Greenfield School Committee
Community Engagement Sub-Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2026

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1. Call to Order:
   The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. via Zoom.

   MG read the Chair Statement relative to meeting recordings.

2. Roll Call of Members:
   Present: Melodie Goodwin, Chair (MG), Jeffrey Diteman (JD), Mayor Virginia DeSorgher (VD)

   Also present: Carol Kruser, Superintendent of Schools

3. Public Comment:
   There were no members of the public present for comment at this time.

4. Approval of Sub-Committee Minutes – July 6, 2026:
   On a motion by VD, 2nd by JD, the minutes were approved as presented. The roll call vote was unanimous.

   On a motion by JD, 2nd by VD, the sub-committee voted to move agenda item #7 "Other Topics for the Sub-Committee to Address" to the top of the agenda for discussion with the superintendent as she had other obligations this evening. The roll call vote was unanimous.

   CK shared she has been doing a considerable amount of work to address the feedback she has received from our School Committee and community members relative to our communication initiatives. She recently had a very productive conversation with Andy Brown, our communications consultant, to discuss the work that is being done on a monthly basis, as well as what other communication services he can provide. As a result, he drafted a very comprehensive plan that will be presented to the full School Committee in September. CK noted she wanted to afford this sub-committee the opportunity to discuss the plan ahead of the presentation to the full School Committee as it relates to enhancing community engagement. The plan includes sharing out the following:

   - Celebrating our successes
   - Positive news/events in our buildings
   - Academic accomplishments
   - Website upgrades/ADA compliance
   - Newsletters – Consistency throughout the district
   - Crisis communications - Ongoing priority

   CK stated that although there is need for transparency, clarity is also a necessity.

   Plan content and work expectations were addressed, but they will be fully outlined at the September full School Committee meeting.

   VD welcomed the community member for joining the meeting and offered them time to comment, but there was no response to the offer.

   CK left the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

   On a motion by MG, 2nd by JD, the sub-committee voted to suspend Robert's Rules of Order to conduct discussion. The roll call vote was unanimous.

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Discussion relative to the correlation of our sub-committees, the number of existing sub-committees, and the time and commitment necessary to serve on each, while also working full-time and maintaining family/personal matters, ensued.

The sub-committee members shared the following project ideas:
Physical improvements:

- The greenhouse at Four Corners School is now being used as a storage area for old desks, etc., and is overgrown with ivy and bittersweet – Perhaps this could be a community project to dismantle it and donate it to a local farm or rehabilitate it for another use on the grounds (JD)
- MG stated she would love to see Four Corners go back to where it was with the intention to teach children discovery through collaboration with Just Roots or other community partnerships
- Town commerce sign (Elks, Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis, Rotary Club) at the Four Corners playground needs repair, if possible, or removal (JD) – VD will make calls to determine ownership of the sign – JD offered to assist in the repair, if necessary
- Newton and Federal Street crosswalk repairs (MG) – VD stated she will work to coordinate those projects
- Federal Street School sign improvement, i.e. paint, etc. (JD) – Perhaps our hired summer help could accomplish this task
- Landscaping in the front entrance at Newton School and our other schools (MG) – She will ask CK to look into the option of having our current landscaping company clean up and add some life to those areas as well

MG thanked the community member again for joining them and spending their time with this sub-committee this evening.

5. Discussion for Creating a Year-Long Agenda/Calendar:
   Discussion on enrollment, buildings, staff, and programming ensued.

   Also discussed:
   - Options to engage with families to determine why they may be leaving the district to attend other schools, and how we can assist them to remain in district
   - Survey to reach out to families relative to their input on closing/merging a school, and also their priorities for our district - Members will bring some survey questions and material to the next meeting - JD offered to attempt a draft survey for review by this sub-committee

6. Discussion Regarding Ways for the Sub-Committee to Engage the Community:
   Discussion on this topic took place in the prior agenda item.

7. Other Topics for the Sub-Committee to Address:
   This item was moved toward the top of the agenda earlier in the meeting, via roll call vote.

8. Schedule Next Sub-Committee Meeting:
   It was the consensus of this sub-committee to schedule the next meeting on September 14 at 8:00 p.m. via Zoom.

9. Adjournment:
   On a motion by VD, 2nd by JD, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Approved:

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