

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, May 12, 2021  
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 6:10; Susan Eckstrom (SE); Susan Hollins (SH) arrived 6:02; Glenn Johnson-Mussad; (GJM); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW); Roxann Wedegartner (RW) arrived 6:20

**Absent:** None

**Also present:** Nadine Ekstrom, TMS; Judy Houle, Interim Superintendent; Andy Paquette, TMS; Marlo Warner, Director of Public Works; school staff, citizens, and the press.

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

With a quorum present (SE, GJM, AP, JW), Chair Proietti called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

GJM moved to hear the report from the student representative as the next item. JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

### **V. Report of Student Representatives to the School Committee**

ST described GHS events, community service projects, and sports, including Western Mass. Association of School Council's conference, Key Club's "Say Something" project, 11th annual Film Festival on June 11.

### **II. Report of the Business Manager: FY21 budget update** – Andy Paquette, TMS

Continuing year-end closing. Unusual budget with some higher, some lower expenses due to Covid. Budget transfers in process to re-align the budget.

SE to schedule Budget Subcommittee meeting to review the re-aligned budget.

Discussion:

- State requires School Resource Officer (SRO), now increased flexibility re: "community policing." approach. Traditionally half-funded by Greenfield police dept., but not included in police dept's FY21 budget. SRO not the same as Truant Officer or Attendance Officer.
- Racial justice funding supporting PD and books/materials. Refer to Budget Subcommittee to review.

### **III. Approval of minutes: April 14, 2021**

**JW moved to approve draft minutes of April 14, 2021. RW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Roll call vote: Yes - KC, SE, SH, GJM, AP, JW. Abstain - RW. Motion passed 6-0-1.**

### **IV. Public Comment**

None

### **VI. Administration Reports**

#### **A. Sanderson Street Project**

Marlo Warner, Director of Public Works, provided update on \$1.5million project for full rehab of Sanderson Street, from Federal Street to just below Poet's Seat: underground infrastructure (water, sewer), roadway, some sidewalks. Work primarily in summer 2022. Planning for least impact on

school, hospital, factory, city offices. Communication team will be assembled. Bike lanes not feasible.

Planning for schools' capital projects is underway.

## **B. Superintendent – Supt. Houle**

**1. Jami Witherell** (2nd grade, Newton) is semi-finalist for Mass. Teacher of the Year.

### **2. In-person learning update**

- GMS/GHS returned on April 28 to full in-person learning
- If currently remote students want to change to in-person, families must make advance arrangements no later than June 1.
- Encouraged applications to open positions, including crossing guards, food service staff, substitutes
- Kindergarten registration May 11, 13, 18, 20

### **3. School Choice for the 2021-22 school year**

Choice-in 70; Choice-out 272, as of Dec. 22, 2020

Openings for 2021-22 School Year:

Kindergarten -2	Grade 8 - 5
Grade 1 - 2	Grade 9 - 5
Grade 2 - 2	Grade 10 - 2
Grade 6 - 5	Grade 11 - 2
Grade 7 - 6	Grade 12 - 2

### **SH moved to approve the school choice numbers as presented for 2021-2022. RW 2nd.**

Discussion:

- Elementary openings are at Federal Street School.
- In calculating choice-in spaces, principals have anticipated return of homeschooled and choice-out students with resumption of in-person schooling.
- Concern for large number of choice-out students. Choice-out total does not include homeschooled students.
- Greenfield's specialty programs, like Math-Science Academy, can attract students.

**Roll call vote: Yes - KC, SE, SH, GJM, JW, RW (AP temporarily absent). Motion passed 6-0.**

### **4. Year-end calendar/activities**

June 1- Senior Celebration; June 2 – Awards; June 5 – ticketed graduation.

“Greenfield Prom” is not being sponsored by GPS. Gatherings like this currently forbidden by state.

June 18 – Last day of school (half-day)

June 21 – Juneteenth holiday

### **JW moved to retain the last day of school as Friday, June 18, and to designate June 21 for year-round staff as the holiday observance of Juneteenth. SE 2nd.**

Supt. Houle: Plan to educate students re: Juneteenth during last week of school.

Consider how to best observe Juneteenth next year; learn community opinion.

**Roll call vote: Yes - KC, SE, SH, GJM, JW, RW. Abstain – AP. Motion passed 6-0-1.**

### **5. District communications planning**

Justin Martin, TMS, provided update: communications audit done; communications plan being developed; next 7-10 days communications survey of community. Will work with School Committee on communication policies. Goal: awareness, understanding, appreciation. Audience: Both parents

of school-age children and residents without children in schools. Will create crisis communication plan. Presence on social media. "Branding" of each school. Prepare for transition to new superintendent.

Discussion:

- RW asked for coordination with City of Greenfield communication team.
- Response to anonymous website that published School Committee emails? Concern re: source being anonymous; talking about it "gives it life."

## **6. Additional meetings in May**

Policy and Budget Subcommittees meeting, as needed.

Additional School Committee meeting needed in May

## **7. Vote to accept donations**

\$500 donation to Discovery School at Four Corners: Exxon/Mobil Education Alliance

**RW moved to accept the \$500 donation to the Discovery School at Four Corners from the Exxon/Mobil Education Alliance. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

\$775 in gift cards from Baystate Franklin Medical Center for student supplies

**RW moved to accept the \$775 donation of gift cards for student supplies from Baystate Franklin Medical Center. JW 2nd. Assurance to spend \$ locally only. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **8. Teaching and Learning Department Proposal**

Supt. Houle proposed re-establishing department focused on curriculum as core of schools' work, including benchmarks for learning, project-based learning, student agency, equitable access; providing vertical & horizontal alignment (work now occurring in silos, school by school); post-remote schooling support for students.

Salary range \$125-135K, reflecting requirement for Assistant Superintendent license. Would be 40-50% funded by eliminating grants administrator position. Assistant Superintendent would oversee grants. Need to post position ASAP, hire to begin this summer.

**SH moved that the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to reorganize positions in the central office to create a curriculum office with an Assistant Superintendent position that handles curriculum. SE 2nd.**

Discussion:

- Office to have secretarial/admin. assistant support.
- Support for additional assistant superintendent position.
- Interest in data presentation from Supt. Houle (July meeting). Include results of youth-at-risk surveys.
- Concern for current grants coordinator; assured of support in transition.
- Grants administration is integral to curriculum work.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Members interested in serving on hiring committee to email Supt. Houle.

## **VII. School Committee Reports**

**A. Report of the Chair** - none

**B. Subcommittee Reports**

### **1. Superintendent Search – JW**

Currently receiving applications. Week of May 24: orientation for Search Committee. Week of May 31: review applications, with interviews soon afterward. Encouraged all to complete Supt. Search Survey on gpsk12.org website.

### **2. Budget & Finance – SE**

Subcommittee will meet next week.

### **3. Policy and Program - GJM**

Recommendation to waive first reading and vote by consent agenda on the following policies: JB (Equal Educational Opportunities), JHD (Exclusions and exemptions from school enrollment), JLCB (Inoculations of students), JLCC (Communicable diseases). No significant content changes; rewording & bring in line with current laws.

Policy changes needed to update student handbook.

**GJM moved to waive the first reading and vote by consent agenda on the following GPS policies: JB (Equal Educational Opportunities), JHD (Exclusions and exemptions from school enrollment), JLCB (Inoculations of students), JLCC (Communicable diseases). SE 2nd. Yes – AP, KC, SE, GJM, JW, RW. Abstain – SH. Motion passed 6-0-1.**

**GJM moved that we advance these policies EBC-S (Policy on COVID-related issues), IHBHE (Remote Learning), JBB (Educational Equity), JFABD (Homeless students: enrollment rights and services), JFABE (Educational opportunities for military children), JICH (Drug / alcohol use by students) to the Policy Subcommittee for advancement to the second reading. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **4. Personnel and Collective Bargaining Subcommittee**

Supt. Houle shared concern that many Central office job descriptions are out-of-date or non-existent. Supt. will convene Subcommittee meeting to begin review process.

### **5. Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee – JW**

Meeting schedule paused.

### **6. Ad Hoc Racial Justice Committee – GJM**

Meeting schedule paused. Potential to merge Redistricting and Racial Justice committees.

### **7. Concern re: early start times for middle & high school students**

To be considered by Subcommittees.

Suggestion for Equity to be included in Superintendent's regular report.

**VIII. Executive Session - MGL c 30A, §21, (a): (2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; (3) 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.**

GJM moved to open executive session. JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

No intent to return to public session. JW moved to close public session. GJM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Entered Executive Session at 8:38 p.m.

### **IX. Adjournment**

Adjourned from executive session at 10:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Farber  
Recording Secretary

**Meeting Materials**

1. FY21 Budget report
2. Minutes of the April 14, 2021 School Committee Meeting
3. Report of the Interim Superintendent
4. School Calendars/Newsletters
5. Consent Agenda Policies: JB (Equal Educational Opportunities), JHD (Exclusions and exemptions from school enrollment), JLCB (Inoculations of students), JLCC (Communicable diseases)
6. Policies for First Reading: EBC-S (Policy on COVID-related issues), IHBHE (Remote Learning), JBB (Educational Equity), JFABD (Homeless students: enrollment rights and services), JFABE (Educational opportunities for military children), JICH (Drug / alcohol use by students)
7. School newsletters