

GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE EMERGENCY MEETING
EXECUTIVE SESSION
Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020
Greenfield MA

Note: This meeting was held fully remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, §20.

Present: Katie Caron (KC) (arrived 2:04); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Jordana Harper (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW); Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

Absent: Glenn Johnson-Mussad (GJ)

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (SE, SH, AP, JW, RW), Chair Proietti called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

II. Executive Session - MGL c 30A, §21, (2): (2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel

RW moved to enter Executive Session. SH 2nd. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, AP, JW, RW.
Motion passed unanimously.

JW moved to adjourn the public session. SH 2nd. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, AP, JW, RW.

Entered Executive Session at 2:04 p.m.

Chair Proietti and members presented concerns they've received from families about school registration, including:

- new families unable to register
- parents unable to get confirmation that their children are successfully registered
- parents unable to learn which school their children will attend
- families who applied to homeschool not receiving confirmation
- families calling central office but unable to reach someone or leave a message (message box full)

Goal is to identify support Supt. needs to successfully complete registrations and communicate with families before start of school.

Supt. Harper noted that prior to the meeting, she had sent a letter to the Committee [stating she would not seek contract renewal] and members confirmed receipt.

She responded:

- concerns about process and use of executive session
- registrar retired but has continued during summer; position posted but few qualified candidates at \$36K salary; has offered position to finalists but offers not accepted
- some office staff have been helping with registration backlog
- Registration Express software purchased to help parents register online; some parents need support to complete

SH moved that the School Committee appoint one or more attendance officers for a period not to exceed October 10, with the purpose to assist the Superintendent with registration and attendance as school opens. SE 2nd.

Discussion:

- Important to get all enrolled for October 1, when state funding determined by registration total
- Classroom assistants, administrative assistants not readily available due to union contracts.
- Successful drive-up registrations during summer. Suggested plan to hand out registration packets now at school meal pick-up sites, but determined that primary need is for communication with families who already submitted paperwork.
- School Resource Officer funds could be given to registration needs; repurposing SRO funds currently tabled by School Committee. Attendance officer positions might also be grant-fundable.
- Ongoing need for attendance officers to track remote learning attendance
- Need is immediate: Hiring new temps involves delay because of CORI requirements plus more time to train. Consider substitute teachers, who are already CORI'd.
- Giving flexibility to Supt. is key in arranging for staffing to complete registration work

Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, AP, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously.

SH moved to set the compensation for temporary attendance officer appointments at an amount not to exceed \$10,000, at the Superintendent's discretion. SE 2nd.

- May be at higher rate of pay than usual to meet immediate need; rates may vary person to person
- Not enough time to pursue union agreements
- Attendance officer is new position, so wouldn't involve bargaining
- Encouragement for Supt. to request more funding if needed

Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, AP, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously.

AP will report decision at School Committee's Sept. 14 meeting.

III. Adjournment

RW moved to adjourn executive session. SH 2nd. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, AP, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary