

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, April 11, 2018**
Greenfield High School, 21 Barr Ave., Greenfield MA
Approved 05.09.2018

Present: Katie Caron (KC); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); Adrienne Nunez (AN); William Martin (WM); Cameron Ward (CW).

Absent: Don Alexander (DA)

Also present:

GHS student representatives Dylan Badillo and Anthony Bohannon;
Greenfield residents Bob Cooley, Paul Jablon, Lukas Martin, Patty Morey-Walker, Doug Selwyn, Caitlin von Schmidt;
Abby Desjardins, TMS; Robert Haigh, Chief of Police; Atty. Gordon Quinn; other school staff and citizens.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (KC, SE, SH, AN, WM, CW), Chair Nunez opened the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

**SH moved to approve minutes of March 12, 2018. CW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.
SH moved to approve minutes of March 14, 2018. CW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

III. Public Comment

Doug Selwyn, resident, spoke against additional police in schools, in favor of using taxes for resources for students.

Bob Cooley, resident, spoke in support of public forums, including discussing K-12 civics education.

Paul Jablon, resident, spoke in support of funding for schools, including in-school programs to reduce violence; objected to spending increase for additional school resource officers.

Patty Morey-Walker, resident, reported that at Greenfield Youth Commission's youth forum, students described feeling emotionally unsafe, not physically unsafe. Urged spending on prevention.

Caitlin von Schmidt, resident, spoke against adding school resource officers, in favor of prevention programs. Parents seek clarification of School Committee's role in this decision.

Benjamin Miner, resident (letter read by Caitlin von Schmidt), praised March for our Lives, against additional student resource officers, support for stricter gun laws.

Lukas Martin, resident and GHS teacher, asked what information was gathered to determine need for police officers or to show increased violence in Greenfield schools; whether building administrators/staff/students had input; what would be cut from school spending.

AN noted that additional comments have come to School Committee via email.

IV. Reports

A. Student Representatives

GHS students Dylan Badillo and Anthony Bohannon reported on GHS activities including upcoming Spain/France trip; club activities, community service, awards; spring sports; Open House.

B. Chair

AN reviewed materials in packet, including:

- Timed agenda
- Legislative representative under review by Policy Subcommittee; no current request for applicants
- Request for comments on draft stakeholder letter
- Councilor Mayo's proposed ordinance re: privatizing city services
 - Discussion: amendment exempts School Dept.
- Budget reports, response to FY19 budget
- SH offered to donate speaker phone for conference room
- MASC Day on the Hill
- Fair Share amendment
- School Cte's Drive folder to share information; reminder that sharing opinions via email could violate open meeting law

C. Superintendent

JH reported:

- Business Manager position – open, posted, interviews underway
- Curriculum Coordinator interviews next week
- Submitted request to Collaborative for Educational Services re: shared services (e.g., business management, HR, administrative services)
- Safety: Moving forward with plans, funding for wired PA systems for schools
- MCAS this month; urged parents to support students' success
- Events and fundraisers at schools; GMS/MAS curriculum night
- Safety: training for staff continues, planning for reunification (moving all students to off-campus site for parents' pick-up)
- Parent education series: "Parent Power Hour"

D. Subcommittees

1. Policy & Program (reported by KC in DA's absence)

Prepared policies for first reading; discussed school safety with police chief, fire chief, supt.; legislative representative job description.

2. Health, Safety & Facilities (KC)

Working on parking at Four Corners, including upcoming mtg with town engineer; Police Chief Haigh's recommendation.

3. Personnel & Negotiations (reported by SE in DA's absence)

Training from MASC on superintendent evaluation. Discussed timelines for this year and next.

CW moved to accept proposed modified timeline for the Superintendent evaluation for 2018, to conclude in a special School Committee meeting on June 18, pending a written statement by the Superintendent accepting the timeline and legal review. KC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

JH to write waiver accepting timeline, as schedule is not in compliance with contract.

4. Budget

No report.

SH requested clarification of Mayor's budget: identify payments for charter schools and choice.

5. Collaborative for Educational Services (SE)

CES undergoing evaluation of executive director, useful cf. Supt. evaluation.
Add to upcoming mtg: CES' services, timeline for input, school in Berkshires

V. Business

A. Grinspoon Award Winners

JH introduced three winners, to applause:

- Gina Clark, Music Teacher, Federal Street School
- Marguerite Rancourt, Grade 4 Teacher, Discovery School at Four Corners
- Angela Mass, Math Teacher, GHS

B. Baseball Team Trip to Cooperstown NY

Tom Suchanek, Varsity Baseball Coach, presented itinerary. JH presented policy, planning guidelines; supports proposed trip. 14 students (varsity team), 6 adults.

WM moved approve the varsity baseball trip for May 11-12, 2018. SH 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

C. School Resource Officer (SRO) Proposal

Chief Haigh reviewed his proposal, reasons to support.

Discussion: pros, cons, whether to revise School Committee's MOU re: SROs.

SH moved to direct the Chair appoint 1 or 2 members to wordsmith the document [MOU] without changing the content. WM 2nd. Motion failed 1-5.

KC moved to send the MOU back to Health Safety and Facilities Subcommittee to do full review and get input from administrators including the Superintendent and to get clarification from Chief Haigh on why he needs two more SROs. SE 2nd.

AN moved to amend motion: "and to include public input." KC 2nd. Motion to amend passed 5-0-1 (WM abstain).

Motion send the MOU back to Health Safety and Facilities Subcommittee to do full review and get input from administrators including the Superintendent and to get clarification from Chief Haigh on why he needs two more SROs and to include public input. Passed 5-1.

IV. Reports (continued)

Planning and Construction (SH)

Budget did not include fencing repairs for \$23K. WM clarified: Budget includes only items >\$25K. \$20K unspent funds for fencing.

V. Business (continued)

D. DCF Budgetary Impact and Advocacy Efforts

WM moved that the School Committee accept the assignment by the Division of Unfunded Mandates to be a detailed study community. SH 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Foundation Budget Review Commission Recommendation

WM moved to table. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Policies for First Reading

JKAA: Physical Restraint of Students

JLD: Guidance Program

JDL-E: Guidance Program

Policy Subcte considered at request of Superintendent and Director of Pupil Services.

Chair declared acceptance as First Reading, directed members to send comments to DA, Policy Subcte chair.

G. School Committee Professional Development & Agenda Items Received

SE moved to hold a workshop session in May to identify priorities for the School Committee and as best we can assign calendar dates to address these requests. KC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. New Business

A. Revolving Funds

SH moved to have a specific revolving and special revenue account report and that it have these columns:

- 1. opening balance (July 1)**
- 2. prior year receipts**
- 3. current year receipts to date**
- 4. anticipated current year receipts**
- 5. encumbrances**
- 6. remaining balance**

WM 2nd. JH clarified that some are not technically encumbrances; \$ commitments are allotted and accounted for. **Motion passed unanimously.**

VII. 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; (4) To discuss the deployment of security personnel or strategies with respect thereto, and (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.

KC moved to enter Executive Session. 2nd WM. Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SE, SH, AN, WM, CW. Moved into executive session at 9:31 p.m.

CW moved to leave Executive Session. WM 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SE, SH, AN, WM, CW. Returned to public session at 11:12 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

WM moved to adjourn. 2nd CW. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

1. Agenda: April 11, 2018
2. Draft minutes: March 12 and March 14, 2018
3. Subcommittee minutes:
 - a. Budget, March 5, 2018
 - b. Health & Safety, April 3 2018
 - c. Policy & Program, March 22 and March 27, 2018
4. Day on the Hill, MASC
5. Letter: FY2019 Operating Budget, Mayor Martin, March 31, 2018
6. Ordinance relative to privatizing city services submitted by Councilor Mayo
7. Budget Reports
 - a. Account Balances, as of April 3, 2018
 - b. MUNIS, as of April 3, 2018
 - c. Year-to-Date, as of April 3, 2018
8. School Newsletters
9. Grinspoon Award Winners
10. Greenfield Varsity Baseball Cooperstown Trip
11. Documents re: School Resource Officers
 - a. Proposal for two School Resource Officers for the City of Greenfield, Chief Robert Haigh
 - b. Greenfield School Committee skeptical of resource officer additions, *Recorder*, April 3, 2018
 - c. Title XII, Chap. 71, 37P – School Resource Officers
 - d. Letter, “Additional Armed School Resource Officers,” Suzanne Patnaude, April 4, 2018
 - e. MOU – Greenfield Public Schools, Greenfield School Committee, Greenfield Police Department (9/15/2016)
12. Mayor Martin seeks state funding for DCF children in city schools, *Recorder*, April 4, 2018
13. MASC, Recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission; Bill S.2325; “An Act Modernizing the Foundation Budget for the 21st Century (SD 1905);
14. Policies for First Reading:
 - a. JKAA – Physical Restraint of Students (original policy and proposed policy)
 - b. JLD – Guidance Program (original policy and proposed policy)
 - c. JLD-E – Guidance Program (original policy and proposed policy)
15. Professional Development Requests, Chair Nunez, April 11, 2018
16. Email, “Meeting re: armed security in schools,” Benjamin Miner, April 11, 2018
17. Email, “School Resource Officers, Amy Proietti, April 11, 2018
18. “An ordinance relative to privatizing town services submitted by Councilor Mayo” (revised)