

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, August 9, 2017
GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA
Approved 09.13.17**

Present: Don Alexander (DA); Timothy Farrell (TF); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Nathaniel Tripp (NT)

Absent: Cameron Ward (CW)

Also present: Paul DeMarco, MTA; Andy Paquette, The Management Solution;-other school staff, citizens.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (DA, TF, SH, WM, AN, NT), Chair Martin opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

AN moved to approve minutes of July 12, 2017. TF 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Paul DeMarco reported GEA withdrawing grievance re: bullying at GHS, thanked Supt. Harper for actions to resolve.

IV. Reports

A. Budget & Finance Subcte

AN highlighted Subcte's work, including:

- close-out of FY
- policies re: compensation for non-union personnel
- central office vacancies

B. Secretary's Report

DA announced details of special working meeting on August 21. MASC to facilitate.

C. Policy and Program Subcte

SH reported on Subcte's recent work:

- tracking policies needing 1st, 2nd readings, vote by Cte
- transportation policies, with focus on walkers
- next meeting: fee schedule re: community use of school facilities
- recommend change to policy on policies to require only one reading of unchanged policies before vote by School Cte

Mayor & Supt. met with FRTA. Considering pilot program for GHS students to ride FRTA busses. \$15/month student pass to be paid by GPS. Students within 1.5 miles walk; beyond 1.5 miles, bus available. Need to update relevant policies. Statutes re: bus shelters? FRTA plans for bus shelters coming to Planning Board within month.

D. Superintendent's Report

JH reported on:

- summer work, dates for opening new school year
- Federal Street School windows
- GHS: Karin Patenaude named Principal; Mike Bombardier, Associate Principal
- MUNIS report on FY18 budget

- Format is different due to technology glitch. Going forward TMS will follow standard report format and cost centers. Discussion: Report should follow agreed-upon cost centers, include prior year actuals.
- Add to next Budget Subcte agenda: discussion of report format. TMS will provide examples.

TF applauded removal of Planet Aid boxes at Discovery School for safety concerns; recognizes fiscal impact to PTO.

V. Business

A. Update on School Business Manager position

JH reported that position was posted, advertised but not enough qualified applicants to begin interviews. Search continued, extended.

B. Update on Assistant Superintendent Position

Assistant Supt. Beth Pratt resigned to take position closer to home.

Fill same position or consider Director of Curriculum at lower salary? Referred to Personnel Subcommittee.

Discussion:

- SH: Suggestion for 5-year calendar for curriculum, so all curriculum areas would be reviewed. Referred to Policy Subcommittee.
- TF urged Cte. to move slowly. Mixed opinions whether GPS needs Curriculum Director. School staff to do curriculum work?
- JH: Teachers are in better position to “own” the curriculum; balance with need to coordinate curriculum, responding to NEASC recommendation.
- WM favors Assistant Supt. position. Need to plan funds for that position.

C. Transportation Update and Route Schedule

Consensus to postpone discussion until review by Policy Subcte, vote by School Cte on transportation policies. Preference to calculate distance by walking-route (“portal to portal”), not crow-flies radius.

Discussion of backlog of policies for 1st, 2nd reading, vote. Policy Subcte to discuss at Aug. 15 meeting, recommend consideration at special meeting or regular Sept. 13 meeting.

VI. New Business

A. New Programs

JH responded to request for update on new programs:

- Partnership with New England Center for Children (NECC)
- GCC/GHS partnership: Work continues. Report to School Cte in Sept. from Karin Patenaude, GHS Principal

B. Planning & Construction Committee

SH (School Cte representative on City’s Planning & Construction Committee) summarized purpose, recent discussions:

- Green River School to close for 6 month; discussion of MSBA reimbursement
- GHS construction: \$24.3million approved for borrowing, project under budget at \$22million. MSBA audit underway, with focus on change orders, retainage.
 - Discussion: How to use cash remaining: debt reduction; cafeteria window shading; review 9 items engineered-out in Building Committee’s budget-reduction decisions. After audit, Building Committee can report to School Cte.

- 80% maximum reimbursement; GHS project at 79.6% reimbursement.

VII. Old Business

GCET work at Academy of Early Learning (North Parish building) not yet done, will be complete before school starts.

VII. Adjournment

TF moved to adjourn. AN 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

1. Agenda: August 9, 2017
2. Draft minutes: July 12, 2017
3. Budget & Finance Subcommittee minutes: August 1, 2017
4. School Business Manager Search Status, memo from Supt. Harper, August 7, 2017
5. Federal Street Window Replacement Project (photos)
6. MUNIS report, August 9, 2017
7. Policy EEA Student Transportation Services