

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, May 13, 2020
Greenfield MA
Approved June 10, 2020**

Note: This meeting was 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 (RW)

Also present: Janet Dickinson, GPS Pupil Services; Karin Patenaude, GHS Principal; Andy Paquette, The Management Solutions (TMS); Steve Nembirkow, Business Manager; other school staff and citizens.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (KC, SE, GJ, AP, JW), Chair Proietti opened the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

II. Approval of Draft Minutes:

SH moved to approve minutes of April 14, 2020. SE 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SE, SH GJ, AP, JW. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Reports

A. Superintendent (JH)

- Reminder that all School Committee meeting materials available at gpsk12.org
- Thanked members for good work in challenging time
- Enrollment event (curbside, contact-free) this week
- Film Fest to be held virtually
- Remote learning plan updates
- Graduation May 30 at Fairgrounds
- Communicating with state representatives/senators re: digital learning, funding, budget uncertainty
- Received \$15K grant to replace water fixtures
- Dean's Beans donated \$5K to GPS food services

B. Budget Subcommittee (SE)

- FY20 funds will be expended as planned; no surplus due to closure or remote learning
- Reviewing FY21 budget, working to align with Mayor's reduced budget
- Unclear whether to pay out-of-district tuition. Request for Nembirkow to review May-June OOD warrants.
- AEL tuition: Asked families to pay one month's tuition for April-May-June, with tuition credit for weeks when preschool was first closed without remote learning.
 - SH recommended full Committee take vote affirming AEL tuition change.

V. New Business

A. GHS Q4 Grading & Redistribution of Y1 Weighting

GHS Principal Karin Patenaude explained changes, which follow Commissioner's guidance.

- Quarters 3 and 4 affected by school closure and remote learning.
- Final exams eliminated.
- Year-long classes will be credited toward graduation.
- Semester 2 electives began Jan. 2. Only 7 weeks with teacher before school closure. Will earn credits as pass/fail. Will not be included in GPA calculations.
- Quarter 4 started April 3. Teachers grading credit/no-credit, to translate to numeric grade to be included in grade average.

JW moved to accept the 4th Quarter redistribution of Y1 weighting, as presented. GJ 2nd. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Director of Pupil Services

Supt. Harper provided background: Previous Director Matt Holloway had been on personal leave and resigned. Janet Dickinson took on role of interim director. Praised her work, including design of remote learning for special education students. Recommends appointing Dickinson as Director to continue excellent work and stabilize district.

SE move to appoint Dr. Janet Dickinson Director of Pupil Services, pending contract negotiations. SH 2nd.

SH requested Dickinson to present goals, after current emergency situation eases.

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

C. FY20 & FY21 Budget

- Business Manager Nembirkow presented budget & revolving accounts reports.
- DESE, pending legislation, would allow payments for services not received. Nembirkow recommends we not pay full amount for special education, transportation services that we haven't actually received.
- Budget Subcommittee revising FY21 budget to cut \$1.7million to meet Mayor's budget.
- Uncertainty about funding: will there be reductions in state/federal funding?
- Capital budget requests, including paving, fencing, exterior doors, being reviewed by City.
- Expecting approx. \$479K from federal CARES Relief Fund. Can be used retroactively or applied to new fiscal year's budget.
- Expect need to remediate students for learning gaps
- Re-opening schools with social distancing: difficult to plan, many options. GPS re-entry team is planning proactively while waiting for state guidance.
- Consider opening Green River School to offer more classroom space for social distancing?
 - No expectation that Green River will be open in fall. Delays in procuring heating system due to pandemic, supply chain problems.
- Request to review increases in ELL expenditures: \$129K budgeted, \$181K spent.
- Request for Health & Safety Subcommittee to discuss re-opening transition.

D. The Management Solutions (TMS) Interim Service

Business Manager Steve Nembirkow leaving for position with Andover School District.

JH recommends TMS step in immediately and continue during interim.

SE moved to authorize TMS to provide School Business Manager Services for the Greenfield Public Schools for one month, effective immediately. KC 2nd.

- Desire for overlap time with TMS/Nembirkow.

- \$9,500 one-month fee. Likely to be longer than one month.
- Benefit: TMS will bring experience of what other districts are doing, new laws.
- TMS will provide one main point person, secondary person for backup & routine tasks.
- TMS familiar with remote operations, MUNIS.

Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, GJ, AP, JW; Abstain – SH. Motion passed 5-0-1.

VI. Executive Session - MGL c 30A, §21, (2), (3) & (6): (2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; (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; (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.

GJ moved to enter Executive Session. SE 2nd. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW. Motion passed unanimously. Entered Executive Session at 8:12 p.m.

Returned to public session at 8:55 p.m.

V. New Business - continued

E. Director of Pupil Services Contract

SE moved to appoint Member Katie Caron, from the Negotiations and Contracts Subcommittee, to work with the Superintendent to craft a contract for the Director of Pupil Services. JW 2nd. Draft contract will come back to School Committee for approval vote.
Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, GJ, AP, JW. Abstain SH. Motion passed 5-0-1.

VII. Adjournment

JW moved to adjourn. SE 2nd. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Susan Farber
 Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

1. Agenda May 13, 2020
2. Draft Minutes: April 14, 2020
3. Superintendent’s Report:
 - a. Enrollment Event
 - b. Film Fest
 - c. Remote Learning Plan
 - d. School newsletters
 - e. Social media posts
 - f. “Greenfield High School Class of 2020 Graduation,” from Karin Patenaude, GHS Principal, May 1, 2020.
 - g. “Greenfield High School to hold graduation at Franklin County Fairgrounds, followed by parade” (May 6, 2020)

- h. "Dean's Beans Donates \$26,000 to Support Massachusetts School Food Programs" (May 6, 2020)
 - i. "Clean Water Trust approves water improvement grants" (May 6, 2020)
 - j. "MIT Ranks MA #2 in US for Best Remote Learning Plan"
 - k. Memo from MCAS, cancelling MCAS tests grades 3-10 (April 16, 2020)
 - l. "Pandemic EBT Relief for Families" (April 23, 2020)
 - m. "GPS Special Education and 504 Plan Update" (April 26, 2020)
 - n. "May 1 - National School Lunch Hero Day" (April 27, 2020)
 - o. "Deans Beans & Greenfield Police Parade" (April 30, 2020)
 - p. "Teacher Appreciation Week" (May 1, 2020)
 - q. Credit / No Credit at Elementary Level (form for parent/guardian)
- 4. Budget reports (May 11, 2020)
 - 5. Q4 & Redistribution of Y1 Weighting Determinations due to School Closure for Remainder of Year
 - 6. Job Posting: Director of Pupil Services
 - 7. Resume: Janet Dickinson