

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, December 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); Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

Absent: None

Also present: Christine DeBarge, Superintendent; Andy Paquette, TMS, Business Manager; Karin Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent; TMS Business Manager; 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 the draft minutes of October 17 and November 9, 2022. ED 2nd. Motion passed 6-0-1 (RW abstain).

III. Public Comment

Jesus Leyva, Greenfield, called on Greenfield to organize with other communities to ensure increased state funding for education.

Judy Bennett, Greenfield, GHS teacher, encouraged living-wage and cost-of-living increases in contracts for Unit C (IAs) & Unit A.

Doug Selwyn, Greenfield, encouraged GPS to work with other districts to advocate for increased state funding.

Susan Voss, Greenfield, IA at AEL, asked for settlement of Unit C contract that provides living-wage pay for IAs.

IV. Reports

A. Report: GHS Student Representatives

S.T. and N.J. reported on Student Council, clubs, activities & community service at GHS. Concerns: new disciplinary policy closed all restrooms except for one, leading to long lines & time out of class; interest in expanding music electives beyond one class (Band) currently available.

B. Reports: Administration

1. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Karin Patenaude reported on mentor/mentee program, AEL library, HQIM grant, GHS math curriculum. *(Details in written report)*

2. Superintendent

Dr. DeBarge reported on recent work, including staff awards; hiring of Matt Goulet as IT Help Desk Manager; staff vacancies & hiring efforts; response to increased illness; discussions with staff re: Re-envisioning Our School Facilities; strategic planning; FY24 budget preparations. *(Details in written report)*

C. Reports: School Committee

1. Chair (AP)

AP continues work on improved Superintendent evaluation process, assisted by MASC Liz Lafond.

2. Re-Envisioning our School Facilities (JW)

Last meeting will be held in January after school committee meeting; will work with Supt. to craft report to bring to School Committee's February meeting.

3. City Planning & Construction / Capital Improvements (AP)

As School Committee representative on City's Planning & Construction Committee, AP sees need for City to deal with surplus property & updating document-storage practices.

As School Committee representative on City's Capital Improvements Committee, AP noted that Committee's work was completed yesterday, sent recommendations to Mayor.

D. Report: Budget

Andy Paquette, TMS, Business Manager, supplied budget reports. Due to reclassification of expenses & addition of grants, prior negative balance is now positive; continuing to update personnel changes & projections.

Deficit in transportation is due to outstanding payment from shared services.

AP introduced City's new Finance Director Diane Schindler.

V. Business

A. Superintendent Goals

Consideration moved to January's meeting.

B. Surplus Curriculum Books & Library Books at Newton School

JW moved to declare both the curriculum books and library books at Newton Elementary, as submitted on the weeding lists, as surplus. GJM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Director of Early Childhood: Job Description

Dr. DeBarge presented job description for new position, Director of Early Childhood. Current AEL principal is working 3 days/week; sees need for full-time administrator.

RW moved to approve, as presented, the Director of Early Childhood job description. JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Request for New Agenda Items

- Request for enrollment report
- SE preparing calendar of School Committee dates, including subcommittee meetings, budget process, conferences
- School Committee meeting documents moving to Google Drive folder, rather than being emailed; will take effect January meeting
- Request for update on student behavior & attendance
- Scheduling organizational meetings

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

(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 November 9, 2022 meeting). The Committee will not return to Open Session.

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

KM moved to adjourn public session. ED 2nd. Public session adjourned, moved into executive session at 7:34 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

GJM moved to adjourn public session. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned out of executive session at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

1. Agenda: December 14, 2022
2. Draft minutes: October 17 and November 9, 2022
3. Assistant Superintendent Update, Dec. 14, 2022
4. Superintendent's Report, Dec. 9, 2022
5. Financial Reports, Dec. 9, 2022
6. Director of Early Childhood Job Description
7. Surplus Curriculum List at Newton School
8. Newton School Library Weeding List
9. December 2022 School Newsletters