

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, September 12, 2018**

Greenfield High School Cafeteria, 21 Barr Avenue, Greenfield MA

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

Absent: Cameron Ward (CW)

Also present: GHS Student Representatives Morghan Blanchard and Iggy Passiglia; Karen Cousland, GMS/MSA Principal; Matthew Holloway, Director of Pupil Services; Jodi Falk and Mary Traver, SEPAC Chair/Vice-Chair; Stephen Nembirkow, Business Manager; Doug Selwyn, resident; other school staff and citizens.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (DA, KC, SE, SH, WM, AN), Chair Nunez opened the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

**DA moved to approved minutes of August 8, 2018. KC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.
SH moved to approved minutes of July 17, 2018. WM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

III. Public Comment

Doug Selwyn suggested holding School Committee meetings at other locations, e.g., Leyden Woods, to reach more residents; recommends area school districts recognize common challenges with budgets and work together.

IV. Reports

A. Chair (AN)

AN presented statement “New Year, Fresh Start”: Committee accomplishments, continued self-evaluation process, Units A and C contract negotiations, Superintendent’s goals, FY19 budget.

B. Superintendent (JH)

- Excellent opening to new school year
- “Pigskin Preview” and sports program
- Has begun school visits
- Attorney General’s office has commended GPS’s prevention program
- School Messenger App training for families
- Continued progress on safety, including all-staff training on first aid and emergency preparedness
- Successful Meet & Greet at all schools
- Staffing Report, new hires

In response to members’ questions:

- New positions include Grade 2 teacher (Federal Street), half-time psychologist
- Working with business manager and town HR on compliance with new law on pay equity
- Collective bargaining incorporating Supreme Court’s Janus decision
- Enrollment report on October 1
- \$625K Drug-Free Communities grant awarded for Safe Schools Safe Streets by FRCOG [Franklin Regional Council of Governments]

D. Subcommittees

1. Health, Safety & Facilities (KC)

Work continues on safety, accessibility; plans to present Green River School proposal to public; parking issues at all schools with focus on Four Corners.

2. Budget (SH reporting on behalf of CW)

FY19 budget appropriation \$18,575,000

Meeting twice a month; one meeting to review monthly financial reports.

2. Personnel & Negotiations (DA)

Continuing work on Supt's annual goals, to be presented at October School Cte mtg

3. Policy & Program (DA)

Preparing for policy review with MASC advisors

4. GHS Student Representatives

Morgan Blanchard and Iggy Passiglia reported on fall sports, club activities, volunteering/community service, welcoming new teachers, AP courses. Band won 1st place in Fair parade.

V. Business

A. Karen Cousland, GMS/MSA Principal

JH introduced Karen Cousland, new principal at GMS/MSA. Brings desired qualities identified by community in hiring process; expertise in STEM; background in health. Community and staff response all positive.

Cousland described her experience in teaching, technology, administration.

WM noted that Greenfield Education Foundation approved Cousland's funding request for 3D printers, suggested collaboration with professional group working with 3-D printers.

B. Update regarding the Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Matthew Holloway, Director of Pupil Services, introduced Jodi Falk and Mary Traver, SEPAC chair/vice-chair, who provided overview:

- Serves as advisory group to School Committee
- Provides support, advice, advocacy for parents of students with IEPs or 504 plans
- Meets monthly, 2nd Thursday, at Y, 6:15-7:45pm. Free childcare.
- Plans for speakers, resource center, visiting each school, reaching out to area districts.

C. FY 19 Budget

Steve Nembirkow, Business Manager, summarized budget work, as presented in Budget Reports memo of Sept. 6.

- Town appropriation \$18,575,000 and \$3.7 million revolving funds = \$22.3 million budget.
- Budget available on-line, providing public transparency
- Members requested improvements to budget formatting
- SH: Concerns re: GHS instructional materials (electives), reading tutors, Federal Street library supplies
- Town working to identify correct \$ amount in unexpended capital borrowing
- Revolving funds in good shape
- Transportation contract: Franklin County regional vs Greenfield-specific request for bids; need to prepare by Nov/Dec
- Request for Nembirkow to check on fringe payment to Town

D. Vote/recommendation from the Health, Safety, and Facilities Subcommittee re: school road and traffic safety

KC moved that the Health, Safety, and Facilities Subcommittee add to its agenda clarifying school road and traffic safety by collaborating with police, fire, DPW, and pertinent school and city personnel, initially focusing on Four Corners School. SH 2nd. Motion withdrawn.

SH moved that the Health, Safety, and Facilities Subcommittee add to its agenda clarifying school road and traffic safety and request that the Superintendent and Mayor discuss this issue. KC 2nd. Motion passed 5-0-1 (WM abstain).

E. Vote/recommendation from the Health, Safety, and Facilities Subcommittee re: Town Council minutes

SH moved to request that the full School Committee and Superintendent receive draft copies of the Town Council minutes per AG guidelines. SE 2nd. Motion passed 5-0-1 (DA abstain).

VII. New Business

Executive Session Minutes

AN recommended attorney review prior to public release. Executive session minutes to be released after 6 months if issue is resolved. Discussion to continue at October mtg.

VIII. Executive Session

AN announced intent to move into Executive Session in accordance with MGL c 30A, §21, (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 (*Unit A, Unit C and cafeteria workers*).

KC moved to enter Executive Session. 2nd SE. Roll call vote: Yes – (DA, KC, SE, SH, WM, AN). Moved into executive session at 8:36 p.m.

KC moved to leave Executive Session. 2nd SE. Roll call vote: Yes – (DA, KC, SE, SH, WM, AN). Returned to public session at 9:15 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

WM moved to adjourn. 2nd KC. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

1. Notice of Meeting and Agenda: September 12, 2018
2. Draft minutes: July 17, August 8, 2018
3. Chair's Statement, "New Year, Fresh Start," September 10, 2018, including "For Consideration at 9/26 workshop, Regarding Committee Operation," Policies BBAA and BDG
4. Budget Reports
 - a. Memo from Steve Nembirkow, September 6, 2018
 - b. Year-to-Date MUNIS, as of 7/31/2018
 - c. Year-to-Date Budget Report, as of 7/31/2018
 - d. Revenue, Gift, and Scholarship Accounts, as of 7/31/2018
 - e. All-Funds Budget FY19
5. Superintendent's Report
6. Staffing Report 2018-2019
7. "1st Day of School," Jordana Harper to School Committee, Aug. 29, 2018
8. "Never Miss a Message from Your Child's School," Sept. 11, 2018
9. GPS 2018 Convocation & All-Staff Safety Training Survey," Sept. 11, 2018