

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, June 9, 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); Susan Eckstrom (SE) (arrived 6:02); Susan Hollins (SH) (arrived 6:03); Glenn Johnson-Mussad; (GJM); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW); Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

**Absent:** None

**Also present:** Tara Cloutier, GHS Spanish teacher; Michelle Fenimore, Newton School Principal  
Judy Houle, Interim Superintendent; Liz Lafond, MASC; Justin Martin, TMS; Andy Paquette, TMS;  
Karin Patenaude, GHS Principal; school staff, citizens, and the press.

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

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

### **II. Report of the Business Manager – *Delayed pending arrival of Andy Paquette***

#### **III. Approval of Minutes**

**GJM moved to approve draft minutes of May 12 and May 18, 2021. JW 2nd.**

**Roll call vote: Yes – KC, GJM, AP, JW, RW. Abstain – SE. Motion passed 5-0-1.**

#### **IV. Public Comment – *None***

### **II. Report of the Business Manager – Andy Paquette, TMS**

**A. FY21 budget update:** Doing standard end-of-year close-out. Met with Budget Subcommittee to review personnel line item transfers; Subcommittee voted 2-1 to recommend those transfers. Next step: adjustments of non-personnel line items.

**SH moved to approve the personnel transfers recommended by the Budget Subcommittee to close out the school year. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **B. FY22 budget update**

In process of rebuilding the budget in discussion with administrators. Need additional meeting soon for continued discussion of FY22 budget and to allow public input on state SR3 grant. June 22 special meeting to be set up as public hearing on budget/SR3.

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

Student S.T. reported on GHS events, including Film Festival on June 11. Praise for athletes and all who supported teams; noted 3 GHS students as four-sport athletes.

### **VI. Reports**

#### **A. Interim Superintendent – Supt. Houle**

##### **1. Request for trip to Spain, April 15-24, 2022**

Tara Cloutier, GHS Spanish teacher, presented details of trip through EF Tours. Trip previously approved by School Committee, postponed due to pandemic. Assurance that ET Tours offer refunds and vouchers in case of trip cancellation. Minimum 6:1 student:chaperone ratio. Anna Hartmann, GHS French teacher, is co-leader.

**JW moved to approve the April 2022 trip to Spain, as presented, pending any travel advisories from the CDC or Department of State. RW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **2. Federal Street School Principal appointment**

Introduction of and praise for Michelle Fenimore, newly appointed Federal Street School Principal who has served as Interim Principal this past pandemic year.

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

Juneteenth learning activities; graduation, field days, step-up ceremonies.

## **4. District communications planning update**

*Moved to later in meeting, awaiting arrival of Justin Martin, TMS.*

## **5. Vote to accept donations**

\$3,000 from Steve Lewis Subaru to Newton School used to provide each first-year Newton teacher with \$500 for classroom supplies.

**SE moved to approve the \$3,000 donation from Steve Lewis Subaru, through Adopt-A-Classroom.org, to Newton School. GJM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **VII. School Committee Reports**

### **A. Report of the Chair – AP**

Encouraged continued discussion of later start times at GHS and GMS. Sees connection between start times, redrawing district map, equity and racial justice. Northampton is changing start times for Fall 2021 after years of planning.

Discussion:

- Complicated logistics including bussing, sports. Financial ramifications.
- Preference not to begin planning until new superintendent is in place.
- Supt. Houle will get more info re: Northampton's planning.

### **B. Subcommittee Reports**

#### **1. Superintendent Search – JW**

- In midst of interviewing 8 candidates. Strong candidates with great ideas. Finalist site visits begin late June.
- Need to present finalists to School Committee and plan next steps. Will convene School Committee special meeting (June 15-16-17?).

## **VI. Reports / A. Interim Superintendent – continued**

### **4. District communications planning update**

Justin Martin, TMS, summarized progress on communication plan.

- Communications audit and community survey complete, to be shared soon with School Committee.
- Working with Keith Barnicle in Mayor's office.
- Next steps: internal communication protocols for principals; School Committee policies on communication.

Request for Martin to report at July School Committee meeting re: policies to be added/revised, which then will be referred to Policy Subcommittee.

## **B. Subcommittee Reports – continued**

### **2. Budget & Finance – SE**

Included earlier in Business Manager's report.

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

#### **a. GJM moved to approve as presented, with changes, the second reading of these policies:**

**EBC-S (COVID-related issues)**

**IHBE (Remote Learning)**

**JBB (Education Equity)**

**JFABD (Homeless students)**

**JFABE (Educational opportunities for military children)**

**JICH (Drug/alcohol use by students)**

**AP 2nd.**

Recommended addition to JFABD (Homeless students): To the extent feasible and based on parent preference we will send child to the school they're already attending. Rationale: Parent may prefer local school so that child is not bussed long distance.

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

#### **c. PreVenture proposal for GHS**

Karin Patenaude, GHS principal, presented drug/alcohol screening tool with skills-based targeted intervention follow-up. Plan to launch at GHS in September. Communities That Care Coalition funding for one year. Annual cost \$4,500. Will seek future funding to continue program, allowing for 2 years of evaluation data.

#### **b. First reading**

Presented for first reading: IHBA (Observations of Special Education programs)

Recommended change: If applicable, observers submit report. Rationale: Clarifies that parents do not have to provide report. Parents' advocate or other official observers would provide report for team meeting.

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

Subcommittee unanimously recommends approval of job descriptions for Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning.

#### **SE moved to approve the Superintendent job description as presented. JW 2nd.**

Revision (friendly amendment accepted):

Bullet 4: In consultation with the School Committee Chair, acts as the school district main spokesperson....

Revision (friendly amendment accepted):

Add to list of 6 "Performance Responsibilities" - Oversight of resources and resource allocation to assure goal achievement, equity and financial stability.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **SE moved to approve the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning job description as presented. JW 2nd.**

Several concerns re: wordings that reduce expectations of leadership in responsibilities. Members to write up recommended revisions, bring to Personnel Subcommittee for follow-up.

**Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SE, GJM, AP, JW, RW. No – SH. Motion passed 6-1.**

## **5. Health, Safety, and Facilities**

Supt. Houle will set up Subcommittee meeting to review Green River School and other capital projects. Subcommittee: KC Chair, AP, GJM.

Clarification that 4+ School Committee members can serve on same subcommittee without concern that it comprises a quorum of the full Committee.

**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.

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

No intent to return to public session. JW moved to adjourn public session. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Public session adjourned, entered Executive Session at 8:01 p.m.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Adjourned from executive session at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Farber  
Recording Secretary

## **Meeting Materials**

1. FY21 Budget reports
2. Draft Minutes: May 12, May 18, 2021
3. Report of the Interim Superintendent, June 9, 2021
4. Job descriptions: Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning
5. Policies for Second Reading and Vote: EBC-S (COVID-related issues), IHBE (Remote Learning), JBB (Education Equity), JFABD (Homeless students), JFABE (Educational opportunities for military children), JICH (Drug/alcohol use by students)
6. Policies/Program for First Reading: IHBAA (Observations of Special Education programs), PreVenture proposal for GHS
7. Email to Melodie Goodwin, Newton School, from AdoptAClassroom, "Subaru \$3K Donation to Newton School," April 12, 2021
8. Proposal for PreVenture at GPSD, May 21, 2021
9. Spain Trip proposal: Tara Cloutier, Greenfield High School, for April 2022
10. School newsletters