

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING**  
**MINUTES: Monday, January 13, 2020**  
City Hall Conference Room, 14 Court Square, Greenfield MA

**Present:** Katie Caron (KC); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Jordana Harper (JH); Susan Hollins (SH) (attending remotely; reason: traveling out of state); Glenn Johnson (GJ); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW); Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

**Absent:** None

**Also present:**

Michael Kuchieski, Athletic Director; citizens, and the press.

**I. Call to Order**

With a quorum present (KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW), Chair Proietti opened the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

**II. Public Comment**

None

SE moved to reverse order of A and B to accommodate Coach Kuchieski's schedule. KC 2nd. Yes: KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously.

**III. Business**

**B. Co-op Football Options**

Michael Kuchieski, Athletic Director, described reasons for potential co-op football team for Greenfield, Mohawk, Turners Falls.

- Dwindling size of Greenfield team: 17-18 players, including 6 freshmen; only 14 players on 7th & 8th-grade team. Small varsity team creates safety issue, e.g., needing to play 14-year-old against 18-year-old. Younger players dropping out because of safety concerns.
- 3-school football coop with potentially 36 players = "healthy number." Would allow JV team, thus improved safety & more interest from younger students.
- Ideally, coop is temporary. Goal is for schools to build individual programs back up.
- General movement toward regionalization of schools. Other sports might also become coops.
- Looking for GPS decision by Feb. 1 to meet MIAA timeline to have coop established at least 6 months before first practice.

Discussion:

- Parents more cautious because of head injuries.
- Could Turners Falls host coop swim team? Only if fewer TF swimmers than MIAA's minimum.
- Model of Franklin County Hockey Association.
- Late addition to agenda, thus informational discussion, no vote tonight. Look for vote at special meeting in late January to meet Feb. 1 deadline.
- Revenue potential? Ticket sales could increase if more parents come to games.

**A. Assignment of School Committee Members to Subcommittees**

Discussion:

- RW distributed City budget schedule. Urged strong communication with City and for Budget Subcommittee to begin work ASAP.

- Reminder that 2 subcommittee members discussing subcommittee business constitutes a quorum = open meeting law violation. Subcommittees limited to 3 members to avoid having quorum of the full Committee.
- Reminder of policy: Committee members who attend subcommittee meetings they are not members of are attending as member of the public, cannot participate in deliberation. Mayor, as ex-officio member, can attend and deliberate at any subcommittee meeting.
- Supt. will distribute relevant policies. Some new policies may be in process toward formal acceptance.
- Each subcommittee to decide who serves as subcommittee chair.
- Reminder that subcommittee agenda topics will come from School Committee or School Committee Chair.

Proposed assignments modified as follows:

- position of Collaborative for Educational Services is currently vacant;
- who serves as representative to City Planning & Construction to be clarified; and
- change the Library Building Committee representative (non-voting) to Susan Eckstrom because Jean Wall has already been appointed by Mayor as a voting member of that Committee

**KC moved to accept subcommittee assignments as modified. RW 2nd. Yes: KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously.**

Subcommittees:

Budget & Finance..... Eckstrom, Proietti, Wall  
 Policy & Program..... Johnson, Caron, Wedegartner  
 Health, Safety & Facilities..... Caron, Hollins, Johnson  
 Personnel & Negotiations..... Eckstrom, Caron, Proietti

Representatives:

Collaborative for Educational Services..... (vacant)  
 City Planning & Construction Committee..... (to be clarified)  
 City Library Building Committee ..... Eckstrom

**IV. Executive Session**

**AP announced intent to move into Executive Session in accordance with MGL c 30A, §21 (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 (Custodial & Cafeteria).**

KC moved to enter Executive Session. RW 2nd. Yes: KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously. Entered Executive Session at 7:19 p.m.

Returned to public session at 7:27 p.m.

**V. Adjournment**

KC moved to adjourn. 2nd GJ. Yes: KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Susan Farber  
 Recording Secretary

### **Meeting Documents**

1. Agenda: Jan. 13, 2020
2. Subcommittee Assignments (draft)
3. Memo from Liz Gilman, "FY 2021 Budget Schedule," Oct. 3, 2019
4. Letter from Jordana Harper to Discovery School at Four Corners, Jan. 10, 2020 (announcement of Caissie Putnam as Interim Principal)