

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, December 15, 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); Susan Hollins (SH); Glenn Johnson-Mussad (GJ); Amy Proietti (AP); Roxann Wedegartner (RW) (arrived 11:03)

Absent: Jordana Harper (JH)

Also present: Other school staff, citizens, and the press.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP), Chair Proietti called the meeting to order at 11:02 p.m.

II. Decision on In-Person Learning

Detailed review of meetings and communications leading to Superintendent's temporary closure of in-person learning. Meetings included Joint Labor Management Safety Committee and Greenfield Board of Health.

GJ left the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Closure is temporary pause, not move back to Phase I

Concerns re: insufficient communication with School Committee

Review of DESE's protocol to close school

Phase II: 39 children in 6 schools. No effect on school calendar: remote learning resumes.

Need more information: Why did Board of Health recommend closure? Probably rise in community cases and special circumstances of Phase II students.

SH moved that in order to alleviate confusion and assure collaboration and thoughtful decision-making by Greenfield committees addressing COVID, that the DESE protocol for school closing be shared with the Joint Committee, school health personnel, Board of Health, and school administrators, and that we assure all communications be as non-alarmist as possible. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Preference to follow what's best for Greenfield; concern re: delays if rely on state response.

Reiteration that Supt. has authority for emergency closures; questions whether this was an emergency.

GJ returned to the meeting at 12:27 p.m.

RW moved that all changes to in-person learning during the COVID-19 pandemic will be determined by the School Committee in consultation with the Board of Health and Joint Labor Management Committee and upon recommendation of the Superintendent. JW 2nd.

Understand context of motion is whether schools are open, not details of instruction.

Concern is that Supt. did not follow protocols.

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

Should schools re-open for Phase II students? 4 potential days before winter break: Dec. 17, 18, 21, 22.

SE moved to return students and staff to in-person instruction. SH 2nd.

Concerns re: transmission dangers; Phase II students' need for in-person instruction; creating too many transitions for students and for staff; coming snowstorm.

Re-opening for 4 days would give parents options.

GJ moved to table the motion to Thursday night. JW 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, JW, RW; Abstain – AP. Motion to table passed 6-0-1.

SH moved to adjourn. GJ 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Public meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m. Committee reconvened in Executive Session.

III. 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary