

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES: Tuesday, March 24, 2020**

Note: This meeting is being held fully remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, §20.

Present: Katie Caron (KC); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Jordana Harper (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); Glenn Johnson (GJ); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW)

Absent: Roxann Wedegartner

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW), Chair Proietti opened the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Reports

A. Chair (AP)

- Praise for Superintendent Harper for “amazing and exhausting work,” her good communication with government officials, staff, informing families & public, and advocating for students.
- Concerns re: equity in access for all students, in response to state’s potential push for virtual learning.

Discussion re: school closure

- What do GHS students preparing for college, technical training need? Different ages need different supports.
- Some districts loaning Chromebooks. Opportunities like on-line band practice. Keep options open.
- What are State’s recommendations for regions that don’t have reliable internet or cell phone service? GPS could use those strategies.
- MASC says state is not asking us to educate students during closure; focus is keep them engaged, feed them, keep them safe.
- Resources on gpsk12.org held as model of engaging students.
- Concern for special education & ELL students, students with trauma. Special concern for students with difficult home lives, for whom school is a refuge.

B. Superintendent (JH)

- Much dialogue, communication with families, teachers, principals & staff, state officials. Goal: best way to support students.
- Thanks to Greenfield families following Governor’s guidance to stay home (e.g., no playdates). GPS in-person work limited to essential employees.
- Distance learning topic evolving quickly via state, federal guidance. Franklin & Hampshire County superintendents speaking out about distance-learning challenges for families & staff in Western Mass (lack of broadband, cell service, lack of computers/devices in homes). If we

move to distance learning, must be fair.

- State legislation HD.4974 filed today to support municipalities (extending deadlines, \$ relief).
- Work continues. Teachers & IAs focusing on professional development, connecting with students. IEP meetings happening remotely. GEA meetings on-going. Buildings cleaned. Food service providing lunch/breakfast. GPS YouTube channel launched this week. Thanks to all staff.

III. Executive Session - MGL c 30A, §21, (3) & (6): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation of an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; (6) To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

SH moved to enter Executive Session. KC 2nd. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW. Motion passed unanimously. AP called Executive Session to order at 7:11 p.m.

IV. Adjournment

SE moved to adjourn. GJ 2nd. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

Agenda, March 24, 2020