

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, April 13, 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)

Absent: None

Also present: Christine DeBarge, Superintendent; Andy Paquette, TMS; Karin Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent; Jessica Pollock, GPS Librarian, 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.

II. Approval of Minutes

RW moved to approve draft minutes of March 9 and March 14, 2022. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Edin Thompson, Greenfield, noted negative tone of School Committee meetings, spoke in support of public forums; asked for attention to security in schools & to School Committee's relationships with community & teachers; recommended Committee do a self-evaluation.

Doug Selwyn, Greenfield, spoke in support of community meetings & Fair Share Amendment; explained process for students grades 3-8 to opt out of MCAS.

JW moved to bring agenda item IX. "Vote to Declare Surplus Items: Books" to the top of the agenda. KM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Vote to Declare Surplus Items: Books

State-required process to remove surplus items. "Weeding" of Newton School library has been completed. Materials to be offered as donation or more likely recycled. Pursuing grant to continue work on other elementary & GMS libraries.

RW made a motion that the School Committee declares the books listed on the provided inventories as "Surplus." SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Reports: Student Representatives

S.T. reported on GHS activities, including upcoming Spanish Club trip to Spain, program with *This Book is Anti-Racist* author; changes in rules for hallway/bathroom passes.

V. Reports: Administration

A. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Karin Patenaude summarized recent work including field testing ELA curricula, PreK/K screening, professional development, grants, search for Newton principal. *(Details in written report.)*

B. Superintendent

Dr. DeBarge announced upcoming school events, start of NESDEC study, planning for wheelchair lift, and continued work on summer school, budget, technology, hiring. *(Details in written report.)*

VI. Reports: School Committee

A. Chair (AP)

None

B. Policy & Program Subcommittee (GJM)

1. Recording Subcommittee Meetings

GJM reported on Subcommittee's recent work on issue of recording subcommittee meetings. Request to bring two recommendations to Committee's May meeting:

- At start of all Committee & subcommittee meetings, chair reads script stating that anyone may make a recording and asking whether anyone present intends to record. This follows Open Meeting Law requirement.
- Direct GPS administration to make reasonable efforts to provide subcommittee meeting recordings until minutes are available. Superintendent would develop recording procedures.

Subcommittee moving ahead with Section C policies; 2nd reading at May meeting.

2. Second Reading & Vote: BEDH: Public Comment, DK: Payment Procedures

GJM moved to approve the second reading for both policies, BEDH: Public Comment, and DK: Payment Procedures, as presented. KM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. COVID-19 Testing Requirements for Athletes Playing for GPS Teams

School Committee policy in effect requires weekly pooled testing. Mass. requirement has been lifted. All GHS & GMS spring athletics are outside. Very few cases in district.

JW moved to repeal the COVID-19 testing requirements for student athletes in the district. SE 2nd. Motion passed 4-1-2 (No: ED; abstain: GJM, RW).

VIII. Budget Update

Andy Paquette, TMS, provided overview of April 1 budget reports. Circuit Breaker reimbursement request was rejected. Budget being updated to reflect many personnel changes.

X. Vote to Declare Surplus Items: Technology

RW moved to declare the technology listed on the provided inventories as "Surplus." GJM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. NESDEC Enrollment Projections

Discussion:

- Anticipate 0-3% decline in enrollment in next decade.
- Consistent numbers of students leave GPS for vocational-technical school, collaboratives, charter schools, out-of-district, private school; homeschool numbers up in 2021.
- Change in relationship between birth rate & enrollment
- Suggestion for exit interviews with parents leaving GPS
- Best practice for frequency of enrollment projections
- NESDEC will report in June, with guidance related to building use.

XII. Superintendent's Evaluation Follow-up

Presentation of Step 2 in evaluation process: specifying evidence sources to support the Superintendent's goals.

XIII. Public Forums/Listening Sessions

Consensus to pilot different times, sites, for community listening sessions, quarterly or every other month. Dr. DeBarge to create family survey to determine accessible day/time and topics. Survey results, planning to continue at May meeting.

XIV. Endorsement of Fair Share Amendment

GJM moved to table Fair Share Amendment until the May meeting. ED 2nd. Motion to table passed unanimously.

XV. New Business

Members requested these topics for future agendas:

- Review School Committee sections of City Charter for next iteration, including having student as full School Committee member
- School Committee self-evaluation
- Update from Superintendent on school environment, as follow-up to prior report re: behavior in initial return to in-person school

XVI. 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 March 9, 2022 meeting). The committee will not return to Open Session.

KM moved to enter executive session. ED 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Entered executive session at 8:08 p.m. GJM moved to adjourn public session. RW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

XVII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned out of executive session. SE moved to adjourn. RW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

1. Agenda: April 13, 2022
2. Draft minutes: March 9 & March 14, 2022
3. Policy BEDH Public Comment at School Committee Meetings; DK Payment Procedures
4. GPS Recycling: Tech equipment
5. Superintendent's Update, February 9, 2022
6. Assistant Superintendent Update, February 9, 2022
7. Financial Reports, April 1, 2022
8. Newton School: Library Weeding Log, Donated Books Being Weeded Out