

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES: Wednesday, January 12, 2022**  
Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St., Greenfield MA

**Present:** Elizabeth Deneve (ED); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Glenn Johnson-Mussad; (GJM); Kathryn Martini (KM); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW); Roxann Wedegartner (RW) (arrived 6:02)

**Absent:** None

**Also present:** Christine DeBarge, Superintendent; Karin Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent; Andy Paquette, TMS; Marlo Warner, DPW Director; other school staff, citizens & the press

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

With a quorum present (ED, SE, GJM, KM, AP, JW), Susan Eckstrom, as ranking member, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **II. Election of Officers**

#### ▪ Election of Chair

*Dr. DeBarge opened nominations for School Committee Chair.*

SE nominated Amy Proietti. JW 2nd.

ED nominated Glenn Johnson-Mussad. KM 2nd.

Vote – Proietti: SE, AP, JW, RW; Johnson-Mussad: ED, GJM, KM. Proietti elected 4-3.

*AP assumed leadership of the meeting.*

#### ▪ Election of Vice-Chair

SE nominated Jean Wall as Vice-Chair. AP 2nd.

RW nominated Glenn Johnson-Mussad. KM 2nd.

Vote – Wall: SE, AP, JW, RW; Johnson-Mussad: ED, GJM, KM. Wall elected 4-3.

#### ▪ Election of Secretary

JW nominated Susan Eckstrom. AP 2nd.

KM nominated Glenn Johnson-Mussad. ED 2nd. Johnson-Mussad declined the nomination. Eckstrom elected unanimously.

### **III. Update from DPW**

Marlo Warner, DPW Director, described:

- Upcoming projects affecting schools
  - Sanderson Street, with work scheduled to lessen effect on GMS
  - Adding sidewalks in neighborhoods near high school
- Winter storm preparations
- DPW's year-round work maintaining school buildings and grounds
- Installation of school zone flashing lights near GMS, Federal Street School

### **IV. Budget Update**

Dr. DeBarge highlighted recent work: planning spending for remainder of year, updating revolving accounts charges and balances.

Mayor noted tight schedule of upcoming budget process.

### **V. Approval of Minutes**

**JW moved to approve draft minutes of December 8, 2021. GJM 2nd. Motion passed 6-0-1 (RW abstain).**

## **VI. Public Comment**

Emily Greene, Greenfield, noted high levels of stress among students, encouraged positive, non-punitive response.

Wendy Goodman, Greenfield, urged Committee to respond to community concerns, supports positive response such as restorative justice, peer mediation.

Carisa Clifford, Greenfield, shared concerns about policies influenced by NEA/MTA, advised community input on policies such as mask mandates.

Doug Selwyn, Greenfield, urged Committee to re-activate racial justice and redistricting efforts, suggested monthly community listening sessions.

## **VII. Reports**

### **A. Student Representatives**

S.T. and B.W. reported on activities and community service projects by GHS organizations, including Key Club's "free store" offering winter clothes, personal care items, non-perishable food; and winter sports (ice hockey, basketball). In response to pandemic, midterms cancelled, music concert postponed. Challenges continue with some students disregarding mask policy.

### **B. Administration Reports**

#### **1. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning**

Karin Patenaude summarized recent work including ELA and math curricula, staff PD, Beacon Learning program, elementary library audit. *(Details in written report.)*

#### **2. Superintendent**

Dr. DeBarge described recent work with FY23 budget preparations; staffing; COVID data, challenges and responses; providing meals for students out of school due to illness/quarantine; mental health supports, equity, anti-racism. *(Details in written report.)*

### **C. School Committee Reports**

#### **1. Chair (AP)**

AP testified in support of bills in MA legislature re: free meals in schools.

#### **2. GMS and GHS School Councils (JW)**

JW attends as School Committee representative; goal to listen to parents, students.

#### **3. Policy Subcommittee – GJM)**

GJM announced change in process, will begin with 1st reading at full Committee, then move to discussion in Subcommittee.

## **VIII. Appointment of School Committee Members to Subcommittees**

Chair Proietti asked members requesting changes in proposed subcommittee assignments to contact her; explained that MASC recommends not assigning Mayor to subcommittees.

**GJM moved to approve the subcommittee assignments for 2022 as presented, with the addition of Jean Wall as representative to School Councils. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **IX. Discussion of Proposed City Charter Changes**

SE moved to table. RW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

## **X. Donations**

**RW moved to approve donation from Jim Fotopulos for the purchase of elementary library materials. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

**SE moved to approve the donation of dictionaries for 3rd grade and 4th grade students in the Greenfield Public Schools by Greenfield Elks. 2nd JW. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **XI. Administrative Assistants Association 2021-2023 Full Contract**

Contract was approved in School Committee's executive session (July 14) and ratified by Administrative Assistants Association.

**JW moved to approve the contract between the Greenfield School Committee and the Administrative Assistants Association covering July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **XII. New Business**

GJM requested adding to upcoming agenda superintendent evaluation, goal-setting, strategic planning.

**XIII. Executive Session** pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements (approval of executive session minutes from November 10, 2021 and December 8, 2021 meetings). The committee will not return to Open Session.

RW moved to enter executive session. GJM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Entered executive session at 8:56 p.m. AP moved to adjourn public session. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

## **XIV. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned out of executive session. JW moved to adjourn. AP 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Farber  
Recording Secretary

## **Meeting Materials**

1. Agenda: January 12, 2022
2. Draft minutes: December 8, 2021
3. Superintendent's Update, January 12, 2022
4. Assistant Superintendent Update, January 12, 2022
5. Financial Reports:
  - a. Year-to-Date Budget, Jan. 3, 2022
  - b. Revolving Account Balances, Jan. 3, 2022
6. Testimony HB714/SB314 re: school meals, Amy Proietti, January 4, 2022

7. Contract between Greenfield School Committee and Administrative Assistants Association, July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023
8. Letter from Jim Fotopulos to Karin Patenaude, re: donation, December 16, 2021
9. Letter from Gary Clough, Greenfield Elks, to Dr. DeBarge re: donation, January 11, 2022
10. City Charter changes, Article 4 School Committee
11. Policy BDA School Committee Organizational Meeting
12. Subcommittee Assignments, January 2022