

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES: Monday, Sept. 14, 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.*

*This is the rescheduled regular monthly meeting of Sept. 9, which failed due to technical connection problems.*

**Present:** Katie Caron (KC); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Jordana Harper (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); Glenn Johnson-Mussad; (GJ); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW); Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

**Absent:** none

**Also present:** Andy Paquette, TMS; other school staff, and members of the public.

### **I. Call to Order**

With a quorum present (KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW), Chair Proietti called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

JW moved to approve minutes of June 10, July 13, July 30, August 4, August 12, August 31, 2020. GJ 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SE, GJ, AP, JW, RW; Abstain – SH. Motion passed 6-0-1.

### **III. Public Comment**

Katherine Golub requested that funds previously designated for School Resource Officer be given to racial justice programs.

### **IV. Reports**

#### **A. Chair**

Chair Proietti:

- Thanked Supt. Harper for countless hours and diligent work to prepare for start of school on Thursday under fully remote learning.
- Thanked students and families for their persistence and patience.
- Reminder that School Committee will continue to meet approximately every 2 weeks to respond to changing needs
- Goal is to transition to in-person learning when it becomes safe to do so.

#### **B. Superintendent**

Supt. Harper:

- Enthusiasm for opening of 2020-2021 school year.
- Agreements with GEA have allowed finalized school schedules for PreK-12.
- Shared announcement that she is not renewing her contract at end of school year; thanked community for support; looking toward successful search for new superintendent over next months.

*Due to a city-wide internet disruption, there was a temporary loss of quorum.*

*JW was disconnected from the meeting, returned with listen-only capabilities.*

*All other members who were disconnected successfully returned, and meeting continued.*

## **C. Subcommittees**

### **1. GREAT**

- Teachers holding Meet & Greet sessions. Families picking up school supplies.
- GREAT's work has been on hold during negotiations with unions, now complete.
- Families requested consistent schedule for elementary-GMS-GHS, so changed schedule for all schools to have early release on Wednesdays.
- Invited community to continue to give comments & suggestions: GREAT@gpsk12.org

## **V. New Business**

### **A. Budget Subcommittee Recommendations**

#### **1. MUNIS**

SE introduced topic: Budget office has been creating several different reports for School Committee; desire to streamline to one set of reports from MUNIS.

Andy Paquette, TMS, will train Committee members to read MUNIS reports.

#### **RW moved to do all financial reporting for the School Committee using MUNIS. GJ 2nd.**

Discussion:

Concern that current MUNIS reports do not reflect cost centers.

Paquette reassured that he will create specialized MUNIS reports organized as 22 cost centers.

Current multiple report formats to continue until MUNIS cost-center reports can be prepared.

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

#### **2. Filling vacant Central Office positions**

AP provided overview: Some positions are hired by School Committee, including Assistant Superintendent, Business Manager, Director of Pupil Services. Most positions are hired by Superintendent. Goal is to support Supt. in filling positions. Budget Subcommittee recommended hiring Assistant Superintendent and/or Curriculum Director.

JH responded:

- Curriculum Director position is in the budget; Supt. has interviewed but found no successful candidate with PreK-12 experience and necessary credentials.
- Since budget cuts and pandemic, hiring priorities have been teachers & other school-based staff.
- Effects of cuts due to Mayor's budget include:
  - Only 1 admin. assistant in Supt office; have had & need 2
  - No assistant principals at GMS, GHS
  - Assistant Director of Pupil Services position not filled
- Unable to fill Registrar position; candidates offered position, declined; retired registrar is currently filling in.
- Advocates that classroom- and school-based positions be filled first
- Priority need is for remote learning specialist
- Recommended full overview & discussion of staffing & hiring needs at schools & Central Office after Oct. 1 enrollment report complete
- State funding uncertain. State requirements re: pandemic planning are unfunded mandate
- Work to start school year is complete, so Supt. can shift focus to hiring; but filling positions would exceed Mayor's budget.

**SE moved to hire an Assistant Superintendent. RW 2nd.**

Discussion:

Use agency for wider geographic search, possibly attracting candidates who want to leave cities

Budget choice: Curriculum Director \$80K, Assistant Superintendent \$120K

GPS salaries not competitive

Currently interviewing for payroll & personnel assistant

**Motion withdrawn.**

SH moved to authorize filling the vacant curriculum development position using some or all of the available funding and to meet the current need for special support for technology and remote learning. Motion failed for lack of second.

Consensus for AP & SE to convene Budget Subcommittee to study open positions, set priorities, recommend hiring for specific positions.

### **B. Goals for & Charge to Committee Redrawing District Map**

Discussion:

- District Map designates attendance at elementary schools. GMS, GHS, AEL serve all Greenfield students.
- Active issue during School Committee election
- Important to understand history: previously more neighborhood schools; district lines have changed; how, when, why lines were set.
- Consider transportation costs; walkable/bike-able routes; include DPW representative.
- Equity in capacity (some elementary schools overcrowded) and socio-economic diversity
- Green River School available in February; was proposed to be innovation school with agriculture focus
- Preserve intra-district choice (e.g., families can choose ELT schedule)
- Need input from parents, community
- Consider consultant/facilitator with independent view to analyze data, especially re: equity
- Need for maps: could city or FERCOG create maps?
- Understood that this is a long, multi-year process
- Begin by preparing data, maps, transportation costs, school capacities
- Policy CDE suggests this would be designated as ad hoc subcommittee.

JW and SH are appointed members so far.

Other School Committee members interested in serving should email Chair.

### **C. Letter of Support for BBBS-FC Volunteer Advocate Program**

AP described proposal from Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Franklin County to organize volunteer adult advocates who would assist families with remote learning. Contact between families and volunteers would be fully remote.

**RW moved to provide letter of support for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Franklin County regarding their Volunteer Advocate Program. GJ 2nd. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, RW. Motion passed unanimously.**

AP will write letter, send to BBBS-FC and all Committee members.

### **VI. Executive Session – not needed**

### **VII. Adjournment of Public Session**

GJ moved to adjourn public session. RW 2nd. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, RW. Motion passed unanimously, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Farber  
Recording Secretary

**Meeting Documents**

1. Draft minutes: June 10, July 13, July 30, August 4, August 12, August 31, 2020
2. Finance Reports as of Sept. 8, 2020
3. Email from Jennifer Webster, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Franklin County, re: volunteer educational advocates, Sept. 1, 2020