

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, November 24, 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); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Jordana Harper (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); Glenn Johnson-Mussad; (GJ); Amy Proietti (AP) (joined 7:48); Jean Wall (JW); Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

Absent: None

Also present: Janet Dickinson, Director of Pupil Services; Andy Paquette, TMS; other school staff, members of the public, and the press.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (KC, SE, SH, GJ, JW, RW) and in the absence of Chair Proietti, Vice-Chair Eckstrom called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

GJ moved to approve minutes of November 9, 2020. RW 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, JW. Abstain – RW. Motion passed 5-0-1.

III. Public Comment

None

SE explained that public comment is limited to topics on the agenda, and that comments on the same issue may be restricted to one speaker. She will post School Committee's policy on public comment.

IV. Reports

A. Chairperson – None

B. Collaborative for Educational Services – SH

Director has retired. Interesting report from CES auditors. Large grant for Migrant Children Program running in Frontier and Gill-Montague.

C. Racial Justice Advisory Committee – GJ

Awaiting appointment of second member so work can begin.

D. Redrawing of the District Map Subcommittee – JW

Has not met; awaiting transition to Advisory Committee status.

E. Budget Subcommittee

Some review of FY21 budget. Subcommittee recommends next phase of students returning to in-person not begin until January or later, due to budget constraints.

V. New Business

A. Phase 2 Implementation Update

JH reported that tentative agreement with union, subject to teachers' ratification, will allow Phase 2 to begin Dec. 2 for approx. 50 highest-need students (special education, ELL). Extensive communication with Phase 2 families. Students coming to every building, for higher safety with fewer occupants per building. Transportation by GPS and Kuzmeskus vehicles. Following all protocols with support from Board of Health, GPS lead nurse Pam Owen, school physician. Much gratitude to community, GPS negotiating team.

Discussion:

- Appreciation for Superintendent's work
- Reaching agreement with union involved extensive time, work. Build on that momentum to move to Phase 3.
- Superintendent/administration can prepare cost estimates for Phase 3.
- Phase 3 includes supervised learning centers to support students in remote learning.
- Moving to Phase 3, if possible before January, would be interrupted by December vacation and would require transitions that are difficult for some students.
- GPS offering live, synchronous learning (vs. "canned" curriculum being used by some districts).
- Priority to return youngest learners to in-person instruction.

KC moved that we as a School Committee empower our negotiating team, Superintendent and administrative staff to aim for the next phase of our students moving back toward learning in the buildings for January 4. GJ 2nd.

Roll call: Yes - KC, SE, SH, GJ, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously.

Request for Supt to communicate target date for Phase 3 as January 4, with negotiations to continue toward that goal.

B. Snow Days during Remote Learning

JH clarified that there will be no "snow days" during remote learning phase. In-person services may be postponed or run remotely, but in general school will not be cancelled or delayed, except in cases of city-wide power outage.

C. Changing Structure of Redrawing District Map Subcommittee to an Advisory Committee

GJ moved that the Redrawing the District Map Subcommittee structure be changed from a Subcommittee to an Advisory Committee. JW 2nd.

Purpose is to allow participation of community members, staff, perhaps outside experts.

SH will share School Committee Policy JC on redistricting.

Roll call vote: Yes - SE, SH, GJ, JW, RW. Motion passed.

Redistricting Advisory Committee aims to meet next week.

D. Appoint Another Member to Negotiations/Personnel/Contracts Subcommittee

Discussion:

- Appointing additional, 4th member would create a quorum of full Committee. Allowable, but advisable? Need MASC guidance?
- Concern that Subcommittee may be intruding into administration's area.
- Reminder that prior years' Subcommittee reviewed and revised personnel policies, now stalled.
- Reminder that negotiators work under charge ("marching orders") from School Committee, with regular communication to full Committee.

E. School Department Capital Requests

JH summarized process of capital requests. Request submitted as placeholder; need School Committee's endorsement. GPS process is late.

SH moved to again endorse the capital improvement projects for Newton & Federal Street schools repaving, the additional funds now needed to address this project. GJ 2nd.

Discussion:

- Some funding for paving approved for FY21. Work not yet done by DPW.
- Paving \$ increase to add paving of Newton's school-side parking area, currently gravel.
- Concern that some school capital projects approved but not done; no consensus on reasons; JH offered to bring report from GPS maintenance/facilities.
- Four Corners ADA improvements, including lift: complicated, expensive to retrofit old building for accessibility; slow but diligent progress.
- Federal Street elevators: \$ approved to repair, but discovered unrepairable, new elevator was needed.

Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP. Abstain – JW, RW. Motion passed 5-0-2.

GJ moved to approve the capital proposals as presented. SE 2nd.

Discussion:

- GPS capital request document was unavailable to some members (large file size). Recognize need for vote today. Request for reformatted document to be sent to members.

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

VI. Adjournment

SH moved to adjourn. JW 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

1. Notice of Meeting, Agenda, November 24, 2020
2. Draft Minutes: Nov. 9, 2020
3. Abbott Binax NOW Rapid Antigen Test, from Pam Owen, GPS Lead Nurse
4. "Greenfield schools ready to reopen to high-risk learners," *Recorder*, Nov. 19, 2020
5. Budget reports, Nov. 5, 2020
6. FY21 Capital Requests: Cracked Pavement, Federal Street School & Newton School
7. CIP FY20 (Capital Improvement Planning Committee)