

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

April 22, 2010

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

Approved May 13, 2010

Present: Chairperson Doris Doyle (DD): Committee Members: Dalton Athey (DA), John Lunt, Mayor William Martin (MM), Marcia Day (MD) – arrived 6:44 p.m. Also Present: Superintendent Susan Hollins, and members of the faculty, administration, and press.

I. Call to Order: With a quorum present, Chairperson Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes:

1. March 11, 2010 Tabled until next meeting
2. March 25, 2010 Tabled until next meeting
3. April 8, 2010 Tabled until next meeting

III. Reports:

- **Chair:**

- Bullying forum: DD noted that “several communities in the area are holding bullying forums right now.” Recommended waiting until late September, early October then hosting, in cooperation with Town Council Committee chairs and other community groups, a series of presentations on bullying and underlying cultural issues. September/October was suggested.
 1. MM requested to the Superintendent that principals address SC at the next meeting on what is being done in each school regarding bullying.
 2. MM also requested review of new legislation.

- **Superintendent:**

- Administrators met recently and reviewed policies surrounding student behaviors/bullying/discipline. All administrators and teachers are committed to prevention. Will give suggestions to policy committee for review
- Enrollment for next year: K enrollment (at 109 as of 4/22) is high for this time of year. Currently, there are kindergarten students, the largest class in many years. At the HS level, we are working to expand math and science courses. Data shows that students who take an AP course in high school have a greater success in completing college.
- Budget: Current balance is \$709,000. We end the year within budget. Working with city to plan. Current union negotiations need to be settled by June 30 if there is any expectation of using any funding balance toward a settlement. Grant funding for 2010-2011 is up in the air.
- TV studio at the high school should be operational by September.
- Reviewing curriculum; working to introduce community theater throughout all grade levels
- Looking at creating a program for grades 6 and 7 that incorporates outdoor adventure and community history. There is a grant we can use for program development and I've earmarked something unique for grades 6 and 7.
- Virtual School administration regulations will be voted by the State Board of Education in June.
- Need to declare number of openings per grade (choice numbers) to submit to the state. There was general agreement that we should have seats available and a capacity plan for all the students in Greenfield. After much discussion it was decided to have two scenarios: **JL moved; DA 2nd:To notify the state that we have (a) 790 slots for choice in (the number of students currently choiced out) and 400-600 slots for the Virtual School of Greenfield (b) If the Superintendent**

finds that option A would have any negative consequences to the declaration (in option a, above) then the school committee declares it has 300 seats for choice in to physical schools and 400-600 spaces available for the virtual school. Passed. Unanimous.

- **Committees:**

- a. Strategic Goals (John Lunt):

- Next meeting Wednesday, April 28th @ 6:00 p.m.
 - Strategic focus is to become a full “Innovation District” giving the district more local control
 - Currently 3 Innovation School proposals: Virtual School; 8th Grade Academy; Discovery School at Four Corners
 - Goal is to get all schools to be Innovation Schools within the next few years as there is an incredible amount of energy
 - Need to bring recommendations to the School Committee.

- b. Negotiations (Doris Doyle, John Lunt, Susan Hollins):

- Teachers: Active negotiations; most recent proposal being presented
 - Paraprofessionals – Settled last year; meeting scheduled.
 - Custodians – Currently going through entire master agreement to work out provisions
 - Cafeteria Workers – being scheduled
 - Administrative Assistants – being scheduled

- c. School Building/SBA (Mayor Martin):

- Updated committee members on HS renovation project. All Greenfield committee members have accepted appointments, have been approved by the state, and have been forwarded to the Town Council for their 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 with guidance from the SBA; then on to design...

- d. Policy (Marcia Day) – See policies under Business. Next meeting is April 27th.

IV. Business:

1. Update on Virtual School
2. Policies for second reading and adoption: **JL motioned; DA 2nd:To accept and adopt revised policies with the exception of ACA which is recommended for rescission; and BBA which is tabled; Passed unanimously**
 - AA: School District Legal Status
 - AB: The People and Their School District
 - AC: Nondiscrimination
 - ACA: Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex: **Recommended for Rescission**
 - BA: School Committee Objectives
 - BAA: Self-Evaluation of School Committee Performance
 - BB: School Committee Legal Status
 - BBA: School Committee Powers and Duties (**tabled – need to get appropriate language from MGL**)
3. Future Goals – Passed.
4. Middle School/High School Start Times For School Day - Much discussion about the ramifications of such a change. The Superintendent said the there would need to be a study of all the details in all the contracts (personnel, transportation) that would have to change.

Mayor Martin said everyone wakes at different times depending on the culture, e.g. the military wakes members at 4:00 a.m. All members agreed to continue discussion at a future meeting.

V. Public Comment:

- Nancy Conant; 7th grade math teacher; asked about the grant she'd heard about for an adventure program in grade 6 and 7. Asked SH for a copy of the Outdoor Education Grant; and said teachers should be involved in decisions about their schools. MM and SH provided additional information to address her concerns. The Superintendent said the term "innovative" to describe a school is used often now because there is a new law allowing for "Innovation Schools."

VI. Other - None

VII. Non-public session, if needed. **MM motioned, JL2nd: To move to Executive Session under MGL Ch 39 § 23B (3) to discuss strategy in preparation for contract negotiation with non-union personnel; Roll call...unanimous. Moved into Executive Session at 8:12 p.m.**

The Committee came out of non-public session at 9:00 p.m.

VIII. Mayor Martin motioned; M.Day 2nd: To adjourn. Unanimous; motion passes.
The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Recording Secretary
Audrey LaBonte