

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, August 11, 2021**
John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant Street, Greenfield MA

Present: Katie Caron (KC); Susan Hollins (SH); Glenn Johnson-Mussad; (GJM); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW); Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

Absent: Susan Eckstrom (SE)

Also present: Judy Houle, Interim Superintendent; Karin Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent; and citizens.

I. Call to Order

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

JW moved to change order of the agenda to move II. Executive Session to the end of the meeting. SH 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Vote on Custodian/Maintenance Contract

GJM moved to table this item. To be considered at Aug. 18 meeting. KC 2nd. Motion to table passed unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

SH moved to approve draft minutes of July 14 as amended, July 29, and August 4, 2021. GJM 2nd.

Changes to July 14:

p. 3 – 2. Summer Work last bullet: ESSER (not ESER)

p. 2 – V. first bullet, addition: “This is intended as not-to-exceed number. Expense not to come out of operating budget.”

Motion passed unanimously.

V. Public Comment

Mariah Kurtz, Greenfield, has applied to host exchange student from Germany for fall semester (Sept.-Jan.) and requests the School Committee approve the request to enroll at GHS.

VI. Student Representatives Report

Report will return in September.

VII. Administration Reports

A. School Business Manager

Updates on FY21 and FY22 budgets postponed until Aug. 18 meeting.

B. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Karin Patenaude, Assistant Supt., presented GHS Grade 8 civics project, the first student work under the new curriculum standards. Students focused on issue of homelessness in Greenfield.

Summary of first month’s work, including:

- Met with all principals to assess needs of students, staff. Goal to align curriculum.
- ESSER grants, including hiring of academic coaches/interventionists
- Mentor/Mentee program for new teachers
- Curriculum work

C. Interim Superintendent, Judy Houle

- Priority to provide after-school time for teachers to meet.
 - Decision not to offer Extended Learning Time. Working with community partners to provide after-school care.
 - Change schedule to provide consistent start/end time for GMS/GHS and for PreK-4. Assurances that bus transportation will work out.
- Covid precautions
 - DESE recommends masks for K-6 and unvaccinated grades 7-12; masks not required for vaccinated grades 7-12. Current GPS policy requires masks for all students, with special exceptions. Supt. Houle recommends continuing GPS mask policy.
 - Covid testing: DESE plan for “test-and-stay” for symptomatic students. GPS to choose between pooled and in-lab testing systems. Testing will be provided free to schools.
 - DESE encouraging schools to host clinics to provide free vaccine access to 12-17-year-olds.
- USDA Free Meals program will continue in upcoming school year.
- Working to fill positions. Holding Job Fair at GMS.
- Request to enroll German exchange student at GHS: There’s no GPS policy about exchange students. Legal counsel advises okay to accept. Moving ahead to enroll student.
- Disposal of surplus property: old, broken copiers at Central Office/GHS.
- Transition to incoming superintendent Christine DeBarge going smoothly.

Discussion:

- Support for providing before-school care. Programs previously funded via GPS budget. Parents concerned about availability for before- and after-school care.
- Purpose of ELT was to provide enrichment to high-poverty schools. Limited interest in this summer’s enrichment programs.

SH moved to approve the enrollment of a German exchange student at GHS for fall semester. JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

RW moved to dispose of the two copiers, one at Central Office and one at Greenfield High School, that are surplus property and no longer in use. GJM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. School Committee Reports

A. Chair

AP working on contract extension with TMS for business manager, special ed. consulting, communications consulting. 1-year contract with 30-day cancellation provision.

Discussion:

- Request for special ed. report from Dr. Eckstrom, TMS, as promised
- \$9,500/month for business manager services
- Suggestions to build internal capacity with in-house business manager; combine some city-school services (e.g., IT)
- Looking for stronger work from communications consulting

B. Budget & Finance Subcommittee

Will schedule Subcommittee meeting for FY22 budget review.

C. Policy & Program Subcommittee

KC moved to waive the first reading and approve the Policy JIC Student Discipline as updated. RW 2nd.

Current policy is outdated; need fast-track for updated policy to be in place for start-of-school. GJM will convene Policy Subcommittee to review JIC, bring revisions back to School Committee.
Motion passed unanimously.

D. Personnel & Collective Bargaining Subcommittee

Subcommittee reviewed updated job descriptions:

- Assistant Director of Student Services
- Director of Food and Nutrition Services

KC moved to approve, as presented, the updated job description of the Assistant Director of Student Services. GJM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

KC moved to approve, as presented, the updated job description of the Director of Food and Nutrition Services. JW 2nd.

Will fix formatting to read: "Physical Requirements: Physically able to carry objects weighing 50 pounds. Reasonable accommodations will be made, if necessary."

Motion passed unanimously.

E. Health, Safety & Facilities Subcommittee

Supt. Houle reported that parking lot repairs at Newton School are underway; engineer has examined Federal Street School elevators.

Will schedule Subcommittee meeting to review capital projects.

II. Executive Session pursuant to MGL c 30A, §21, (a): (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.

JW moved to enter executive session. RW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Will not return to public session. GJM moved to adjourn public session. KC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Public session adjourned and moved to executive session at 7:26 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

RW moved to adjourn. JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned out of executive session at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

1. Agenda: August 11, 2021
2. Draft minutes: July 14, July 29, August 4, 2021
3. Memo to Greenfield School Committee from Karin Patenaude, "Assistant Superintendent Update," August 11, 2021
4. Memo to Judith Houle, Interim Superintendent, from Karin Patenaude, "8th Grade Civics Projects," June 15, 2021
5. Interim Superintendent's Report, August 11, 2021
6. Job Descriptions: Assistant Director of Student Services; Director of Food & Nutrition Services
7. GPS Job Fair flyer
8. Policy JIC, Student Discipline (draft)