

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Monday, March 16, 2020**
City Hall Conference Room, 14 Court Square, Greenfield MA

Note: Regular monthly meeting on March 11 was rescheduled to March 16 due to expected lack of quorum.

Present: Katie Caron (KC); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Jordana Harper (JH) (attending remotely); Susan Hollins (SH) (attending remotely); Glenn Johnson (GJ) (attending remotely, joined at 7:09); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW); Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

Absent: None

Also present: Steve Nembirkow, Business Manager; other school staff and citizens.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (KC, SE, SH, AP, JW, RW), Chair Proietti opened the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

II. Approval of Draft Minutes: January 27, February 12, March 4, 2020

SE moved to table consideration of minutes. KC 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Motion to table passed unanimously.

AP clarified that meeting business to be limited to Covid-19 emergency preparedness, including plan to approve paying all regularly scheduled employees through April 7.

III. Public Comment

Shirley Gilfether, retired educator, provided handout and spoke to FY21 school budget, encouraging funding these priorities: technology; professional development for teachers; retaining quality teachers through competitive salaries; filling curriculum coordinator position.

IV. Reports

KC moved to add to the agenda a report from the Mayor on the state of the city. JW 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor's Report

- Praise for department heads & all staff
- Covid-19 Response Team: representatives from public safety, finance, technology, health, school departments
- City Hall, 20 Sanderson Street, Economic Development offices closed to public until April 8. Staff continues to work. Public to use on-line resources or call.
 - Will on-line convenience fees be waived? TBD.
- Transfer station and curbside pickup continue on schedule.
- Collaborating with towns in region

A. Chair (AP)

- Congratulations to Green Wave hockey team, first ever state championship
 - RW announced intention for City to celebrate Hockey Week, delayed due to Covid-19 priorities

- Noted many emails, comments from public, assured that all are read & appreciated
- Free grab-and-go breakfast & lunch available, 11am to 1pm, for children ages 0-18; child must be present
- Praise for Supt. Harper's tireless work and leadership

B. Superintendent (JH)

- Praised "remarkable team," urged public to visit gpsk12.org website for up-to-date information
- Sunday evening Governor announced 3-week suspension of school operations until April 7.
- Guidelines:
 - Students, families, staff stay home as much as possible, practice social distancing.
 - Staff planning for non-academic services – e.g., meals, special education resources
 - No plans to move to online instruction
 - Last day of school = regular 185-days calendar; earlier snow days will be counted but not Covid-19 closure
- Food distribution sites expanded: Newton, GMS, GHS, Oak Court, Leyden Woods, Y, Days Inn
- Deep cleaning of all school buildings; special thanks to custodians & food service workers

Discussion:

Can special needs students ages 19-22 be included in free meals program? JH will follow up.

Residential & day programs for special education students are not closed.

State is extending deadlines for FY21 budget, details TBA.

10th grade MCAS will be rescheduled.

Changes needed to contracts based on school days? – e.g., transportation

C. Subcommittees & SC Representatives

None

V. New Business

A. Green Wave Hockey State Champs

postponed

B. COVID-19 Preparedness & International Trips

1. International Trips

GHS trip to Spain with EF cancelled. Students can receive \$ credit for future travel, transfer \$ to someone else, or receive reduced cash refund.

2. Paying school employees during Covid-19 closure

SE moved to pay all Greenfield Public Schools contractual employees according to their regularly scheduled hours, for the period of time from March 16 to April 6, excluding sub-contracted individuals, with their work assignments as determined by their direct supervisor. KC 2nd.

Discussion:

- Subcontracted individuals: e.g., bus drivers working for outside company
- Business Mgr. Steve Nembirkow: If schools go to 185 days, will require detailed calculation for some employees' pay, discussion with union & other school districts, anticipate guidance from state.

Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously.

C. FY21 Budget & Student Opportunity Act Plan Update

JW moved to table New Business C through H, excluding [from tabling] Item G Van Purchase. GJ 2nd. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Motion to table passed unanimously.

Tabled items will be on agenda for next meeting. Anticipate special School Committee meeting before regular April 8 meeting.

D. School Committee Rep for Unit A Negotiations – tabled

E. Director of Pupil Services – tabled

F. Proposal for School Lunch Price Increase for 2020/2021 School Year – tabled

G. Van Purchase

Bid expires on Wednesday, so action needed. Supt. has not had time to review bids.

RW moved to approve van purchase for full amount of \$158,662. SE 2nd.

Discussion:

- Low bid \$158K for Dodge van from eastern part of state. Special installations needed before delivery.
- Purchase, not lease.
- Routine maintenance by DPW. Special maintenance can be done by local Dodge dealer.
- Payment ultimately to come from transportation revolving fund.

Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously.

H. Parent/Student Handbook – tabled

VI. Other Business

None

VII. Executive Session - MGL c 30A, §21, (2): To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

SE moved to enter Executive Session. KC 2nd. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously. AP called Executive Session to order at 8:15p.m.

Motion made and seconded to leave executive session. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously. Returned to public session at 8:26 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary