

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES: Wednesday, November 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:** John Hickey, GPS teacher/coach & 5 members of GHS softball team; Andy Paquette, TMS, Business Manager; Karin Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent; TMS Business Manager; other school staff; and citizens. *(Christine DeBarge, Superintendent, absent due to illness.)*

### **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. John Hickey MIAA 2021-2022 Coach of the Year Award for Softball**

Karin Patenaude congratulated Coach John Hickey on being named the MIAA Coach of the Year for Softball, and praised his teaching & coaching style.

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

**JW moved to approve the draft minutes of October 12, 2022. RW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **IV. Public Comment**

Paula Lavoine, Greenfield, Four Corners teacher, spoke in support of IAs, urged a good contract for IAs.

### **V. Reports**

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

S.T. and N.J. reported on clubs, activities & community service at GHS. Fall sports ending; winter sports begin Nov. 28. Yondr pouches successfully reducing cell-phone distractions; students continue to oppose.

#### **B. Report: Administration**

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

Karin Patenaude reported on professional development day (Nov. 8); library “weeding” completed at Four Corners & commencing at AEL; grants, including TAG \$50K received for district-wide leadership team; continued work with high school math curriculum; homeschool data. *(Details in written report)*

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

Assistant Superintendent Patenaude summarized the Superintendent’s report, included staffing, “Re-envisioning our School Facilities” meetings, strategic planning, & budgeting. *(Details in written report)*

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

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

### **2. Budget (SE)**

SE reported on Subcommittee's recent meeting to continue budget review, agreement on adequacy of \$2K funding for professional development for School Committee members.

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

JW reported that community meetings have concluded; next step is to meet with staff. Report at December's School Committee meeting.

### **4. Policy (GM)**

GM encouraged public comment on draft cell phone policy (available on [gpsk12.org](http://gpsk12.org) website). Next Subcommittee meeting to focus on cell phone policy; responding to staff request re: sexual health materials; continuing review of Section G, with plan to bring for approval vote at December's School Committee meeting.

## **D. Report: Budget**

Andy Paquette, TMS, Business Manager, reported on continued work to realign FY23 budget to meet City's appropriation amount. Plan to use more ESSR \$ for personnel rather than School Choice \$. Affirmed goal of keeping revolving accounts funded, in line with need for contingency funds & School Committee policy.

GPS has 20 unfilled IA positions, a staffing challenge in many districts.

Will passage of Fair Share Amendment boost our budget? Hope & skepticism.

## **VI. Business**

### **A. Public Health Preparedness**

Discussion:

- At October meeting, GJM had suggested shifting to remote learning after Thanksgiving & winter holiday to minimize Covid spread.
- Expanding health concerns to all types of viruses, not only Covid.
- If GPS moved to temporary, preventative remote learning, DESE would require all days to be made up as in-person schooling. Waiver unlikely.
- DESE is providing 4 Covid tests per student/staff member.

**GJM moved to direct the Superintendent to implement a mask mandate & increased Covid testing to the greatest extent possible for one week after Thanksgiving and two weeks after Christmas break to reduce the outbreak of infectious diseases. ED 2nd.**

Discussion:

- Mask mandate vs. mask recommendation
- 8 free tests/month available to MassHealth enrollees. Request to share this info with school families.

**Motion failed 5-2 (Yes – ED, GJM; No – KM, RW, JW, SE, AP).**

**SE moved to approve as consent item:**

- **to declare as surplus the curriculum materials as listed on the DSFC Surplus Curriculum List, included with the materials for this meeting**

- **to declare as surplus the library materials as listed on the DSFC Library Weeding Log, included with the materials for this meeting**
- **to accept, with gratitude, the donation of dictionaries for our third grade students, from the Massachusetts Elks Association**
- **to accept monetary donation from the Class of 1954 for elementary school libraries**

**JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

Reminder to include new tool for superintendent evaluation on December's agenda.

## **VIII. Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a):**

**(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; (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 October 12, 2022 meetings).** The committee will return to Open Session.

**RW moved to enter Executive Session. KM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

Moved into executive session at 7:13 p.m.

Returned to public session at 8:08 p.m.

## **XII. Addendum to Superintendent's Contract**

**JW moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding on the Superintendent's contract as discussed and voted on in Executive Session. RW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **XII. Adjournment**

GJM moved to adjourn public session. KM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Farber  
Recording Secretary

## **Meeting Materials**

1. Agenda: November 9, 2022
2. Draft minutes: October 12 & 17, 2022
3. Assistant Superintendent Update, Nov. 9, 2022
4. Superintendent's Report, Nov. 2, 2022
5. Financial Reports, Nov. 3, 2022
6. Surplus Curriculum List at Four Corners
7. Four Corners Library Weeding Log, June 1-Oct. 27, 2022