

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, June 8, 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; Karin Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent; Student Representatives S.T. and B.W.; Karen LeDuc and Chris Malone, NESDEC (attending remotely); & citizens.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (ED, SE, GJM, KM, AP, JW, RW), Chair Proietti called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

JW moved to approve draft minutes of May 11, 2022. GJM 2nd. Motion passed 6-0-1 (RW abstain).

III. Public Comment – None

IV. Reports: Student Representatives

S.T. and B.W. reported on GHS activities, community service, spring sports, and Class of 2022 awards & graduation.

V. Reports: Administration

A. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Karin Patenaude outlined recent work on curriculum efforts including adoption of ELA curricula CKLA (K-5) and Amplify (6-7); professional development; grants; library assessment beginning at Federal Street School; conclusion of the year's mentoring program. *(Details in written report)*

B. Superintendent

Dr. DeBarge described school events, Summer Eats program; NESDEC facilities study; staffing work including hiring Darlene Rehor as Newton School principal & interviewing for Director of Technology position; acknowledged extraordinary work of staff this year. *(Details in written report)*

VI. NESDEC Study: Best Use of Educational Facilities

Chris Malone & Karen LeDuc of the NESDEC Project Team provided overview of demographic findings & enrollment projections; review of school facilities; and 4 options that include reconfiguring grades/buildings, redrawing map for elementary school assignments, physical upgrades to buildings and building additions. *(Presentation slides in meeting materials)*

Discussion:

- Green River School is included in only Option 3 to separate costs & challenges; opening Green River could be added to other options.
- Decisions to move grades must consider educational needs. What does research show for grade configuration (e.g., moving Grade 5 to elementary level) & who will have this information?
- Moving Grade 8 to middle school can open space at GHS building for electives, alternative programs, etc.
- Desire for School Committee members & City Councilors to tour buildings.

- Concern re: potential significant capital expenses; need for longer-term capital planning.
- Members to send follow-up questions to Superintendent; NESDEC team will reply in writing.
- Concern re: building/space challenges that affect students with disabilities.
- GHS, GMS have gender-neutral restrooms available.
- Moving central office would not improve school configurations, so not being considered.
- Next steps: Report reawakens issues including redrawing district map, start times for GMS/GHS. Relevant subcommittees will continue discussion.

VII. Reports: School Committee

A. Chair (AP)

Thanks to GCTV; thanks to School Committee members who attended graduation; congratulations to GHS track & volleyball athletes; special accolades to Melodie Goodwin, retiring principal of Newton School. Grateful for leadership of Superintendent DeBarge & Assistant Superintendent Patenaude.

B. Policy & Program Subcommittee (GJM)

GCTV recorded most recent Subcommittee meeting. Continuing to review policies with MASC. Policy on School Committee subcommittees is focus of upcoming discussion, requesting input from members & the public.

VIII. Budget Update

Discussion:

- Budget report currently shows ending FY22 with \$1.6million deficit. Plan underway to move \$ from revolving funds to general fund to fill deficit. Projecting final balance of \$200K in revolving accounts.
- Are ESSER funds available? ESSER I funding is almost completely expended. Unanticipated special education costs are not included in ESSER, must use general fund & special education revolving account. Ongoing review of designation & use of ESSER II and III funds.

IX. New Business

A. Pay Rate for Summer Food Service Workers

Intent is to keep summer rates consistent with school-year rates.

KM moved to increase the pay rate for Summer 2022 for our food service workers as outlined in the June 7 memo from Superintendent DeBarge. ED 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Sick Bank Structure

Change to GEA Unit A's Sick Bank structure would improve ability to respond quickly, reduce administrative work.

JW moved that the School Committee change from a subcommittee structure to a representative model for managing our responsibilities within the GEA Sick Leave Bank, which for this year designates Kathryn Martini as representative and Glenn Johnson-Mussad as alternate. RW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

C. International Trips

Intent is to allow detailed planning of trips to begin.

AP moved that the School Committee approve student travel in April 2023 for both the Montreal, Quebec, and Puerto Rico trips, as outlined in the submitted Field Trip Requests. GJM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

X. Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a): (2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; (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 April 13, 2022 and May 11, 2022 meetings). The committee will not return to Open Session.

RW moved to enter executive session. ED 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.
JW moved to adjourn public session. RW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.
Public session adjourned, entered executive session at 8:01 p.m.

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned out of executive session. RW moved to adjourn. GJM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Materials

1. Agenda: June 8, 2022
2. Draft minutes: May 11, 2022
3. Superintendent's Report, June 8, 2022
4. Assistant Superintendent Update, June 8, 2022
5. NESDEC: Best Educational Use of School Facilities Study, June 8, 2022
6. GHS Field Trip Request: Puerto Rico
7. GHS Field Trip Request: Montreal
8. Memo from Christine DeBarge to School Committee, "Request to increase summer food worker rates," n.d.
9. Financial Reports, June 1, 2022