

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, December 12, 2018
GCTV Studio, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA
Approved 01.09.19**

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

Absent: Katie Caron (KC); Susan Eckstrom (SE)

Also present:

Morghan Blanchard and Haylie Prevett, GHS Student Representatives; Matt Holloway, Director of Pupil Services; Julie Kimball, teacher, Federal Street School; Stephen Nembirkow, Business Manager; Tracy Novick and Liz Lafond, MASC Field Directors; Doug Selwyn, resident; other school staff and citizens.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

SH moved to approve minutes of November 14, 2018. WM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Doug Selwyn, resident, spoke of concerns re: vacant position of curriculum coordinator, asked about ways to fill position, e.g. part-time or shared.

Julie Kimball, Federal Street School, noted that the school will be delivering wreaths around community, with thanks to community helpers.

IV. Reports

A. Student Representatives

Morghan Blanchard and Haylie Prevett provided summary of activities at Greenfield High School, including winter sports, academic projects, winter pep rally, music program, and club activities, community service projects, and field trip.

B. Chair (AN)

- MASC calendars
- Stipends will arrive at end of month

C. Superintendent (JH)

- Recognized Morghan Blanchard, recipient of the Superintendent's Award
- Monthly Superintendent's report reflects goals
- Discussion on equity in education with Senator-elect Jo Comerford
- Newton School Principal Melodie Goodwin out on brief medical leave; Ms. Irizarry, guidance counselor, is covering principal responsibilities.
- Media coverage: *Recorder* article, social media, GPS website shots
- Music teacher Maria Scotera moving from GHS to GMS; new GHS music teacher Chris Moehringer
- Excellent student music programs
- Staffing report, including a welcome hire of Ed Voudren as transportation coordinator

- AEL principal final interviews completed, with decision to hire Tom King, retired elementary principal with Pre-K experience, who will start in January.
- Budget reports

AN: FY19 budget could be alarming to public not familiar with School Committee's budget process and plan to take funds from revolving accounts. Nembirkow assured that "where you see a negative, there's a positive somewhere." All positions and contracts encumbered.

Steve Nembirkow explained recent discovery of errors in data import from payroll into MUNIS budget. He and staff are reviewing line-by-line, expect full correction by next month.

D. Subcommittees

1. Health, Safety & Facilities (SH on behalf of KC)

Recent discussions include postponement of Green River School program; comparing GPS and state model versions of School Resource Officer MOU; MOU next goes to Superintendent and Chief of Police.

AN will forward minutes of most recent Subcommittee meeting to School Cte members.

2. Budget (CW)

Subcommittee has set calendar for upcoming budget season.

SH requested that minutes of Budget Subcommittee not be released until approved by Subcommittee, citing concerns re: accuracy of draft minutes taken from recording. Discussion to continue in Subcommittee.

JH noted:

- Report from Matt Holloway, Director of Pupil Services, on out-of-district placements
- State Auditor's Office response to Mayor's request re: out-of-district placements; on-going study of issue to continue.

AN requested Holloway's report to Budget Subcommittee on out-of-district placements be sent to all School Cte members.

3. Policy and Program (DA)

Guided by Pat Correira and Liz Lafond (MASC), Subcommittee has started policy review initiative; completed Section A and part of Section B. Presentation of revised Section A to full Committee likely in January.

V. Business

A. Tracy Novick, MASC, Budget Presentation

- Responsibilities of School Committee, including budget
- Funding sources
- DESE Chapter 70 Foundation Budget
- DESE calculation of Greenfield property values and income = target local contribution. Created in 1993. GPS receives \$18K in minimum aid – unusual
- Cycle of budget process
- Financial Reporting
- Warrants: what are you signing?
- Audits
- Updating the Foundation Budget: Comparing state amount vs. GPS actual 2017

Novick's slide presentation to be shared with Committee members.
Additional budget questions: tnovick@masc.org

CW left the meeting.

B. Capital Improvement Plan Review and Vote

City's capital improvement timeline has been extended. Presentation coming at January meeting.

C. Vote on Using School Funds for PA System Wiring

AN reviewed issue of Town Council funding approved for wireless system, need instead wired system, as discussed at Nov. 14 School Cte meeting.

WM moved rescind our support for the request for Mayor to bring \$37,400.01 to Town Council and allow the School Department to make that expense to the department. SH 2nd.

Discussion:

- Town Council cut original 2016 request by \$37K, stipulating less expensive wireless system. Hard-wired system necessary for security,
- WM has requested Council remove "wireless" from funding.
- Where to find funds? \$69K surplus from last year due to staffing vacancies.
- Urgent need for safety of students, staff.

Motion passed unanimously.

SH moved to reclassify \$69,987.22 in FY18 year-end funds to School Choice. DA 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

SH moved to recommend to Superintendent to pay approximately \$37,000 for PA system upgrades from School Choice. DA 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. New Business

None

VII. New Agenda Items

None

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 (Unit A, Unit C), and (10) To discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively sensitive or other proprietary information provided.

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

SH moved to leave Executive Session. 2nd WM. Roll call vote: Yes – DA, SH, WM, AN. Returned to public session at 10:05 p.m.

V. Business (continued)

D. Transportation Contract

WM moved to take the opportunity to partner with other school districts for the transportation contract. 2nd SH. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Adjournment

WM moved to adjourn. 2nd SH. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

1. Notice of Meeting and Agenda: December 12, 2018
2. Draft minutes: November 14, 2018
3. Superintendent's Report
4. "Area tour with senator-elect touches on homelessness, food insecurity, education and more,"
Recorder (Dec. 12).
5. Letter to Newton School Families from Supt. Harper re: Principal Goodwin's medical leave (Dec. 11)
6. Letter to Parents/Guardians of GHS & GMS Music Students re: music teachers (Dec. 10)
7. Social media: Tweets from Supt. Harper, screenshots from GPS website
8. Staffing Report (Dec. 10)
9. Subcommittee minutes (draft)
 - a. Health, Safety & Facilities (Nov. 14)
 - b. Budget & Finance (Nov. 7, Nov. 19)
 - c. Policy & Program (Nov. 28)
10. Budget reports (Oct. 31, Dec. 6) from Steve Nembirkow, Business Manager
11. Out of District Placements:
 - a. Memo from Matthew Holloway, Director of Pupil Services
 - b. DESE: Summary of Assignment of School District Responsibility
 - c. Letter from Suzanne Bump, Commonwealth Auditor, to Mayor Martin, Nov. 21, 2018,
Financial Impacts of Failure to Reimburse GPS for Educational Services Provided to Out-of-District Foster Care Children
12. School newsletters