

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES: Monday, September 11, 2019**
John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant Street, Greenfield MA

Present: Katie Caron (KC); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); Glenn Johnson (GJ); William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Cameron Ward (CW).

Absent: None

Also present: Melina Bourdeau, *Greenfield Recorder*; Matthew Holloway, Director of Pupil Services; Liz Lafond, MASC; Stephen Nembirkow, Business Manager; Doug Selwyn, resident; other school staff and citizens. *Note: Bourdeau is audio-recording meeting.*

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (KC, SE, SH, GJ, AN, CW), Chair Nunez opened the meeting at 6:34 p.m. *WM arrived at 6:36.*

II. Approval of Minutes

SE moved to approve minutes of August 14 and 19, 2019. AN 2nd.

Aug. 19 - Correct typo on pg. 3: "~~GJ~~ GJ called the question."

Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Doug Selwyn, resident, announced rally on Greenfield Common on Sept. 20, 5pm, as part of Global Climate Strike; expressed support for hiring a curriculum coordinator.

IV. Reports

A. Chair

Thanked all staff who've worked to launch a great school year; and thanked School Cte members for making time to attend 3 meetings this month.

B. Superintendent (JH)

- Noted school newsletters included in packet
- Theme for opening convocation: "You Make the Difference." All school staff attended.
- Enrollment continues to rise: approx. 1,815 students
- Girls Field Hockey team playing tonight

C. Subcommittees

1. Policy & Program (KC) – No report

2. Personnel & Negotiations (SE) – No report

3. Health, Safety & Facilities (KC) – No report

Committee Representatives

4. Collaborative for Educational Services (SE) – No report

5. Town Planning and Construction Committee (SH)

Met at library with consultants to discuss renovation vs new construction.

AN asked SH to obtain recent minutes and forward to School Cte members.

V. New Business

A. Open Meeting Law Training with Liz Lafond, MASC

Lafond led slide presentation as overview of OML requirements.

B. Update from Attorney General's Office on OML Complaint

AN read into the record the letter from Sarah Chase, Assistant Attorney General, re: Open Meeting Law Complaint, August 28, 2019, indicating that the complaint filed by Paul Jablon on June 3 is resolved. This evening's OML training is part of School Committee's response. Some members also attended MASC course which includes OML training; and all are aware of availability of online training.

C. Policy Section B – First Reading

KC, Chair of Policy Subcommittee, reviewed Section B policies. Subcommittee chose to replace many GPS policies with MASC recommended policies that seemed clearer and avoided overreach.

BA School Committee Operational Goals

Suggestion to reinstate prior policy's 4: two-way communication, and 5: conduct business openly.

BAA Evaluation of School Committee Operational Procedures

Add specific date for self-evaluation? Add "annually"? Policies are to be generic, flexible; Committee sets timeline. Concern that revised version does not include student achievement.

SH moved to add back "Strategic planning and support for student achievement." WM 2nd. Motion failed 1-4-2 (WM, CW abstain).

BB School Committee Legal Status

d. Should this refer to City Council ordinance rather than Charter?

SH moved to send BB back to Subcommittee to clarify ordinance. GJ 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

BBA School Committee Powers and Duties

Concern that some legal references, included in earlier version, have been removed.

Previous policy stated School Cte has responsibility to accept grants. Consideration of grants included by request in agenda, in Supt's report, and during budget discussions. Concern that 10. Determining Levels of Compensation and 11. Business/Finance of previous policy omitted; however, policies not required to include/cite laws.

GJ moved to adjust rules for purpose of proceeding on this document that members have one turn to comment for 2 minutes. SE 2nd. Motion passed 5-2.

SH moved that we include the former item 10. Determining Levels of Compensation and the reference to MGL 71:59B. CW 2nd. Be sure wording in 10. accurately reflects legal language. Motion passed 3-2-2 (KC, SE abstain).

BBAA School Committee Member Authority

BBBA/BBBB School Committee Member Qualifications/Oath of Office

BBBC School Committee Voluntary Resignation

BBBE Unexpired Term Fulfillment

What happens in event of tie/imasse? Legal reference explains.

BCA School Committee Member Ethics

Typo - 6. "assigned sub-committees"

BDA School Committee Organizational Meeting

BDA is on hold; Subcommittee is looking at other districts' policies.

BDB School Committee Officers

Not clear re: Superintendent's executive assistant; recording secretary as GPS employee; and secretary as School Committee officer.

AN moved that Subcommittee reconsider BDB. CW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

BDC Appointed Committee Officials

BDD School Committee-Superintendent Relationship

BDE Subcommittees of the School Committee

BDF Advisory Committees to the School Committee

BDFA School Councils

BDFA-E-1 School Improvement Plans

Should turnaround plans to be included?

BDFA-E-2 Submission & Approval of the School Improvement Plan

BDFA-E-3 Conduct of School Council Business

BDG School Attorney

Prior policy specifically allowed more than one attorney; why omitted? New policy doesn't expressly forbid more than one.

BE School Committee Meetings

SH moved to change language: "Every meeting of the School Committee, subcommittees and advisory committees, regular or special..." GJ 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

AN moved to table remainder of Section B policies. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Tabled:

- BEC Executive Sessions
- BEDA Notification of School Committee Meetings
- BEDB Agenda Format
- BEDB-E Agenda Format
- BEDD Rules of Order
- BEDF Voting Method
- BEDG Minutes
- BEDH Pubic Comment at School Committee Meetings

BEDH-E Guidelines for Public Comment
BEE Special Procedures for Conducting Hearings
BG School Committee Policy Development
BGB Policy Adoption
BGC Policy Revision and Review
BGD School Committee Review of Regulations
BGE Policy Dissemination
BGF Suspension Policies
BHC School Committee-Staff Communication
BHE Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members
BIA New School Committee Member Orientation
BIBA School Committee Conferences, Conventions, and Workshops
BID School Committee Member Compensation and Expenses
BJ School Committee Legislative Program
BK School Committee Memberships

VIII. Executive Session

AN announced intent to move into Executive Session in accordance with MGL c 30A, §21, (1) & (3): (1) To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, our complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual; (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 (Unit C, Unit A & Admin. Assistants).

AN moved to enter Executive Session. SE 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SH, SE, AN, WM, CW, GJ. Entered Executive Session at 8:31 p.m. 8:43 executive session began.

AN moved to leave Executive Session. SE 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SH, SE, AN, WM, GJ. Returned to public session at 10:23 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

AN moved to adjourn. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

1. Notice and Agenda September 11, 2019
2. Draft minutes: August 19, 2019
3. Open Meeting Law (MASC presentation slides)
4. Letter from Sarah Chase, Assistant Attorney General, to Adrienne Nunez re: Open Meeting Law Complaint
5. Policies, Section B:
 - a. BA School Committee Operational Goals
 - b. BAA Evaluation of School Committee Operational Procedures

- c. BB School Committee Legal Status
 - d. BBA School Committee Powers and Duties
 - e. BBAA School Committee Member Authority
 - f. BBBA/BBBB School Committee Member Qualifications/Oath of Office
 - g. BBBC School Committee Voluntary Resignation
 - h. BBBE Unexpired Term Fulfillment
 - i. BCA School Committee Member Ethics
 - j. BDA School Committee Organizational Meeting
 - k. BDB School Committee Officers
 - l. BDC Appointed Committee Officials
 - m. BDD School Committee-Superintendent Relationship
 - n. BDE Subcommittees of the School Committee
 - o. BDF Advisory Committees to the School Committee
 - p. BDF A School Councils
 - q. BDF A-E-1 School Improvement Plans
 - r. BDF A-E-2 Submission & Approval of the School Improvement Plan
 - s. BDF A-E-3 Conduct of School Council Business
 - t. BDG School Attorney
 - u. BE School Committee Meetings
 - v. BEC Executive Sessions
 - w. BED A Notification of School Committee Meetings
 - x. BED B Agenda Format
 - y. BED B-E Agenda Format
 - z. BED D Rules of Order
 - aa. BED F Voting Method
 - bb. BED G Minutes
 - cc. BED H Public Comment at School Committee Meetings
 - dd. BED H-E Guidelines for Public Comment
 - ee. BEE Special Procedures for Conducting Hearings
 - ff. BG School Committee Policy Development
 - gg. BGB Policy Adoption
 - hh. BGC Policy Revision and Review
 - ii. BGD School Committee Review of Regulations
 - jj. BGE Policy Dissemination
 - kk. BGF Suspension Policies
 - ll. BHC School Committee-Staff Communication
 - mm. BHE Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members
 - nn. BIA New School Committee Member Orientation
 - oo. BIBA School Committee Conferences, Conventions, and Workshops
 - pp. BID School Committee Member Compensation and Expenses
 - qq. BJ School Committee Legislative Program
 - rr. BK School Committee Memberships
6. Superintendent's Report:
- a. School newsletters
 - b. Superintendent's Social Media Posts