

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, May 11, 2022**
Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St., Greenfield MA

Present: Elizabeth Deneve (ED); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Glenn Johnson-Mussad; (GJM); Kathryn Martini (KM) (*attending remotely*); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW)

Absent: Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

Also present: Christine DeBarge, Superintendent; Andy Paquette, TMS; Karin Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent; 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 6:06 p.m.

Chair Proietti announced that Marlo Warner, Greenfield DPW Director, is unable to attend tonight's meeting, relayed that Sanderson Street project will begin June 16, will not impact schools.

II. Approval of Minutes

JW moved to approve draft minutes of April 13, 2022. ED 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Mpress Bennu announced Juneteenth celebration (June 19) at Greenfield's Energy Park, a teach-in forum with free entertainment & food; hopes to involve teens.

IV. Reports: Student Representatives

S.T. reported on GHS activities, including upcoming math MCAS; Music Dept's spring concert & parade; spring sports & upcoming playoffs; students' trip to Spain a success; French Club planning trip to Quebec; 14 GHS students will attend Western MA Student Council conference.

V. Reports: Administration

A. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Karin Patenaude outlined recent work on curriculum efforts, PreK/K screening, professional development, grants, search for Newton principal, library assessments. (*Details in written report.*)

B. Superintendent

Dr. DeBarge described school events, on-going NESDEC facilities study, response to COVID increase, continued work on budget & staffing. (*Details in written report.*)

VI. Reports: School Committee

A. Chair (AP) – None

B. Policy & Program Subcommittee (GJM)

1. Second reading and vote: Sections C and D

GJM moved to accept Sections C (General School Administration) and D (Fiscal Management) as presented for the second reading. AP 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Policy review: Section F: Facilities Development

GJM moved to approve Section F, Facilities Development, as a first reading. AP 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Recording Announcement for School Committee Meetings

GJM moved that the School Committee adopt as a practice that chairs read the following script immediately after calling public committee and subcommittee meetings to order: “Per Open Meeting Law, any member of the public may make an audio or video recording of this meeting. Does anyone present intend to record this meeting?” ED 2nd.

GJM provided background of topic referred by Committee to Policy Subcommittee; Subcommittee’s discussion resulting in this proposed practice. Clarified this is not a policy.

AP called the question. Motion to end debate passed unanimously.

Motion passed 4-2 (Yes: ED, GJM, JW, KM; No: SE, AP).

4. Policy on recording subcommittee meetings

GJM moved that the School Committee direct the administration to make reasonable efforts to make audio or video recordings of all Greenfield School Committee and Subcommittee meetings available to the public until minutes are approved and posted on the gpsk12 website. ED 2nd.

Dr. DeBarge explained GCTV would likely need to charge for video-recording subcommittee meetings. GPS staff has capacity to audio-record, post on website until minutes are available.

Motion passed 5-1 (Yes: ED, GJM, SE, JW, KM; No: AP).

VII. Budget Update

Andy Paquette, TMS, presented May 4 budget reports. Continuing to review encumbrances, so figures aren’t final; expect ending positive balance between \$78K–\$205K. FY23 budget tight; need to cover retroactive raises; some revolving funds depleted. MUNIS clean-up, collaborative effort between City & School Committee, is continuing.

VIII. Business

A. Contract award for TMS Business Services

(Andy Paquette, TMS, left the meeting.)

AP presented results of RFP, which garnered only one response, from TMS.

SE moved that the School Committee award the Business Services contract to TMS, Inc. for FY23. JW 2nd.

Discussion: Some preference for in-house business manager. Difficulty in finding, affording qualified candidates. TMS monthly fee less than business manager cost. Suggestion to open search for business manager before next contract renewal.

Motion passed 5-0-1 (Abstain: ED).

B. Vote on senior class trip to High Meadows

JW moved that the School Committee authorize the Class of 2022 Senior Class Trip to High Meadows, as outlined. SE 2nd.

School Cte. approval required because trip is out of state. This is a traditional trip for GHS seniors. **Motion passed unanimously.**

C. Vote to participate in Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program

AP moved that the Greenfield School Committee approve district participation in the Community Eligibility Program. GJM 2nd.

Dr. DeBarge provided background: Federal funding for free breakfast & lunch during pandemic is ending. MA legislature discussing funding but outcome uncertain. GPS Food Service Director proposes applying for CEP support for all GPS schools. Providing meals for all students removes stigma to low-income students, reduces paperwork.

Motion passed unanimously.

D. Vote on School Choice seats

SE moved that the School Committee authorize the available 2022-2023 School Choice seats as recommended by the Superintendent. JW 2nd.

Cannot add more choice-in seats after declaration deadline of June 1. Elementary choice-in spots are at Federal Street School. Last year not all choice-in seats were filled. **Motion passed unanimously.**

E. Endorsement of Fair Share Amendment

GJM moved that the Greenfield School Committee endorse the resolution presented in support of passage of the Fair Share Amendment in the State of Massachusetts. ED 2nd.

Motion passed 5-1 (Yes: ED, GJM, SE, JW, KM; No: AP)

F. School Committee Self-Evaluation

SE moved to authorize the Chair to develop a self-evaluation tool for all elected School Committee members that is similar in scope and design to that provided by MASC. ED 2nd. Self-evaluation template provided by MASC. AP would work with TMS to develop survey for review at June meeting. Request for members to suggest additional topics for self-evaluation by May 18.

Specific responses are confidential, anonymous; collectively presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Request for new agenda items

None

X. 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; (4) To discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto. The committee will not return to Open Session.

SE moved to enter executive session. JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Entered executive session at 8:02 p.m. SE moved to adjourn public session. JW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned out of executive session. SE moved to adjourn. GJM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

1. Agenda: May 11, 2022
2. Draft minutes: April 13, 2022
3. April 2022 Enrollment Report
4. Superintendent's Report, May 11, 2022
5. Assistant Superintendent Update, May 11, 2022
6. Financial Reports, May 4, 2022
7. Policies: Section C, General School Administration; Section D, Fiscal Management; Section F, Facilities Development
8. Policy Subcommittee Meeting, Motions & References, March 31, 2022
9. School Choice Recommendations for 2022-2023
10. Enrollment Report, April 27, 2022
11. "Recommendation for Business Management Services for GPS," email from Laura Phelps, City Procurement Dept., to Christine DeBarge, May 10, 2022
12. Greenfield Public Schools School Committee Resolution in Support of the Fair Share Amendment
13. School Committee Self-Evaluation, MASC
14. Field Trip Request: Senior Class Trip
15. Parent Forum Scheduling Survey