

GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES: Monday, March 14, 2022
Greenfield High School Cafeteria, 21 Barr Avenue, 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; Andy Paquette, TMS; Karin Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent; other school staff, citizens, and the press.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (ED, SE, GJM, KM, AP, JW, RW), Chair Proietti called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. FY23 Budget Public Hearing

RW moved to open the GPS FY23 Budget Public Hearing for the GPS. GJM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. DeBarge provided budget presentation of educational & corresponding funding priorities. FY23 budget is 16% overall increase over FY22 budget, 7.72% increase in local appropriation; increase primarily related to staff pay.

\$27,337,881 = total budget

\$21,255,213 = local funding request

III. Public Comment

Doug Selwyn, Greenfield, spoke in support of hiring more IAs at increased pay, Fair Share Amendment, ending MCAS testing.

Dawn Morin, Greenfield, offered to help record School Committee subcommittee meetings, criticized disrespectful tone of some School Committee discussions.

Mike Corona, Greenfield, spoke in support of public comment and those seeking to participate in local government, noted lifting of mask mandates.

Ellen Thompson, Greenfield, stated that public comment critical of public officials is protected by First Amendment.

Andrew Vernon, Greenfield, praised Superintendent's support of technology as budget priority and encouraged GCTV and press to attend, record public meetings.

Donna Festinger, Greenfield, expressed concerns about budget increase's effect on taxpayers, requested more information about social-emotional education.

(End of public comment)

JW moved accept the FY23 Superintendent's Budget, at the total amount of \$21,255,213, as presented. GJM 2nd.

Discussion:

- No line items related to Green River
- Differing rates of \$ increase/decrease among elementary schools
- Additional special education positions will help fulfill IEPs

- Increase in athletic supplies related to return to full schedule, need for new uniforms
- Changes in cost of nursing services related to pandemic
- Supt. has pressed for lean budget with administrators.
- Decrease in \$ for substitutes reflects more realistic projections
- Strategies to develop in-district special education services to reduce out-of-district placements
- GPS vans actively used for student transportation, including students from nearby districts
- Extensive “cleaning up” of budget document, correctly assigning line items
- Afterschool programs: budget includes stipends; dependent on collective bargaining agreements; also working with Rec Dept
- Moving forward with social-emotional learning, restorative justice
- GPS website to be updated, improved
- Budget includes 2 years of negotiated raises; increased revenues from MA funding through Chap. 70 & Student Opportunity Act

Roll call: Yes – ED, SE, GJM, KM, AP, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously.

ED moved to close the FY23 Budget Hearing. GJM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously,

IV. Vote on Settlement Agreement for Greenfield Bus Drivers and Monitors

JW moved to approve the Settlement Agreement between the Greenfield School Committee and the Greenfield Bus Drivers and Monitors. ED 2nd. Motion passed 6-0-1 (RW abstain).

V. New Business – none

VI. Adjournment

RW moved to adjourn. ED 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

1. Agenda: March 14, 2022
2. Notice of Budget Hearing
3. FY23 Superintendent’s Budget
4. Settlement Agreement by & between the Greenfield School Committee & the Greenfield Public School Bus Drivers & Monitors, UFCW Local 1459