

GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2009-2010 BUDGET

Minutes

February 26, 2009

Voted and approved April 9, 2009

The hearing was held in the Greenfield Middle School auditorium and was called to order after a roll call vote of the committee, with a quorum present, at 7:21 p.m.

Present: Chairman Dalton Athey; committee members: Greg Aubin, Maryelen Calderwood, Doris Doyle, Donovan Eastman, John Lunt. Also present, Interim Superintendent Hollins, school administrators, and approximately 30 members of the public including the press.

Public comment:

Chairman Athey opened the meeting, welcomed the audience, and pointed out budget handouts that were available to the public. He gave several guidelines for comments, e.g. keeping questions and comments pertinent to the draft, proposed budget.

A total of seven (7) parents, teachers and community leaders addressed the committee: Paula Bell, Federal Street teacher; Julie Kimball, Federal Street teacher; Cathi Chapman, GMS teacher; Denise Petrin, GMS teacher; Jen Bresciano, Newton Street parent and PTO member; Pam Kinsmith, Newton Street parent; Chris Joseph, Federal Street parent and town councilor.

Referring to the budget notations, a question was posed regarding administrative and janitorial coverage and budget for Four Corners, should it open. Several grade 8 teachers questioned the move of grade 8 to the high school; elementary teachers questioned a plan to move any classes this next year. One parent questioned the cost of re-opening Four Corners. Another parent had high praise for the "Strings for Kids" program, asked that there be more music instruction as part of regular classroom learning, even if this was primarily elementary chorus, and suggested that the budget for marketing be increased. The district has improved enormously compared to the start of the academic year; the hope is that the turmoil of last year not be repeated.

The budget hearing was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Day
Recording Secretary