

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, May 3, 2023
Greenfield MA**

Note: This meeting was held fully remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, §20.

Present: Elizabeth Deneve (ED); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Kathryn Martini (KM); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW); Roxann Wedegartner (RW) *(left meeting at 6:57 p.m.)*

Absent: Glenn Johnson-Mussad (GJM)

Also present: Christine DeBarge, Superintendent; David Messing, Finalist Candidate for Director of Pupil Services

I. Call to Order

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

II. Public Interview of Finalist for Director of Pupil Services: David Messing

Mr. Messing introduced himself and answered questions from School Committee Members:

- Please tell us what about this job and working in Greenfield interests you.
- How do you describe your leadership style? What qualities do you think strong leaders need to possess?
- Who are your mentors or role models, and what did you learn from them that you apply to your work?
- This is a two-part question. First, please talk about your strengths as an administrator. Second, give us an example of a time when you worked collaboratively with another administrator to improve a process or make a needed improvement in a program.
- How do you define inclusion? Why is it important in special education?
- What does strong school-based leadership mean to you as an administrative issue and learning strategy? How do you work to balance school-based management and central office supervision

III. Discuss MASC Day on the Hill

KM and ED are attending the Massachusetts Association of School Committees' advocacy day with legislators on May 4. Areas of concern to discuss with legislators:

- need for funding assistance to respond to 14% increase in special education tuition
- giving Medicare funds directly to school districts
- schools' staffing crisis and the "pipeline" of preparatory programs for education careers

IV. 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; (8): To consider or interview applicants for employment or appointment by a preliminary screening committee if the chair declares that an open meeting will have a detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants; provided, however, that this clause shall not apply to any meeting, including meetings of a preliminary screening committee, to consider and interview applicants who have passed a prior preliminary screening. *The Committee will return to open session.*

SE moved to enter Executive Session. ED 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.
Entered Executive Session at 6:57 p.m.
Returned to public session at 7:18 p.m.

V. Contract for New Director of Pupil Services: David Messing

ED moved to accept the Employment Agreement, July 1, 2023–June 30, 2026, Director of Pupil Services [with David Messing]. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. FY23 contract addendum for current Director of Pupil Services:

JW moved to approve the Contract Addendum for the Current Director of Pupil Services [for Janet Dickinson]. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. Adjournment

SE moved to adjourn. JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

1. Agenda: May 3, 2023
2. Executive Session Agenda: May 3, 2023
3. Resume: David Messing
4. Draft Addendum to the Employment Agreement between the Greenfield Public Schools and Janet Dickinson
5. Greenfield Public School District Employment Agreement, July 1, 2023–June 30, 2026, Director of Pupil Services, David Messing