

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

April 8, 2010

6:00 p.m. Library, Greenfield High School

Approved May 13, 2010

Present: Chairperson Doris Doyle (DD): Committee Members: Dalton Athey (DA), Maryelen Calderwood (MC), Keith McCormic (KM) Marcia Day (MD), Mayor William Martin (MM). Also **Present:** Superintendent Susan Hollins, School Attorney Peter Smith, Esq., members of the teachers' association and school department and city administrators.

I. Call to Order: With a quorum present, Chairperson Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes:

1. March 11, 2010 – **Tabled until next meeting**
2. March 25, 2010 – **Tabled until next meeting**

III. Reports:

- **Chair:**
 - Home Show dates are April 17th & 18th. School Committee will have a booth. Chair asked for volunteers.
- **Superintendent:** Report included:
 - Recognition for Greenfield teachers who are Grinspoon Award recipients;
 - Greenfield Education Foundation, comprised of members of Greenfield's business community, is stepping up with support for the schools.
 - Enrollment is inching up; currently at 1,560 total
 - As of April 8, approx. 106 children registered for kindergarten so far
 - Copies of booklet describing school changes in 2009-2010 will help the community know what is currently going on in their schools. Planned is sharing the 52-page booklet with businesses with parent traffic and also parents
 - Met with state advisors about Extended Learning Program Grant Program; statewide ELT program funding uncertain at this time
 - Administrators met recently and reviewed policies surrounding student behaviors/bullying/discipline. All administrators and teachers are committed to prevention and rapid response Will give suggestions to policy committee for review
 - Recently completed survey of teachers to understand what the materials are used in grades K-7 to teach Social Studies; Social Justice; Civic Education. Goal is to give attention to improving curriculum and instruction in this academic area.
 - Volunteer Program is up and running and making great strides
 - Added a math teacher at the middle school through grant funding to review/evaluate test scores of individual students and provide math instruction
 - Currently have 22 fee free varsity sports. Seeing higher enrollment in certain sports
 - Strategic Planning subcommittee met and discussed broad goals for instruction.
 - Grades 6-7 project is developing a new cooperative community history, outdoor exercise program to begin in the spring
 - Recognition for the ease the new business manager, Liz Gilman, has had becoming an integral part of the central office team.

MC asked that in lieu of recent events at the middle school, she would like a little more details about the policies reviewed, who reviewed, how they would be brought forward, etc. SH reiterated the review process; noted that the next sub-committee meeting was scheduled for April 12 at 6:00 p.m.

MD asked that committee follow the agenda; that the topic would be revisited during the sub-committee reports.

- **Other Reports:**

- High School Renovation Project, Mayor Martin. He has been in communication with SBA. All Greenfield committee members have accepted appointments, have been approved by the state, and have been forwarded to the Town Council for its approval. Members include Civil Engineer, Professional Engineer, Certified Resident Engineer, Certified Business Manager, Procurement Officer, Superintendent, and Mayor. Next step will be appointment of a Construction Project Manager which the SBA will appoint. Time table from now to check receipt from the state is estimated at one year
- Education Collaborative, Calderwood: Next meeting is in May
- Municipal Conference and Franklin County Caucus: Day/McCormic reported on Senator Stan Rosenberg's Municipal conference, followed by the Franklin County School Committee Caucus. Previous data collection efforts from 18 different FC communities re: region's education problems were handed off to the Caucus for review and suggestions for collaborative solutions. A summit is planned for November. KM mentioned that Mitchell Chester and Paul Reville both spoke about forced regionalization...most SC folks are against this. Would rather work voluntarily to collaborate on issues
- Policy Committee, Day: Policy work calls for a two-step process for adoption, revision, or rescission—a first reading for wording, and the a 2nd reading for adoption. Student citizenship policies are on schedule further into the year. The Committee and members discussed behaviors related to student discipline and suggested a forum to educate the community on these topics. **MM moved to request Superintendent and Chair to coordinate public forum; Unanimous**
- Negotiations and Strategic Planning, Lunt: JL was not present. Update tabled.

IV. Business:

1. Innovation Schools, (attachment); MGL 71, §92...SH reviewed new legislation, outlining the process of adopting Innovation Schools. She noted that Innovation Schools are locally approved and the schools do not need state approval.
2. Innovation and Sustainability City Plan for Utilities; MM introduced the city's plan to take over heat and electricity in 2010-2011 and to remove all funds in the proposed 2010-2011 budget and transfer same to the city's budget. Greenfield has been approved as the state's first "green community" and lowering consumption through careful monitoring is a goal.
3. Communication with GEA (Attorney) about Open Communication: PS requested to defer to all comments on this topic to non public session
4. Policies: Each policy being reviewed for revision was read out loud by Marcia Day.
 - a. AA: School District Legal Status, 1st Reading for Revision; removed duplicate "and" from first paragraph.
 - b. AB: The People and Their School District, 1st Reading for Revision: first sentence change "...rests with the state,..." to "...rests with the people as vested in the state,..." ; keep word "through" (state law.)
 - c. AC: Nondiscrimination, 1st Reading for Revision: Spell out Greenfield Public Schools throughout (vs. GPS); under item a. include "creed"
 - d. ACA: Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex, 1st Reading for Revision: Recommended for Rescission

- e. BA: School Committee Objectives, 1st Reading for Revision; First sentence, remove “long-term”; second paragraph, last sentence; replace “It...” with “The committee...”
 - f. BAA: Self-Evaluation of School Committee Performance, 1st Reading for Revision; no comments
 - g. BB: School Committee Legal Status, 1st Reading for Revision: Remove Article 4, §41 wording; change “Established by law..” to “Established by the Charter of Greenfield and supported by state law.”
 - h. BBA: School Committee Powers and Duties, 1st Reading for Revision; under #1. PS suggested using the wording from statute; under item #3. add “the signing of bill warrants and other documents for the releasing of public funds”; under item #6, include regional and collaborative...”
 - i. BGB: Policy Adoption, Second Reading and Adoption. **Motion by MM to adopt as written; KM 2nd. Unanimous. Motion passes**
- 5. Fundraising, Calderwood: Tabled to next meeting
 - 6. Head Injury and Sports: Mayor Martin and Coach Michael Kuchieski spoke about the need to pursue extra protection to prevent sports related brain injury. Discussion ensued about pros and cons of new helmet technology and the need to adequately train coaches to recognize symptoms of head trauma. The Superintendent advised that the AD requested 40 new-technology helmets (\$12,000) and these have been ordered. No action needed.
 - 7. Superintendent Journal, Calderwood: Tabled to Next Meeting
 - 8. Future Goals – Tabled to next meeting
 - 9. Middle School/High School Start Times For School Day – Tabled to next meeting

V. Public Comment (none) . .

VI. Other - None

VII. Non-public session **Motion MC; KM2nd: To enter Executive Session under MGL Ch 39 § 23B (3) to discuss strategy in preparation for contract negotiations with non-union personnel; Roll call...unanimous. Moved into Executive Session at 8:20 p.m**

VIII. Adjournment