

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, February 9, 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);

Absent: Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

Also present: Shannon Collins, special educational team leader; Christine DeBarge, Superintendent; Jennie Horton, AEL teacher; Andy Paquette, TMS; Karin Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent; other school staff, citizens & the press

I. Call to Order

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

II. Grinspoon Award Winners

Dr. DeBarge introduced & praised this year's winners of the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards: Jennie Horton, AEL teacher; and Shannon Collins, special educational team leader.

III. Approval of Minutes

JW moved to approve draft minutes of January 12, 2022. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

Jayne Winell, GMS teacher, noted positive changes at GMS but requested more support & training for staff; supports extending public comment longer than 15 minutes.

Wendy Goodman, Greenfield, followed up on her recent comment & email to Committee, requesting better responses that go beyond minimum compliance.

V. Reports

A. Student Representatives

B.W. reported on activities, community service & fundraising projects by GHS organizations and winter sports.

B. Administration Reports

1. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Karin Patenaude summarized recent work on curriculum, professional development, Beacon Learning, mentoring, elementary school libraries. *(Details in written report.)*

2. Superintendent

Dr. DeBarge announced registration for preschool & kindergarten; described capital projects & facilities work, enrollment projections, planning for expiration of DESE mask mandate, FY23 budget, staff changes, volunteer opportunities. *(Details in written report.)*

Discussion:

Request for Supt. to provide data & information to prepare Committee for Covid policy decisions. Ending or continuing mask requirement is local decision.

C. School Committee Reports

1. Chair (AP)

None

2. Budget Subcommittee (SE)

New Subcommittee members have been trained on budget format.

Request for Supt. to compile list of various budget items related to social-emotional, equity, restorative justice programs.

VI. Budget Update

Andy Paquette, TMS, provided overview of February budget reports. \$648K for retroactive pay obligated by current union negotiations; no retroactive pay funds available for FY23. Support for City's Contract Stabilization Fund. Planning on how to use Student Opportunity Act funds.

VII. Social Justice & Community Connections Coordinator

Dr. DeBarge described new position.

SE moved to approve the Social Justice & Community Connections Coordinator job description as presented, with these additions: a statement encouraging people to apply even if they don't have all qualifications; include specific salary range; clarify full-time during academic year. KM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. 2022-2023 School Year Calendar

JW moved to approve the 2022-2023 school year calendar for Greenfield Public Schools, as presented. GJM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

Changing start/end times requires long-range planning, social justice/equity assessment, but would not necessitate changing calendar.

If fewer than 5 snows days, last day of school moves earlier.

Juneteenth holiday can affect schedule for last days of school.

Calendar has been reviewed by collective bargaining units.

IX. Superintendent's Evaluation

GJM moved to accept the Student Learning, Professional Practice & District Improvement goals proposed by the Superintendent as part of the Superintendent Evaluation process. ED 2nd.

Student Learning Goal:

An assessment of the current status of curriculum, instruction and assessment will be formulated during the 2021-2022 academic year, which will be used to identify strengths and needs of the academic and social/emotional programs impacting the learning of all students district-wide.

Professional Practice:

In order to plan and support an ongoing, institutional approach to educating students with trauma and from diverse perspectives, using trauma-informed practices, and to improve the experiences of students and families in our district, I will participate in district sponsored professional development regarding trauma and addressing equity and racism.

District Improvement Goals:

The superintendent will create an FY23 budget proposal that represents equitable provision of resources and services throughout the district and services intended to meet academic, social/emotional, health and safety needs of students and staff.

The superintendent will establish consistent process for addressing personnel related matters.

Provide support to district & building leaders in improving administrative problem-solving with families to address individual student needs.

Discussion:

Personnel goal may require discussions with bargaining units, but most would be internal systems. Noted that, unlike all other personnel issues, School Committee's evaluation of Superintendent is required to be public.

Motion passed unanimously.

X. Strategic Planning

SE moved that the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to initiate a Request for Proposals process for selecting a firm to assist with the development of a School Committee Strategic Plan. JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. Proposed Changes to City Charter

JW moved to table to a future meeting. AP 2nd. Delay in consideration of Mayor's inability to attend tonight's meeting. Noted that School Cte was left out of process. Because Mayor & City Council disagreed on recommendations, no changes will happen; topic seems moot. **Motion to table passed unanimously.**

XII. New Business (*request for items to be discussed at future meetings*)

Responding to public's requests for better access to meetings, ED suggests putting Supt. & Student reports in *Recorder*.

ED requests recording Subcommittee meetings.

VIII. Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 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; (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 January 12, 2022 meetings). The Committee will not return to Open Session.

JW moved to enter executive session. GJM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Entered executive session at 7:52 p.m. SE moved to adjourn public session. JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned out of executive session. GJM moved to adjourn. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

1. Agenda: February 9, 2022
2. Draft minutes: January 10, 2021
3. Superintendent's Update, February 9, 2022
4. Assistant Superintendent Update, February 9, 2022
5. Financial Reports:
 - a. Year-to-Date Budget, February 2, 2022
 - b. Revolving Account Balances, February 2, 2022
6. City Charter changes, Article 4 School Department
7. Excellence in Teaching Awards
8. NESDEC Enrollment Projection Data