

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING**  
**MINUTES: Tuesday, March 1, 2022**  
Greenfield High School, 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)

**Absent:** none

**Also present:** Christine DeBarge, Superintendent; Jennifer Hoffman, Greenfield Health Director; Andy Paquette, TMS; Karin Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent; Megan Tudryn, Greenfield Public Nurse; other school staff, citizens & the press

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

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

SE moved to change the agenda to first hear presentations on face coverings. JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

### **III. Face Covering Presentations**

Supt. DeBarge provided overview of expiration of DESE's mask requirement; current vaccination rates; GEA survey results.

Q&A with Jennifer Hoffman, Greenfield Health Director, and Megan Tudryn, Greenfield Public Nurse and discussion, including:

- Current cases in Greenfield 4 times higher than last year
- Supt. has been communicating with GEA. Are further negotiations with GEA needed?
- Should we set an infection level as trigger to reinstate masks? Challenges to getting reliable data for Greenfield (e.g., hospital often transfers Covid patients to Springfield); Greenfield health dept. has grant to gather reliable Covid data.
- Immunization of youngest children
- Additional efforts to encourage vaccination
- Noted reduction of flu, colds, etc. with masks
- 5-day isolation after start of symptoms is not adequate

### **II. Public Comment**

Mike Kuchieski, GPS Athletic Director, reported on winter sports, athletic program.

Brendan Leowolf, GHS teacher, offered reasons to remove mask requirement, including difficulties of teaching/learning with masks.

Carisa Clifford, Greenfield, noted lifting of Boston's vaccination requirement, argued that the School Committee lacked authority to govern.

Chair Proietti asked Ms. Clifford & others in line for public comment to wear masks, as required by school policy. No response.

On advice of counsel, Chair recommended adjournment. SE moved to adjourn. ED 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Farber  
Recording Secretary

**Meeting Materials**

1. Agenda: March 1, 2022
2. Greenfield Public Schools Notice of Budget Hearing with FY23 Superintendent's Budget
3. "Update on DESE Masek Requirements, memo from Jeffrey Riley, DESE Commissioner, February 9, 2022
4. "DESE/DPH Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios," memo from Jeffrey Riley, DESE Commissioner, January 31, 2022
5. GPS Policy EBCFA Face Coverings
6. GEA survey results