

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING**  
**MINUTES: Monday, November 18, 2019**  
Greenfield High School, 21 Barr Avenue, Greenfield MA

**Present:** Katie Caron (KC); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); Susan Hollins (SH) (arrived 6:15); Glenn Johnson (GJ); Adrienne Nunez (AN); William Martin (WM);

**Absent:** Cameron Ward (CW)

**Also present:** Mike Kuchieski, Athletic Director; Stephen Nembirkow, Business Manager; Ed Voudren, Transportation Coordinator; other school staff, citizens, and the press.

### **I. Call to Order**

With a quorum present (KC, SE, GJ, AN, WM), Chair Nunez opened the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

SE moved to approve the draft minutes of November 13, 2019. 2nd KC. Motion passed unanimously.

### **III. Public Comment**

Carolyn McDaniel, parent, thanked School Committee, Superintendent, school leaders and teachers for providing excellent education at GHS.

### **IV. Reports**

#### **A. Chairperson**

AW reviewed items in packet: School Committee calendars; Planning & Construction Committee Annual Report.

Delay in Superintendent Evaluation to allow more time to combine responses. To be discussed at December 11 meeting. Change of dates made in collaboration with Superintendent.

#### **B. Superintendent** *(no formal report for special meeting)*

JH read letter from a veteran thanking Newton School students for cards and decorations on Veterans Day.

### **V. Business**

#### **A. Transportation Cost Savings Proposal**

**AN announced intent to move into Executive Session in accordance with MGL c 30A, §21, (10): To discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively sensitive or other proprietary information** (transportation).

GJ moved to enter Executive Session. SE 2nd. Yes: KC, SH, SE, GJ, AN, WM. Motion passed. Entered Executive Session at 6:17 p.m.

Returned to public session at 6:29 p.m.

Steve Nembirkow and Ed Voudren presented two-part proposal: to purchase a used 42-passenger bus to transport Four Rivers students and athletic teams; to lease 7 vans to transport special education students.

Discussion:

- Urgent need to replace old vans. 4 Uplander vans will not pass next inspection.

- Additional vans would expand GPS' in-house special ed transportation (currently paying \$10K/month for private transportation) and potentially bring income from transporting other districts' special education students. Other districts interested; GPS staff have not pursued discussions until GPS has secured additional van capacity.
- Proposal to add 3 drivers, 3 monitors. City pays cost of benefits.
- Consider creating non-profit collaborative for regional transportation.
- Projected savings \$500-\$600 per trip for athletics games using GPS vehicles.
- Currently transporting 8 Gill-Montague students in otherwise empty seats.
- Has Kuzmeskus contract been approved by City Council?
- GPS charges other districts our per-pupil transport cost.
- \$ figures in memo not clear, in part because state special ed transportation reimbursement not included.
- Providing transportation to other districts' students was started slowly as pilot, working well.
- Good level of safety – monitors, cameras, reliable vehicles, trained drivers.

**SH moved that the Policy Subcommittee consider fees for shared transportation. GJ 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

**SH moved to authorize the purchase of a used 42-passenger yellow bus as presented for approximate cost of \$35,000. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

**SH moved to approve the lease of 3 Odyssey vans at \$21,240 per year and 4 Odyssey vans to replace our Uplanders at \$28,320 per year. AN 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

**SH moved that cost of purchase and lease of additional vehicles voted tonight be posted to the transportation revolving fund by year's end. WM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **B. Budget Update and Information**

Nembirkow explained current budget reports, which are being updated to reflect finalized budget passed Oct. 31. \$2.8million in revolving funds applied to \$19million budget. List of transfers provided.

### **C. Regionalization Exploration Proposal**

JH presented interest in exploring regionalization. Has been considered in past; renewed opportunity now, potentially including Pioneer, Gill-Montague.

**GJ moved that the Superintendent do preliminary exploration of joining discussions, exploring possibilities, and reporting back to the School Committee related to regionalization. 2nd SE.**

Discussion:

Concerns about regionalism, loss of local control of schools.

Support for shared regional services without full regionalization.

Greenfield's city school system cannot regionalize with towns.

GJ called the question. SE 2nd. Motion to end debate passed 4-2.

**Motion passed 5-1 (No: SH).**

### **D. Capital Requests**

JH and Nembirkow presented list of Capital Projects.

- \$60K state safety grant paid for new keys, swipes, cameras, repair of doors. Capital request is reduced by this amount.
- Need for paved walkway from AEL parking lot. Not included due to lack of estimate.

- ADA compliance at Four Corners: underway using grant or unrestricted program funds. Include in Capital Request as backup.

**AN moved to approve the capital request with the following modifications: removal of the third item, Cameras; the addition of including estimate for a walkway from the parking area at AEL; and to prioritize items listed as corresponding to student safety, including fencing. GJ 2nd. Motion passed 5-0-1 (WM abstain).**

**E. Policy: 1st Reading Complete Section B** (starting with BEC)

**SE moved to table the policy discussion to further date. SH 2nd. Motion to table passed 5-1 (No: GJ).**

#### **F. December Meetings**

Meetings to be held Dec. 11 and 16. Public notice requirements do not allow second meeting to respond to first meeting's actions. Recommendation to instead set as one long agenda, one packet, then continue meeting on second date.

#### **IV. Executive Session**

**AN announced intent to move into Executive Session in accordance with MGL c 30A, §21, (10): To discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively sensitive or other proprietary information** (Greenfield Middle School Parking).

GJ moved to enter Executive Session. KC 2nd. Yes: KC, SH, SE, GJ, AN, WM. Motion passed unanimously. Entered Executive Session at 9:02 p.m.

Returned to public session at 9:20 p.m.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

AN moved to adjourn. SH 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Farber  
Recording Secretary

#### **Meeting Documents**

1. Notice and Agenda November 18, 2019
2. Draft minutes: November 13, 2019
3. Memo from Ed Voudren & Steve Nembirkow to School Committee, "Busing," November 13, 2019
4. Memo from Ed Voudren & Steve Nembirkow to School Committee, "Transportation 3-Yr Projection," October 16, 2019 revised
5. Letter from Paul Newell to Ed Voudren, "Chevy Uplander Vans" (no date)
6. Letter from Christine Maguire, Pioneer Valley Regional School District, to Steve Nembirkow (no date)
7. Financial reports: Memo from Steve Nembirkow to School Committee, "FY20 YTD Statement," November 7, 2019; Balances as of November 6; Year-to-Date Budget Reports as of November 6.
8. School Committee 2019 Calendar, 2017-2018 Calendar
9. Annual Report 2018-2019, City of Greenfield Planning and Construction Committee
10. Policies, Section B
11. FY21 Capital Plan Master Requests, November 14, 2019