send to the Policy, Program and Handbook Subcommittee the language to add debrief and end of the year procedures to the handbook for subcommittees
SS seconds.

AC: This is good for when member rotate.
ED: At the end of the subcommittee assignment, we don't know if we will be assigned to the same committees. How can the public know what the subcommittee has accomplished? How are previous goals and their status communicated?
MG: Last year KM's hand off well done. The last School Committee meeting was the hand-off. It is a good idea.
ED: We can write up something with how it should look and vote on it.
SS: Best practices only work if we practice them.
MW: Some things look different for each subcommittee. I think it's a great concept with some flexibility. What we received from KM was excellent.

Motion passes unanimously by aye.

C. Motion from member DeNeeve to have the School Committee have a training by MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) regarding public comment by elected officials and restraint and caution be outlined in the school committee handbook.

SS seconds.
Motion passes unanimously by Aye.

IX. Old Business

A. Motion from member DeNeeve to have the School Committee undergo a training on roles and responsibilities by MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees)
SS seconds.

ED: I brought this forward for how to effect change. It will help us work on policy, reduce tendency to micromanage, help us think bigger.

AC: Can you tell us more? Where and background.

ED: Hyannis at MASC; Three Lanes: Budget, Policy, Superintendent hiring/supervision. How issues fit within those lanes. The point of us is public oversight. We are less effective when we get in the weeds. Understanding how to be the umbrella. It is a simple training.

MW: I would like to go to November but it's not realistic with my schedule. Are there mini workdays that are offered? I would like to explore this more.

ED: They will come out for any training we ask them to.

MW: Can we invite other school district committee members?

ED: Yes.

MW Friendly amendment that we open this up to those who cannot make it out to Hyannis.

SS: Good clear communication about the EDGE cases. Whose role is who's?

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 return to Open Session.

AC Moves. MG seconds. Motion passes unanimously by roll call.

Enter Executive Session at 7:43pm
Re-enter Public Session at 8:43pm

XI. Vote to instruct the Chair to sign the Transportation Settlement Agreement, Cafeteria Settlement Agreement, Custodial Settlement Agreement and Administrative Assistant Agreement.

SS moves to approve. ED Seconds.
Motion passes unanimously by roll call.

XII. Adjournment

SS moves to adjourn. AC seconds.
Motion passes unanimously by aye.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Nan Sibley
Administrative Assistant