

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES: Wednesday, March 9, 2022**  
Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St., Greenfield MA

**Present:** Elizabeth Deneve (ED); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Glenn Johnson-Mussad; (GJM); Kathryn Martini (KM); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW); Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

**Absent:** none

**Also present:** Christine DeBarge, Superintendent; Mike Kuchieski, GPS Athletic Director; Karin Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent; other school staff & citizens

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

With a quorum present (ED, SE, GJM, KM, AP, JW, RW), Chair Proietti called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

### **II. Staff Announcements**

#### **A. Athletic Program Update**

Mike Kuchieski, GPS Athletic Director, reported on fall & winter teams, upcoming spring sports; noted 3 GHS student going to college on athletic scholarships; described coaching philosophy of “creating good kids.”

#### **B. Administrator of the Year Nomination**

Dr. DeBarge announced that Karin Patenaude was nominated for Massachusetts Association of Student Councils’ Administrator of the Year award. Angela Mass, GHS teacher & Student Council advisor, and H.C., GHS senior & Student Council President, who submitted the nomination, praised Patenaude’s work with students.

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

**SE moved to approve draft minutes of February 9, March 1, March 3, 2022. JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **IV. Public Comment**

Wendy Goodman, Greenfield, added congratulations to Karin Patenaude’s award nomination.

### **V. Reports**

#### **A. Student Representatives**

S.T. reported on activities by GHS organizations, including Student Council raising \$1,800 for Special Olympics; highlighted AP History class’s mock trial of Galileo. Students are selecting courses for next year; 7th grade Step-Up Day.

#### **B. Administration Reports**

##### **1. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning**

Karin Patenaude summarized DESE District/School Report Card & recent work on ELA curriculum, professional development, elementary libraries. *(Details in written report.)*

##### **2. Superintendent**

Dr. DeBarge described PreK & K registration; trauma-informed care PD provided to all staff; NESDEC’s enrollment projections will be available for review in April; schools & buses are mask-

optional, health protocols continuing; FY23 budget; new GMS administrator; encouraging school volunteers. *(Details in written report.)*

### **C. School Committee Reports**

**1. Chair (AP) - None**

**2. Policy & Program Subcommittee (GJM)**

**a. First reading: BEDH Public Comment at School Committee Meetings, DK Payment Procedures**

**GJM moved to approve BEDH Public Comment at School Committee Meetings as amended by striking the sentences “The public comment segment shall not exceed 15 minutes” and “The presiding Chair may permit extension of this time limit by an additional 15 minutes, in extenuating circumstances.” RW 2nd. Motion to approve first reading of BEDH passed unanimously.**

**GJM moved to approve the first reading of [revised] Policy DK: Payment Procedures. JW 2nd. Substantive change = moved from requiring 4 signatures to 1; goal to remove delays for business office. Motion passed unanimously.**

**b. Affirmation: ADF, School District Wellness Program; JKAA Physical Restraint of Students; JHD Exclusions & Exemptions from School Enrollment; JLCB Inoculations of Students; IHBG Home Schooling**

GJM explained that in emergency situation policies may be adopted on 1st reading but must return for affirmation vote. These policies were previously adopted on expedited first-reading basis & are returning for Affirmation vote.

**JW moved to affirm policies by consent motion: ADF: School District Wellness Program, JKAA: Physical Restraint of Students, JHD: Exclusions and Exemptions from School Enrollment, JLCB: Inoculations of Students, IHBG: Homeschooling, as the 2nd reading was waived at the time of adoption. GJM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

**c. First reading of Section C policies (General School Administration)**

**GJM moved to approve on a consent basis the Section C policies, General School Administration, as presented, on first reading. JW 2nd.**

GJM explained that revised versions are from MASC’s review of our policies, reflecting current laws & best practices. Most revisions = language use (e.g., “he/she” to “they”), removing sections that improperly intruded on superintendent’s authority. Members to review, give comments to Policy Subcommittee. Dr. DeBarge supports these changes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

### **VI. FY22 Budget Update**

Dr. DeBarge reported that budget is being spent according to plan; reviewing all open purchase orders & anticipated spending for rest of year.

### **VII. Dupere Law – Updated Retainer**

AP presented proposed retainer agreement between GPS and Dupere Law Offices for legal services. Prior year’s agreement was \$1,800/month; increase to \$3,000/month due to GPS volume of work.

**SE moved to approve the retainer for Dupere law firm, as presented. JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. (KM absent from room during vote.)**

### **VIII. NESDEC School Facilities Study**

Dr. DeBarge described needs for study, including potential use of Green River School; equity of how students are currently assigned to elementary schools; potential to move 5th grade back to elementary schools. NESDEC has completed enrollment projections, to be presented to Committee next month.

**RW moved to approve the Best Educational Use of School Facilities Study from NESDEC, as proposed. JW 2nd.**

Discussion:

- Cost: \$17,980
- Central Office staff does not have capacity to do this work.
- Study essential for school redistricting, deciding future of Green River School building.
- \$ amount is below bid-process threshold.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

### **IX. Academic Calendar**

On previously approved calendar, date for Election Day (no school) was incorrectly listed as Nov 1. Correct date is Nov. 8.

**ED moved to approve the revised GPS 2022-23 Academic Calendar. AP 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **X. Minutes in the Recorder**

Agreement that regularly publishing minutes or school news in the *Recorder* is cost prohibitive.

### **XI. Recordings of Subcommittee Meetings**

**ED moved that all School Committee subcommittee meetings be recorded and made available to the public on the City's website. RW 2nd.**

Discussion of technical logistics, staff capacity, past efforts, GCTV, whether & how City records meetings, need for policy.

Friendly amendment: **that the recording and public posting of School Committee subcommittee meetings be referred to the Policy & Program Subcommittee. Amended motion passed unanimously.**

**GJM moved that we invite GCTV to all our future Subcommittee meetings to record and post to YouTube. ED 2nd. AP called the question. Motion to end debate passed unanimously. Motion failed 3-4.**

### **XII. New Business Items**

Requests for consideration at future School Committee meetings:

- GJM: Consider endorsement of Fair Share Amendment, to include template for endorsement resolution.
- KM: Community listening sessions, especially in easily accessible locations

- AP: Ask Supt. to determine cost & logistics of technical upgrades to spaces such as GHS library or auditorium to provide hybrid meeting spaces.

**XIII. Executive Session** pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a): (1) To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. The individual to be discussed in such executive session shall be notified in writing by the public body at least 48 hours prior to the proposed executive session; provided, however, that notification may be waived upon written agreement of the parties; (7) to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements (approval of executive session minutes from February 9, 2022 meeting). The committee will not return to Open Session.

**RW moved to enter executive session. JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. GJM moved to adjourn public meeting. ED 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Public meeting adjourned, moved into executive session at 8:01 p.m.**

#### **XIV. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned out of executive session. JW moved to adjourn. RW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Farber  
Recording Secretary

#### **Meeting Materials**

1. Agenda: March 9, 2022
2. Draft Minutes: February 9, March 1, March 3, 2022
3. Superintendent's Update, March 9, 2022
4. Assistant Superintendent Update, February 9, 2022
5. Policies: BEDH, Public Comment at School Committee Meetings; DK Payment Procedures; ADF, School District Wellness Program; JKAA Physical Restraint of Students; JHD Exclusions & Exemptions from School Enrollment; JLCB Inoculations of Students; IHBG Home Schooling; Section C General School Administration: CD Administration Goals; CB School Superintendent; CBD Superintendent's Contract; CBI Evaluation of the Superintendent; CCB Lines of Communication & Staff Relations; CE Administrative Councils, Cabinets & Committees; CH Policy Implementation; CHA Development of Procedures; CHC Procedures Dissemination; CHCA Approval of Handbooks & Directives; CHCA-E Approval of Handbooks & Directives; CHD Administration in Policy Absence; CL Administrative Reports; CM School District Annual Report
6. Financial Reports:
  - a. Year-to-Date Budget, March 2, 2022
  - b. Revolving Account Balances, March 2, 2022
7. Retainer Agreement by & between the Greenfield Public Schools & the Dupere Law Offices
8. Letter from New England School Development Council to Supt. DeBarge, re: Best Educational Use of School Facilities Study, February 14, 2022
9. *Greenfield Recorder* Display Advertising Rates