

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES: Wednesday, October 12, 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; Karin Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent; Judy Houle, TMS, other school staff; and 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. Approval of Minutes**

**JW moved to approve draft minutes of September 14, 2022. KM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **III. Public Comment**

Thomas Suchanek, Greenfield, former GPS athletic director, advocated for allowing homeschooled students to participate in athletics.

GPS educators Judy Bennett, Jacki Pinger, Luke Martin, Kathryn Berelson spoke in favor of contract settlement with COLA for Units A & C, related concerns re: staff vacancies & turnover. Berelson also recommended building-specific recruitment of IAs, asked that teachers be allowed anytime access to their classrooms, not currently limited hours.

SE moved to consider next the strategic planning overview. GJM 2nd. Motion passed 4-3.

### **VII. Strategic Planning overview**

Dr. Judy Houle, TMS, outlined steps underway to create a Strategic Plan: form a Task Force; Phase 1 to gather & analyze data; Phase 2 to develop the plan, including student outcomes, goal-setting, implementation.

Discussion:

- Recommend expanding Task Force to include special education professionals, Special Education Parent Advisory Council representative, parent representatives from GMS & AEL, Director of Behavioral Services.
- Survey will be both quantitative & qualitative.
- Equity audit will include students with disabilities
- GPS pays TMS \$24K for one year's strategic plan services.

### **IV. Reports**

#### **A. Report: GHS Student Representatives**

S.T. and N.J. reported on clubs, activities & sports at GHS.

## **B. Report: Administration**

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

Karin Patenaude reported on professional development re: new curricula & CES support for specialist teachers; “weeding” of library collection at Discovery School, with AEL next; grants; professional learning network for high school math. *(Details in written report)*

### **2. Superintendent**

Dr. DeBarge reported on staffing, including new hire Matt Goulet as Help Desk Manager, continuing efforts to hire IAs & substitutes; Crisis Prevention Institute training; vaccination clinics; public meetings for Revisioning our School Facilities (redistricting) initiative; strategic planning; arrival of MCAS data. *(Details in written report)*

### **3. MCAS Data Presentation**

Dr. DeBarge presented MCAS data (grade levels; proficiency rates; ELA & math) that, in sum, show:

- Improving attendance is priority district-wide.
- Need to improve proficiency levels & growth in ELA and math, especially with focus on high-need students.
- Celebrate math growth increase at Federal, Newton, GHS.

DESE designations:

- Federal Street School: “Targeted Support & Improvement”
  - GMS: “Comprehensive Support & Improvement” = lowest performing 5% of MA Title I schools.
- These designations open possibility of additional funding.

Summary of current & planned work for all 3 tiers of support (MTSS) & district-wide continued work. *(Details in presentation/report)*

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

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

### **2. Re-Envisioning our School Facilities Subcommittee (JW)**

JW reported on public meetings. Options 1 & 2 have been most supported so far. Encouraged all to attend for informal conversation, idea-sharing. Call Superintendent’s office to request transportation to meetings.

### **3. Collaborative for Educational Services (ED)**

CES requesting use of Covid funds to repair building. Potential vote of support at next School Committee meeting.

## **D. Report: Budget**

Dr. DeBarge reported on behalf of Andy Paquette, TMS, Business Manager: Continuing updates to FY23 budget, reflecting staffing changes. Grant funds not yet added so budget will temporarily show negative balances. Revolving accounts balances are low, but expect to replenish later in year.

## **V. Superintendent Evaluation**

AP described the “terrible process overall” due to difficult evaluation tool, lack of clear instruction. Preference to acknowledge flawed evaluation results & move on.

**JW moved to approve the 2022 Superintendent Evaluation, as presented. GJM 2nd.**

Discussion:

- Evaluation tool is “abysmal.” School Committee members are not educational professionals close to Superintendent’s work. Need to find different way. Desire to have evaluation that’s useful to Superintendent’s professional growth.
- Dr. DeBarge & Chair Proietti to bring to November meeting a plan for new evaluation system.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## **VI. Superintendent 22-23 Goals**

**SE moved to table the Goals for 2022-23 until November meeting. ED 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

**VII. Strategic Planning overview: *Item moved earlier in meeting***

## **VIII. GPS Organizational Chart**

**JW moved to approve the Greenfield Public Schools organizational chart, as presented. ED 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **IX. First reading of Section G: Personnel Policies**

**GJM moved that we approve the first reading of amendments to Section G Personnel, as presented. AP 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **X. Request for New Agenda Items**

- Superintendent’s evaluation – new process
- Preparing for possible wave of Covid infections, especially after Thanksgiving & winter vacations.

“Correspondence” on agenda is informational, no action needed.

**XI. Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a): (4) To discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto; (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 August 10, 2022 meetings).** Committee will not return to open session.

**KM moved to enter Executive Session. GJM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**  
Moved into executive session at 8:59 p.m.

## **XII. Adjournment**

GJM moved to adjourn public session. JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.  
*Meeting adjourned out of executive session at 9:45 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Farber  
Recording Secretary

**Meeting Materials**

1. Agenda: October 12, 2022
2. Draft minutes: September 14, 2022
3. Assistant Superintendent Update, Oct. 12, 2022
4. Superintendent's Report, Oct. 12, 2022
5. Financial Reports, Oct. 7, 2022
6. Superintendent Summative Evaluation, October 2022
7. Policies: Section G, Personnel
8. GPS Organizational Chart
9. Letter from Dr. DeBarge to Michelle Fenimore, Sept. 13, 2022