

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, June 13, 2018**
Greenfield High School, 21 Barr Ave., Greenfield MA
Approved 07.11.18

Present: Don Alexander (DA); Katie Caron (KC); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Susan Hollins (SH); William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Cameron Ward (CW).

Absent: Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH)

Also present:

GHS student representatives Dylan Badillo and Anthony Bohannon; Melodie Goodwin, Principal, Newton School; Dianne Ellis, Director of Pupil Services; Greenfield residents Bob Cooley, Paul Gablon, Doug Selwyn, Andrew Vernon; other school staff and citizens.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

DA moved to approve minutes of April 30, May 7, May 9, and June 4, 2018. SH 2nd.

For June 4 minutes, request to add titles of policies ADA, BA, BAA, BBA (in III. b.)

Motion passed 6-0-1 (WM abstain).

III. Public Comment

Andrew Vernon, resident and parent (Newton, GMS), asked for improved timely and effective communication from schools, citing lack of information for parents regarding March 14 events and recent discipline policy changes at GMS.

Doug Selwyn, resident, spoke against School Committee and Town sharing a single attorney, due to potential conflict of interest, citing recent example of budget conflict.; also urged settlement of multi-year contract with Superintendent.

Paul Gablon, resident, spoke against School Committee and Town sharing the same attorney, recommended schools' attorney be solely dedicated to advocating for schools.

Bob Cooley, resident, spoke against School Committee and Town sharing attorney; encouraged School Committee to set up facilitated conversations for community, e.g., on civics education; voiced support for ACE survey (Adverse Childhood Experience).

IV. Reports

A. Student Representatives

GHS student Dylan Badillo and Anthony Bohannon reported on GHS activities including end-of-school activities and awards; community service. Associate Principal Michael Bombardier is leaving and will be missed.

B. Chair (AN)

- Congratulations to all graduates; was honored to represent School Committee to award diplomas at graduation
- School Committee Agenda Calendar: review as evolving document
- Thanks to Vice-Chair Ward during AN's recent absence
- CW will represent School Committee in GMS principal search.
 - SH asked about search process, recommended starting with "a clear sense of what we need and what we're looking for."

- Consensus to plan School Committee annual self-evaluation at July meeting and complete evaluation at August meeting

C. Superintendent (JH absent)

- Written report included in packet

D. Subcommittees

1. Health, Safety & Facilities (KC)

- Discussed next steps for Green River School. Supt. has recommended alternative high school program.
 - SH: Budget includes no \$ for Green River; suggests Budget Subcommittee study costs of opening building next year.
 - Refer to alternative high school proposal, 2 yrs ago
 - Small HS program would be first step toward full use of Green River building.

SH moved to seek a proposal from the Superintendent for the Green River School being reopened as an alternative school setting. CW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Policy & Program (DA)

- Reviewed policy BGE, Subcommittees of the School Committee
- Discussed concerns re: busing - students not being picked up at bus stop or at school; special education students
- Policy JLD-E for 2nd reading later on agenda

3. Personnel & Negotiations (DA)

- Discussed teachers' contract in executive session
- Renewal of agreements with school attorneys
- Revised Superintendent evaluation timeline

4. Budget (CW)

- No report.

5. Town Planning & Construction Committee (SH)

- Discussions included Green River School, among other positive projects; role/relationship with capital budget process.

V. Business

A. Newton School Principal Melodie Goodwin

At special invitation of School Committee, Melodie Goodwin described Newton School's programs and achievements of its "amazing staff and amazing students," including:

- Extended Learning Time (90 minutes)
- Music program, including "Drumming Alive"
- Playworks
- Girls on the Run
- Field trips into community (e.g., 1st grade to fire station)
- Statewide recognition of Newton's breakfast in the classroom program
- State award for "My Ideal School" writing contest (won by students in Mickey Warren's 1st grade class)
- Strong use of data to individualize, adjust instruction.
- School attendance: 40+ children absent more than 30 days. Need policy to protect staff who pass chronically-absent, failing students to next grade. Strategies, including calling, visiting families, show no improvement. Need for community intervention.

- Literacy and math programs
- Increase in ELL students
- Summer program in robotics
- School garden

B. School Choice Vote

Reviewed Superintendent's explanation of School Choice process and recommendations (# of seats per grade).

SH moved to support the Superintendent's recommendation for school choice seats for the FY19 school year. KC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

SH moved to add to basic letter [to DESE], at bottom, a statement of flexibility: Due to significant enrollment fluctuations, the School Committee may adjust openings available. CW 2nd. Motion passed 5-2.

C. Foundation Budget Review

AN reviewed documents from MASC re: Foundation Budget Review Commission, its purpose and goals.

SH moved that the Greenfield School Committee supports the implementation of the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission and so notify the MASC and our legislators. KC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Policy for 2nd Reading and Vote

DA provided 2nd reading of JLD-E Guidance Program.

WM moved to amend 2nd reading of JLD-E to replace "Student Services Counselors" with "Guidance Counselors" [para 1, sentence 1] and change title "Student Services Program" to "Guidance Program – Careers." DA 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Review/Discussion of meeting times for subcommittees

AN introduced suggestion to consider meetings times that balance needs of members and public.

SH moved that in order to complete its assignment, each subcommittee will set at least one fixed meeting a month when a quorum can be available. WM 2nd. CW moved to table. SE 2nd. Motion to table passed 6-1.

F. Revised Superintendent Evaluation Date

DA presented revised timeline from the Personnel Subcommittee:

- July 9 – Committee members receive evaluation packet
- July 16 – Members submit responses
- July 23 – SE combines all comments into one evaluation
- Special Meeting for evaluation – Wednesday, July 25.

KC made a motion to move the Superintendent evaluation meeting date to July 25. DA 2nd. Clarification: Move is at Superintendent's request. Motion passed unanimously.

G. Discussion of Shared Services

H. Status of Goals/Strategic Plan for School Committee

AN combined topics, as shared services could be a priority goal.

SH noted that Policy ADA, School District Mission & Goals, includes creating active community partnerships.

SE moved to initiate the Strategic Planning & Goals Advisory Committee to review and advise the Committee by its regular August meeting. DA 2nd. Motion passed.

VI. New Business

A. Requests from Members

WM requested:

- Policy Subcte to review policy on reporting by Supt. to School Cte re: new employees, retirements, and administrators
- Policy Subcte to review policy on school rental revenue
- Report on July 1 rollover accounts

SH requested:

- Revolving Funds financial reports in format requested at last meeting
- Clarification of role of Budget Subcommittee. AN referred to Budget Subcommittee.

B. Summer Meetings

DA moved that we temporarily, for the months of July and August, hold full Committee meetings at GCTV studio because that space is air conditioned. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. New Agenda Items

none

CW and WM left the meeting.

VIII. 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.

WM moved to enter Executive Session. 2nd SH. Roll call vote: Yes – (DA, KC, SE, SH, AN). Moved into executive session at 9:14 p.m.

AN moved to leave Executive Session. KC 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – (DA, KC, SE, SH, AN). Returned to public session at 11:16 p.m.

IX. Director of Pupil Services Contract

SH moved to approve contract of employment for Director of Pupil Services Dianne Ellis for the term July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020. DA 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

X. Adjournment

SH moved to adjourn. 2nd KC. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

1. Agenda and Timed Agenda: June 13, 2018
2. Draft minutes: April 30, May 7, May 9, June 4, 2018
3. School Committee 2018-19 Agenda Calendar
4. Superintendent's Report
5. Budget Reports
 - a. Year-to-Date, as of June 5, 2018
 - b. Account Balances, as of June 6, 2018
6. Summer Reading flyer
7. School Newsletters
8. *Recorder* articles:
 - a. 'Cosmic Kids Yoga' star surprises local students
 - b. Children to release trout into Green River
 - c. Go Green Wave, for one last time, then goodbye
9. Community Service photos, May 31, 2018
10. Subcommittee minutes:
 - a. Personnel & Negotiations, May 22, 2018
 - b. Policy & Programs, May 22, 2018
11. School choice memo to DESE, May1, 2018
12. MASC Foundation Budget Review Commission packet
13. Policies JLD and JLD-E, Guidance Program (original and proposed)