

GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SPECIAL MEETING of the SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES: Wednesday, February 28, 2018
Greenfield High School, 21 Barr Ave., Greenfield MA
approved 03.14.18

Present: Don Alexander (DA); Katie Caron (KC); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); William Martin (WM) (arrived 6:35); Adrienne Nunez (AN).

Absent: Cameron Ward (CW).

Also present:

Chris Desjardins, TMS; Dianne Ellis, Director of Student Services; Melodie Goodwin, principal, Newton School; Lisa McGuinness, Registrar; Atty. Gordon Quinn; Andrew Vernon, parent/resident; Crystal Zimmer and Stephanie Gary, parents/residents; other school staff, citizens, and the press.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (DA, KC, SE, SH, AN), Chair Nunez opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Special Statements

AN: Superintendent is working at heightened pace with police chief, fire chief; reviewing safety protocol and emergency response. Deep commitment to safety of students, faculty, staff. School safety and communication to be discussed at upcoming School Cte mtgs.

SE moved to send topic to Health, Safety & Facilities Subcommittee. SH 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

JH, regarding student walkouts planned (nationally) for March, April: Support for students' civic engagement, right to participate peacefully in democracy. Planning for students' safety in walkout, developing guidelines for building principals.

II. Public Hearing FY19 Budget

Erin Donnally-Drake, Newton School parent and Council member, described challenges to Newton School with higher number of ELL students, high-needs students, economically disadvantaged students, and students of color. Level 2 school. Compared to other elementary schools, receives lowest level of local funds. Need for Math Interventionist, additional Special Ed teacher, more ELL support.

III. Public Comment

Andrew Vernon, parent of Newton and GMS students, expressed concern about lack of timely communication re: BB gun incident at GMS. Encouraged School Committee members to review communication policies and modalities of communication available. Offered to participate in creating policy.

Stephanie Gary, parent, read statement on behalf of Crystal Zimmer, teacher and parent. (Zimmer has laryngitis.) Urged consideration of mental health needs of students; concern re: removing paraprofessionals from classes; concern re: violence; need for greater support in children's early years.

IV. Business

A. FY19 School Calendar

KC moved to accept the 2018-29 Calendar. KC. DA 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

B. FY19 Budget Presentation

- Supt. Harper thanked parents and community members in attendance; parents' and community's continued feedback is welcome.
- Assured commitment to safety for students, staff. Following and enhancing safety protocols. Seeking dialogue with parents. Planning forum for students: What would make them feel safe?
- Budget is a values document: first value is to take care of students.

Presentation of "Superintendent's FY19 Budget"

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Student Enrollment▪ Foundational Enrollment FY19▪ Per Pupil Spending▪ Choice In▪ Budget Process▪ Strategic Planning & Budget Process▪ Budget Aligned to Strategic Plan▪ Budget Process Priorities▪ Budget Timetable▪ Local Aid Estimates▪ Local Aid Projections | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Revenue – Increases▪ Revenue – Decreases▪ Proposed Savings▪ Summary of Operating Cost Increases▪ FY19 Budget Needs Compared to FY18▪ Determination of City & Town Total Required Contribution▪ Calculating Required Local Contribution▪ State Aid▪ MA DESE Chapter 70 District Profile |
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Discussion included:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Changing demographics, resulting needs▪ Foundational need for reading, math.▪ Increased costs for safety?▪ GHS building funds▪ Revolving accounts▪ Substitutes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ School physician▪ Assessments▪ Textbooks▪ Curriculum Director▪ Business Manager▪ School Volunteers |
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SH moved to close budget hearing. 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Executive Session

AN announced intent to move into Executive Session in accordance with MGL c 30A, §21, (2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel.

SH moved to enter Executive Session; KC 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – DA, KC, SE, SH, WM, AN. Moved into executive session at 8:49 p.m.

DA moved to leave Executive Session. KC 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – DA, KC, SE, SH, AN. Returned to public session at 11:39.

VIII. Adjournment

SH moved to adjourn. 2nd KC. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

1. Agenda: February 28, 2018
2. Draft Greenfield Public Schools 2018-2019 Calendar
3. FY19 Budget Hearing Presentation
4. FY19 Budget (draft)
5. Notice of Budget Hearing