

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, November 8, 2017**
Greenfield High School, 21 Barr Ave., Greenfield MA
Approved 12.13.2017

Present: Don Alexander (DA); Timothy Farrell (TF); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Nathaniel Tripp (NT); Cameron Ward (CW). **Absent:** None

Also present: Anthony Bohannon and Morghan Blanchard, GHS student representatives; Elizabeth Braccia, Greenfield Town Accountant; Diana Letourneau, Greenfield HR Director; David Lockwood, The Management Solution; Christy Moore, Greenfield Recreation Director; Doug Selwyn, resident; other school staff and citizens.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (DA, TF, SH, WM, AN, NT, CW), Chair Martin opened the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

TF moved to approve minutes of October 11, 2017. SH 2nd.

Corrections/additions:

IV. A. "...events at GHS, including LGBT event"

IV. G. "...Human Rights Commission concerns; policy regulation re: life-threatening...."

V. J. 4. "WM: Discussion at ~~Budget~~ Policy Subcte mtg was thorough."

Motion to approve minutes, as amended, passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Doug Selwyn, resident, asked about high-stakes testing: How much \$ does district spend on testing (direct and indirect costs)? How do we know whether testing improves students' education? What role does School Committee play in testing?

IV. Reports

A. Student Representative Report

Student representatives Anthony Bohannon and Morghan Blanchard highlighted events at GHS, including Student Council conference; field hockey team; selections for Global Glimpse trip to Dominican Republic; 2 students accepted to district band; fundraisers for Spanish and French Clubs; upcoming Spirit Week.

B. Chair's Report

1. Franklin County school districts shared services

WM announced Pioneer Valley School District's invitation to meet to discuss shared services.

Discussion:

- Policy LB applies. Add review of LB to next Policy Subcte meeting and Dec. 13 School Committee agenda.
- Agreement to consider seriously, be proactive re: regionalization opportunities.
- SH to distribute Vermont's study on combining services.
- DA to attend, report via email.

2. Project Here

WM announced Attorney General's new substance abuse prevention program, Project Here, for middle schools.

CW moved to support Superintendent's application for Attorney General's grant and for classes on substance abuse at middle school. TF 2nd.

Discussion:

- Enroll now; funds and materials next year.
- Support for life skills program, Communities That Care Coalition. Invite Coalition to report in January.
- Greenfield already proactive – e.g., nurses' screening.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. High School Solar Project

TF moved to allow continued work on use of high school for solar project. DA 2nd.

\$387K solar storage grant includes high school roof, which was designed and fitted for this use during construction. Request is to continue work. No cost to district; substantial savings. Minimal impact on students; conduits, etc., already installed. Likely summer 2018.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Final Audit of GHS Construction Project

Final audit received this week from MSBA. School Building Committee to decide what to do with unused \$2million available loan funds. Supt, Mayor, TF already on Committee.

AN moved to send representative from School Cte to attend these meetings. SH 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair will accept requests to serve.

C. Superintendent's Report

JH congratulated winners of yesterday's School Committee election.

Report highlights:

- At GHS yesterday, voting for community, PD for staff
- School newsletters
- Open Meeting Law
- Enrollment report: Enrollment remains steady; welcoming displaced students from Puerto Rico
- School Councils include staff, teachers, parents, community members, students. Seeking additional community representatives.
- Financial reports, including School Choice report from DESE. Trend continues: fewer students choicing-out, more choicing-in. Report likely to be discussed at Finance Subcommittee.

D. Health & Safety Subcommittee

CW reporting:

- Discussions continue with Mike Howe, GPS Transportation Director, and FRTA re: potential FRTA transportation for high school students next year.
- Working with DPW and Police Dept. re: safety concerns around schools (crosswalks, lighting, crossing guards)
- Regionalizing transportation
Discussion: Would allow state reimbursement (approx. 60%). AN recommends regional transportation study by Suzanne Bump, state auditor.
- Concerns at Federal Street School re: public use of pathway from Franklin Street through playground. Policy protects playgrounds while schools are in session.
Discussion: Solutions include installing gate to be locked during school hours, off-limits signs. Do other schools have similar problems? Request to Supt. to pursue solution at Federal Street.

E. Budget & Finance Subcommittee

AN summarized recent discussions:

- After-School Program \$6K transfer and MOU
- Special Education report from Dianne Ellis
- Policy DBE, Revolving Funds

F. Personnel and Collective Bargaining Subcommittee

NT reported on continuing discussion with Supt. on goals. Subcte supports 3 goals; requested 4th goal to change from budget to student achievement data.

G. Policy and Program Subcommittee

SH reported on Subcte's progress; discussions with Chair re: pacing of policies included on School Cte agenda.

H. School Committee Goals Task Group

DA invited members to comment. Will be on Dec. 13 School Cte agenda.

V. Business

C. Pupil Services Report

WM praised report, directed members to review for discussion at Dec. 13 mtg.

D. Vote to Appoint School Physician

JH presented recommendation, CV and documentation re: Dr. Jennifer Schott.

TF moved to appoint Dr. Jennifer Schott as School Physician. SH 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

A. Greenfield Recreation After-School Program

Christy Moore, Greenfield Recreation Director, described after-school programs at Federal Street and Four Corners. Need \$ to cover non-payment by families.

TF moved authorize transfer of \$6,737.50 from School Dept. to cover one-time expenses in the Greenfield Recreation After-School Program. 2nd AN.

Discussion: Recommendation to set up revolving account to cover bad debt. Look for ways to avoid non-payment. Scholarships available, sliding scale; no families are turned away. MOU to clarify \$ support from GPS.

Motion passed unanimously.

B. Status Update on Town/School HR MOU

JH reviewed history, process of town/school discussions. Goal to have focused MOU to begin January and expand from there.

Discussion: Cost savings, goals not clear. HR 0.7 position, Assistant to Supt. for Personnel, eliminated in budget cuts last year.

WM directed Supt. to distribute to Committee members most recent MOU, with comments from Supt. and Town; for December 13 agenda.

VI. Policies for First Reading

WM and SH provided first reading of these policies:

- BDA, School Committee Organizational Meeting Regulations for Policy Review
- BGB-R1, Policy Development Process
- BGB-R2, Guidelines for Converting Edited, Notated, Voting Policy to Posting Copy

VII. Policies for Second Reading and Vote

DBE, Revolving Funds

4 changes from version distributed:

Para. 2: "...shall be under the ~~direct~~ control..."

Para. 3: "...credited to the specific, appropriate revolving funds, if applicable."

Para. 4: "This policy explains the Committee's specific ~~legislatively-authorized~~ school revolving..."

Add at end: Dept. of Revenue Revolving Account chart

Discussion: Purpose of policy. Concerns re: setting "maximum threshold." Balance flexibility for large fluctuations/expenditures vs. protecting funds from spend-down.

SH moved to accept Revolving Funds, Policy DBE, as presented. NT 2nd.

- Clarification: "as presented" includes 4 changes announced at start of discussion
- SH moved to amend Circuit Breaker, column 3, from \$400,000 to \$600,000. 2nd. Amendment passed 5-2.
- TF moved to amend column 3 heading: ~~School Committee Maximum Threshold~~ School Committee Recommended Balance. SH 2nd. Amendment passed 5-2.

Motion to approve DBE, as amended, passed 6-1.

VIII. Policies for Affirmation and Vote

BDD, Rules of Order

BEDA, Notification of

BEDD, Rules of Order

TF moved to table VIII until next meeting. AN 2nd. Motion passed.

IX. Other Business

A. 2017-2020 Contract for Custodial Union 274

TF made a motion that the 2017-2020 Contract with Custodial Unit 274 be approved by the School Committee. NT 2nd. Motion reflects unanimous consent at Oct. 11 meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.** Supt. to send to union.

X. New Business

AN announced meeting of Collaborative for Education Services, Board of Directors, Nov. 15. CW is Greenfield representative. DA may also attend.

XI. Executive Session

TF moved to enter executive session for the reason MGL c 30A, 21 (2): to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel (Supt. Harper). NT 2nd.

Roll call vote: Yes – CW, NT, AN, SH, TF, DA, WM. Moved into executive session at 9:15 p.m.

Returned to public session at 10:18 p.m.

XII. Adjournment

NT moved to adjourn. 2nd AN. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

1. Agenda: November 8, 2017
2. Draft minutes: October 11, 2017
3. School newsletters
4. Legal alert, Explanations for the Attorney General's Revisions to the Open Meeting Law Regulations, October 24, 2017
5. Enrollment report, November 3, 2017
6. School Council member lists
7. Financial reports:
 - a. DESE Choice funds report (no date)
 - b. Revenue, Gift & Scholarship account balances, November 1, 2017
 - c. Year-to-Date Budget Report FY 18, November 1, 2017
 - d. Invoice List, November 1, 2017
8. Special Education Draft Report for School Committee, Dianne Ellis, November 6, 2017
9. Recommendation and support materials re: Dr. Jennifer Schott
10. Subcommittee minutes:
 - a. Policy and Program, October 17, 2017, November 2, 2017
 - b. Personnel & Collective Bargaining Subcommittee, October 24, 2017
 - c. Health, Safety & Facilities, October 30, 2017
 - d. Goals Task Group, October 24, 2017
11. Greenfield Recreation After School Program newsletters; emails from Mayor Martin, October 26, 29, 2017
12. Policies:
 - a. BDA, School Committee Organizational Meeting
 - b. BGC-R1, Policy Development Process
 - c. BGB R-2, Guidelines for Converting Edited, Notated, Voted Policy to Posting Copy
 - d. DBE, Revolving Funds
 - e. BDD, School Committee-Superintendent Relationship
 - f. BEDA, Notification of School Committee Meetings
 - g. BEDA-E, Notification of School Committee Meetings, Open Meeting Law Guide
 - h. BEDD, Rules of Order
13. Memo, DOER Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative Grant for Rooftop Solar Photovoltaics and Battery Storage, Carole Collins, November 8, 2017
14. High School Construction Project, Fund 4312 (financial summary)