

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, November 14, 2018**
Greenfield High School, 21 Barr Avenue, Greenfield MA
Approved 12.12.2018

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

Absent: None

Also present: GHS field hockey team; Kat Allen, Coordinator, Communities that Care Coalition; Tara Cloutier, GHS Spanish teacher; Paul DeMarco, MTA; Amy Donovan, Program Director, Franklin County Solid Waste Management District; Ilana Gerjuoy, Coordinator, Greenfield Safe Schools Safe Streets; Mike Kuchieski, GPS Athletic Director; Julie Letendre, GEA; Stephen Nembirkow, Business Manager; other school staff, citizens, and the press.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (DA, KC, SE, SH, WM, AN, CW), Chair Nunez opened the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

SH moved to approve minutes of October 10, 2018. KC 2nd.

Corrections: p. 3, E: "Total number of school-age children residing in..."; change student names to First L. (last initial), not full name. **Motion passed.**

WM moved to approved minutes of special meeting October 29. DA 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Mike Kuchieski, GPS Athletic director, announced the GHS field hockey team made state playoffs; recognized GHS football team and field hockey team, both honored with sportsmanship awards; and praised other teams, cheer squad, coaches. Field hockey team members were recognized with applause and praise.

IV. Reports

A. Chair (AN)

- Goal of 3-hour mtg, follow timed agenda
- Executive session for Unit A and C
- Mark Smith from Mayor's office is MSBA liaison
- Elizabeth Gilman is new Greenfield finance director (formerly GPS)
- Change of practice for subcommittee secretary: writing minutes from recordings
- December agenda to include FY20 Capital Improvement Planning; Bill Diehl from Collaborative Educational Services

C. Superintendent (JH)

- Monthly Superintendent's report
- Recognition of student athletes, sportsmanship awards
- Media coverage
- School newsletters
- Upcoming events include Gratitude Day (Four Corners); Turkey Trot (Newton); family STEM fair (Federal St); Book-to-Movie club (GHS).

- 8th grade journalism program

D. Subcommittees

1. Health, Safety & Facilities (KC)

PA system, Green River program later on agenda. Next: MOU for School Resource Officer. Excellent system of safety protocols for schools, working to expand to regional partnerships.

2. Budget (CW)

Summarized work to complete revolving-fund revisions to FY19 budget, ready to move onto FY20.

3. Town Planning and Construction Committee (SH)

Committee focus on police/fire facilities. Capital requests coming up soon.

AN to ask Clerk's office for School Cte to receive all minutes.

V. Business

A. Tara Cloutier, Spanish Teacher - Field trip to Puerto Rico in the Spring

Cloutier reviewed details of proposed trip. Moved from usual April vacation dates to March to allow athletes to attend; students to miss 3 school days. 6:1 student:adult chaperone ratio.

KC moved to approve the Spanish trip to Puerto Rico in March 2019. CW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Kat Allen, Coalition Coordinator, Communities that Care Coalition

Kat Allen (Communities that Care) and Ilana Gerjuoy (Greenfield Safe Schools Safe Streets) outlined partners, staff, plans, with 5-year \$125K federal Drug-Free Communities grant. Substance abuse rates decreasing; new focus on vaping.

C. Amy Donovan, Program Director, Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

Donovan presented history, results of GPS compost program, funded by 3-year \$30K grant from Mass DEP and coordinated through Greening Greenfield, DPW, and Franklin County Solid Waste. For GPS, reduction of cafeteria/kitchen trash by 70-90%; composting 5 tons/month; connections to curriculum.

D. FY19 Budget Vote

Vote on budget tabled at last School Cte mtg. Nembirkow reviewed changes to budget by Budget Subcommittee, including moving certain AEL staff to "Therapy Specialists SPED" line; removing teaching lines from Choice and instead applying Choice to transportation costs, with recognition this is not optimal. No change to bottom line of \$18,575,000.

CW moved to support the revised FY19 budget as presented. DA 2nd.

SH made a motion to amend the budget by moving Elizabeth Bednarski and Nancy Garlock from SPED system-wide budget to AEL site budget. CW accepted amendment. Vote to amend passed unanimously.

Motion to support revised FY19 budget, as amended, passed unanimously.

E. Update on School Attorney Policy BDG

AN reported on Oct. 23 Policy Subcommittee mtg, consensus to request legal opinion on Policy BDG. AN directed Budget Subcommittee to add line item for non-routine legal services, to include negotiations and School Cte legal counsel.

KC moved to request attorney recommendation from Attorney Quinn on current policy and best practice for chairperson engagement with attorney. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Superintendent Goals

WM moved to support the FY19 Superintendent Goals as presented. CW 2nd.

AN summarized special School Cte meeting [Oct. 29] facilitated by Glenn Koocher, MASC, to review goals.

SH: Concern that goals are not worded as SMART goals.

WM, AN: Key Actions will be evidence of achievement.

CW called the question. WM 2nd. Motion to end debate failed.

Supt expressed importance of these goals to her and to district; described difficulties in goal-setting process; emphasized that goals should put students first.

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

G. Green River School Program Postponement

KC moved to postpone the start of the new Green River School programming until Fall 2019, with the intent to hear follow-up on planning and program proposal in the spring of 2019.

SH 2nd.

Recommendation comes from Health, Safety & Facilities Subcommittee. Delay not in programming but in building maintenance: no functional heating system. Going out to bid again.

Motion passed unanimously.

H. Emergency Request for PA Systems (Urgent Safety & Security Need) - \$37,400.01

AN presented draft letter to Mayor. "Emergency" request expedites Council's timeline.

Supt reviewed need and background: capital request submitted, Council approved reduced amount of \$155K, stipulating wireless system. Chief of Policy, Fire Chief, GPS Technology Director recommend wired system for security and reliability.

KC moved to request that the Mayor put forward an "emergency" request to Council in the amount of \$37,400.01 to support the installation of wired PA systems. DA 2nd.

Concern that Council approved \$155K for wireless system. Does Council need to approve using \$155K for hard-wired system, plus approve additional \$37,400.01?

Motion withdrawn.

WM moved to request that the Finance Director and Business Manager meet to develop language for a proposal to complete the financing of the hard-wired PA systems in the district and for the Mayor to put forward the revised order as an emergency request to Council. SH 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

I. Resolution in Support of Full Funding for our Public Schools

Paul DeMarco (MTA) and Julie Letendre (GEA) presented Resolution, MTA's statewide effort for all School Committees to support.

DA moved to support the Resolution in Support of Full Funding for our Public Schools. KC 2nd. DA provided reading of the Resolution:

WHEREAS, free public schools available to all students without exception are foundational to our democracy and are required by the state constitution; and

WHEREAS, all of our students, no matter where they live, deserve high-quality public schools that teach the whole child and provide them with a rich school experience that addresses their academic, social and emotional needs;

WHEREAS, the state's foundation budget formula, which determines state aid to each district, has been woefully out of date for years, thereby underfunding our districts by more than \$1 billion a year for essential educational services; and

WHEREAS, an updated foundation budget formula would bring Greenfield Public Schools up to \$1.2 million in additional state aid each year, allowing this district to move closer to providing all students with the education to which they are entitled as residents of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature failed to pass any foundation budget legislation in the last session, leaving districts, educators and students without the funds necessary to support the schools our students deserve in every district in the state;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Greenfield School Committee urges the Legislature to approve and fully fund a new foundation budget formula by May 1, 2019.

Motion passed unanimously.

J. Discussion on School Committee Meeting site

KC moved to hold the December and January School Committee meetings at GCTV with the intent of moving to the John Zon site [Community Center] when possible and coordinated, and to request that the Superintendent and/or Chairperson follow up with the Mayor's office, GCTV, and other relevant parties to coordinate usage of the John Zon site. DA 2nd.

Reasons for change from GHS cafeteria: DA no longer freely available for set-up, break-down; adds work to understaffed GHS custodial crew; noise in hallway during basketball games.

Motion passed 6-1 (CW no).

K. American School Board Journal (ASBJ) subscriptions

SH moved to provide *ASB Journal* to our school governance members. WM 2nd.

Individual subscription \$39/year. AN will investigate group rate; will ask individual members via email if they want subscription; and arrange for subscriptions via the Supt's office.

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. New Business

None

VII. New Agenda Items

A. Meeting Documents

SH moved, to make it easier for School Committee members to see business meeting materials, to have a separate file of the wonderful school newsletters. WM 2nd. Motion failed 1-6.

Supt directed Committee members who always want paper copy to make one-time request to Supt office.

B. Website

SE suggested more complete information on School Committee and subcommittees on GPS website, offered to provide text.

AN moved to have Susan Eckstrom review the School Committee webpages and put forward a first draft of the content of pages to the Committee by January. CW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Executive Session

AN announced intent to move into Executive Session in accordance with MGL c 30A, §21, (3) & (10): 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 (Cafeteria Workers; Unit A; general litigation/potential litigation), and (10) To discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively sensitive or other proprietary information provided.

DA moved to enter Executive Session. 2nd SE. Roll call vote: Yes – DA, KC, SE, SH, AN, WM, CW. Moved into executive session at 9:37 p.m. CW left the meeting.

WM moved to leave Executive Session. 2nd KC. Roll call vote: Yes – DA, KC, SE, SH, AN, WM. Returned to public session at 10:00 p.m.

KC moved to approve the updated cafeteria workers contract with local 274 for the duration July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020. SH 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

AN reminded members to use their School Committee email address for School Committee correspondence.

IX. Adjournment

DA moved to adjourn. 2nd KC. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

1. Agenda: November 14, 2018
2. Chair's Notes and Timed Agenda
3. Draft minutes: October 10, 2018; October 29, 2018 (special meeting)
4. Subcommittee minutes (draft)
 - a. Budget & Finance (Oct. 15)
 - b. Policy & Program (Oct. 23)
5. Superintendent's Report
6. Media Coverage: "Wave-Hawks set for 4th straight title showdown" (Nov. 7); "Homegrown and homemade at Discovery School" (Oct. 23)
7. "Sportsmanship Award," memo from Karin Patenaude to Jordana Harper (Nov. 8)
8. Website screenshots (gpsk12.org): Twitter feed
9. School newsletters
10. Spring 2019 trip to Puerto Rico
11. Budget reports (Nov. 9)
12. Memo "Emergency PA System Safety Request" to Mayor Martin (Nov. 9)
13. Resolution in Support of Full Funding for our Public Schools
14. "American School Board Journal – Subscribe," Information for Schools Leaders
15. School Compost Program handouts (Franklin County Solid Waste)