

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, September 14, 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)

Absent: Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

Also present: Christine DeBarge, Superintendent; Andy Paquette, TMS, Business Manager; Karin Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent; other school staff; and citizens.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

ED moved to approve draft minutes of August 10 & August 24, 2022. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

JW moved to bring Budget Update next, before Public Comment. SE 2nd. Motion passed 5-1.

V. Budget Update

Andy Paquette, TMS Budget Manager, presented monthly reports, which reflect continued realignment, adjusting for new information & personnel changes. Expect realignment complete by October. SE announced intention to convene Budget Subcommittee in October.

III. Public Comment

Sean Hoyt, Greenfield, advocated for increasing pay to ease staffing shortages; support for moving grade 5 from GMS back to elementary, and for changing elementary schools to whole-town enrollment divided by grades: K-1, 2-3, 4-5.

IV. Reports

A. Report: GHS Student Representatives

S.T. reported on Student Council & club activities, class elections, community service including Green River Cleanup, sports. Band has started practice; chorus, music classes not offered at GHS. Seeing negative student response to Yondr phone pouches.

B. Report: Administration

1. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Karin Patenaude reported on professional development re: new curricula; library staffing and “weeding” of collections; mentoring; and grants. *(Details in written report)*

2. Superintendent

Dr. DeBarge reported on observing social-emotional learning lessons; expect MCAS data release in late September with report to School Committee in October; staffing; schools’ open house schedule; launch of student cell phone pouches at GHS/GMS; progress on installing water bottle filling stations; identifying \$150K funding sources to upgrade phone system; student absence notifications; scheduling public meetings re: reconfiguration and school facilities options from NESDEC study; strategic planning with TDS consultants. *(Details in written report)*

Discussion:

- Judy Houle, former interim superintendent, is facilitating strategic planning process.
- Request for data on student outcomes related to curriculum changes; data on & supports for older students not receiving new curricula.

C. Reports: School Committee

1. Chair (AP)

Superintendent Evaluation results delayed until October. Also in October: setting Superintendent's goals for new academic year.

2. Policy Subcommittee (GJM)

GJM summarized Policy Subcommittee's recent work:

- Review of all-policies review process with Liz Lafond, MASC. Goal to have policies posted, searchable online, hosted by MASC for fee.
- Second reading of Sections E & F later in meeting.
- Superintendent is reviewing sections most directly connected to her work, will bring to Subcommittee for discussion.
- Creating cell phone policy. Plan to hold public meeting to begin with public comment, move to Subcommittee discussion, end with second public comment time. SE stated that this "sandwich" meeting format does not comply with GPS policy on subcommittee meetings.

3. Re-Envisioning our School Facilities Subcommittee (JW)

[new name for Redistricting Subcommittee]

JW announced that meetings will be open discussions, with everyone allowed to speak, ask questions, participate.

VI. Vote to declare surplus items: outdated math and reading curriculum materials

KM moved to declare as surplus the math and reading curriculum materials as listed on the Pearson Reading Street inventory list, the Pearson Math inventory list, and the Miscellaneous Surplus Materials document, included with the materials for this meeting tonight. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. School Committee Self-Evaluation

Self-evaluation administered by MASC. 6 of 7 members participated. Goal to do annually. Lowest rating on "Respect"; suggestion to seek outside expertise to support improvement. Suggestion to add members' professional development at meetings.

VIII. MASC Conference

AP explained City Ordinance allows \$500 professional-development funding for each City Councilor & School Committee member. GPS Policy BIBA addresses School Committee PD.

AP moved to authorize spending of City-authorized professional development funds in the amount of \$500, and additional funding to cover the full cost up to \$2,000 through School Committee or other GPS budget line items, for Member Deneve to attend the MASC/MASS Joint Annual Conference, from November 2-5, 2022. GJM 2nd.

Discussion:

- Full cost of registration, accommodations = approximately \$2,000
- Preference for MASC sessions to be available online; for conference to be held in Western Mass.

- Support for Greenfield being represented at conferences.
- Value of PD to help all be better School Committee members vs. sending one person to conference. Desire for plan & clearer process.

Motion passed unanimously.

AP invited Policy Subcommittee, Budget Subcommittee and/or strategic planning group to further discuss School Committee PD.

IX. Helpdesk Administrator

GJM to approve the job description for a GPS Helpdesk Administrator, as presented. SE 2nd.

Superintendent's process is to seek School Committee approval for all new job descriptions.

Motion passed unanimously.

X. Policies

A. Second reading and vote on Section E: Support Services

GJM moved to amend Greenfield School Committee Policies Section E Support Services, as presented on second reading. AP 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Second reading and vote on Section F: Facilities Development

GJM moved to amend Greenfield School Committee Policies Section F Facilities Development, as presented on second reading. AP 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. Request for New Agenda Items

Follow-up to School Committee Self-Evaluation: Suggestions to ask MASC for resources for us to use as tools to improve, or to lead our own discussion of how to move forward.

XII. Adjournment

SE moved to adjourn. JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

1. Agenda: September 14, 2022
2. Draft minutes: August 10 and August 25, 2022
3. Assistant Superintendent Update, Sept. 14, 2022
4. Superintendent's Report, Sept. 14, 2022
5. Financial Reports, Sept. 8, 2022
6. Surplus Curriculum Materials: Pearson Reading Street, Pearson Envisions Math, Miscellaneous Surplus Materials
7. Greenfield School Committee Self-Evaluation Results, August 2022
8. Helpdesk Administrator Job Description
9. Policies: Section E, Support Services and Section F: Facilities Development
10. GPS Organizational Chart
11. Letter from Dr. DeBarge to Mr. Svinis, Sept. 9, 2022