

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, October 13, 2021**
Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St., Greenfield MA

Present: Katie Caron (KC); Susan Eckstrom (SE) (arrived 6:03); Susan Hollins (SH); Glenn Johnson-Mussad; (GJM); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW); Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

Absent: None

Also present: Christine DeBarge, Superintendent; Andy Paquette, TMS; citizens & the press.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Business Manager Report

A. FY22 Budget Update

Andy Paquette, TMS Business Manager, presented budget reports, with reassurances that budget record-keeping is in process. GPS is in good financial position.

Discussion:

- Request for Supt. to report on ESSER grant amounts, plan for use.
- Suggestion to charge \$64K van leases to special education revolving fund, not general fund

B. Strategic Planning

Andy Paquette outlined TMS's proposal to guide creation of GPS 3-year strategic plan. Supt. has worked before with TMS on strategic planning, was pleased by inclusion of tasks, tangible results, resources needed to achieve goals.

AP moved that in order to provide strategic planning services to augment the goal development and superintendent evaluation processes, the Greenfield School Committee seek a quote with TMS, Inc. SE 2nd.

Discussion:

- Request to include priorities already set by School Committee
- TMS's plan for Cambridge focused on equity; Paquette will provide Cambridge plan as example.
- Bypass bid process: Superintendent's urgent need for goals to guide budget, programs, staffing. Noted that proposed plan completed in March, so will not provide guidance this year. Open-ended contract has allowed expansion of TMS services. Will follow laws concerning bids.
- Assurance that TMS Business Management is not conflict of interest in TMS consultant payments.
- Desire for improved superintendent evaluation process
- Cost? Paid from which account?
- TMS will provide tiered cost choices in proposal.

Motion passed unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes

SH moved to approve draft minutes of September 13 and September 23, 2021. JW 2nd. Motion passed 6-0-1 (RW abstain).

IV. Public Comment

Susan Worgaftik, Elizabeth Deneve, Kathryn Martini, Doug Selwyn, all of Greenfield, spoke in support of changing policy on public comment, removing limitation to speak only on topics on the agenda. Selwyn suggested expanding access by offering child-care at meetings; providing ability to comment online; holding special meetings solely for public comment & dialogue.

V. Reports

A. Administration Reports

1. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Karin Patenaude not present, attending GHS National Honor Society ceremony. Written report received, praised.

2. Superintendent

Christine DeBarge added to written report:

- Protocol for responding to emails from community to School Committee: Superintendent will respond to emails, cc: Chair; Superintendent will forward to full Committee & inform writer that full Committee received message.

Discussion:

- Request for enrollment report, enrollment projections. Last projection was 6 years ago.
- Supt's concern that many technology devices reach end of lifespan this year & next; need to identify desired use of technology to guide purchasing decisions.
- Supt. will lead review of software/educational programs, moving toward consistency across buildings, non-renewal of little-used programs, proof of supporting instruction.
- State is not able to provide promised pooled testing. GPS nursing staff doing own pooled testing every other week plus priority to symptomatic students, athletes. . GPS nursing staff are overburdened. Supt. requesting National Guard assistance with testing, as offered by Governor. Noted that Governor mandated in-person instruction without securing necessary resources.

B. School Committee Reports

1. Chair

Capital requests are due to City in 2 weeks. Priority to move forward with projects already identified. Send recommendations for additional projects to Chair & Supt. this week.

2. Subcommittee Reports

a. Subcommittees Monthly Meeting Schedule

Budget - third Tuesday, 9am

Policy – second Friday, 1pm

Health Safety Facilities – third Friday 11:30am

Personnel – second Friday, 10am

To be discussed at November meeting: restructuring Racial Justice Advisory Committee, Redistricting Ad Hoc Committee; plus earlier start time at GHS, GMS.

b. Personnel & Collective Bargaining

Supt. provided overview of educational goals, need & funding for positions. Job descriptions were approved by Subcommittee.

GJM moved to approve the job description, as presented, for Restorative Practice Facilitator. RW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

SE moved to approve the job description, as presented, for Director of Behavioral Services. JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Policy & Program Subcommittee

GJM presented policies brought by Subcommittee:

- IHBC Home Schooling: recommend expedited process
 - Revise IHBG to remove access to public school resources/activities for homeschooled children; remove option for homeschooled children to receive GPS diploma.
 - Eliminate IHBG-E & IHBG-R as redundant
- JLCD: Administering Medicines to Students: recommend expedited process
- BEDH: Public Participation at School Committee Meetings
- JIC: Student Conduct

GJM moved to waive first reading of policies IHBC Home Schooling and JLCD: Administering Medicines to Students. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

GJM moved to approve policies IHBC Home Schooling and JLCD: Administering Medicines to Students. JW 2nd.

- IHBC: Para. 4 “Prior to removing the children from public school” change to “Prior to beginning a homeschool program”
- JLCD: Supt’s request to approve policy now to provide immediate guidance. Next steps to replace JLCD with general policy, move details to more easily changed administrative regulation.

Motion passed unanimously.

KC moved to approve the first reading of BEDH: Public Comment at School Committee Meetings. JW 2nd.

- Support for opening public comment to non-agenda items within Committee’s “scope of authority”
- Support for opportunities for dialogue between public & members, which public comment doesn’t provide
- Suggestion to add “New Business” to agenda to allow response to public comment topic

Motion passed unanimously.

2nd reading to be on November agenda.

VI. Executive Session

Move consideration of cafeteria workers contract to November meeting

VII. Adjournment

GJM moved to adjourn. RW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

1. Agenda: October 13, 2021
2. Draft minutes: September 13, September 23, 2021
3. Superintendent's Report, Oct. 13, 2021
4. Assistant Superintendent's Report, Oct. 13, 2021
5. Job descriptions: Director of Behavioral Services & Restorative Practice Facilitator
6. Policies: IHBG: Home Schooling, IHBG-E: Home Schooling, IHBG-R: Home Schooling, JIC: Student Conduct, BEDH: Public Participation at School Committee Meetings, JLCD: Administering Medicines to Students
7. Budget Report, October 6, 2021