

GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES

August 13, 2009

Approved September 10, 2009

Present: Committee members Athey, Lunt, Martin, McCormic. Also present, Attorney Smith, Interim Superintendent Hollins, Administrators, members of the public and press.

1. Call to Order:

With a quorum present, Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Martin; 2nd McCormic: To approve the minutes of May 14th, 2009.

Passed: 3:1 (Athey abstained as he was not present)

Motion by McCormic/2nd Martin: To approve the minutes of July 9, 2009.

Passed: 3:1 (Athey abstained)

Motion by Athey/2nd Lunt: To approve the minutes of July 30, 2009.

Passed: Unanimous.

3. Reports

The Vice Chairman provided brief comments about positive observations in the school and in special education. The superintendent discussed the virtual school and new developments with the Department of Education. The Superintendent, Mayor, and chairperson met as a steering committee and through a virtual school conference call shared information with K12, legislators, and the school's attorney.

The consensus of the steering committee was to encourage the school committee to move forward with the virtual school initiative, using virtual curriculum within our existing schools and programs, and also to work with the Department of Education on their expressed concerns about money and legislation. The goal is addressing the legislative issues promptly, by December 2009, this legislative session.

Mayor Martin discussed the importance of continuing the virtual school initiative and working with legislators for support. At the meeting on August 26th he also thinks Greenfield should work with DESE but while maintaining and moving forward with out-of-state students and local students as well. He also encouraged working through legislative issues.

Motion by McCormic; 2nd Mayor Martin: **To ratify the action of the virtual school steering committee to unanimous consent.** Passed. Unanimous.

4. Progress with School Opening—reports from principals

High School: Associate Principal James Mullevey spoke to the committee in Principal Woodcock's absence and gave a verbal tour of the high school, mentioning all the

upgrades and updates. He discussed the art room, computer upgrades, smart boards going into classrooms, the computer service room being air conditioned, replacing some old air conditioners, replacing the front walk, 8th-grade rooms being renovated, etc.

Hollins mentioned that the funding sources involve both old and new capital borrowing, particularly computer upgrades and work on bathrooms. The committee thanked Mr. Mullevey for his comments.

Middle School: Principal Tashjian spoke about the changes he's seen at the middle school—programs, painting, upgrading the technology career lab, resuming woodworking, and planning for wonderful programs through the extended day program.

At 7:45 p.m. Maryelen Calderwood arrived.

In response to a question from Mr. Athey, Mr. Tashjian discussed the Extended Learning Time grant. Mr. Athey expressed his support for the middle school providing instruction in Mandarin Chinese.

5. New Business

- a. Middle School Name: Motion by McCormic/2nd Martin: To rename the Greenfield Middle School the Beacon School. Mayor Martin explained that he has put forward an ordinance for naming buildings.
Motion delayed on the table. Mr. McCormic then requested the motion be referred to the strategy committee. Motion by Lunt/2nd Calderwood: **To table the discussion of renaming Greenfield Middle School.** Passed. Unanimous.
- b. Subcommittee on Policy. Has had a first meeting and discussed broad themes. The next meeting will be Tuesday the 18th of August.

6. Public Comment. None

7. Choice Compliance. Pass

8. Member Comments: Meeting schedules need to be clarified and carefully posted. The committee's meeting calendar should be on the city's website.

9. Email: Motion by McCormic/2nd Lunt: **To direct the superintendent to create a single email alias for the school committee.** Passed. Unanimous

Marcia Day entered at 8:33 p.m. Six members are now present.

There's a request for changes in school programs and locations to be on the next agenda.

10. Executive Session. Motion by Calderwood to enter executive session. The roll call vote showed 5:1 vote in support. After discussion about the purpose of the non-public session, Calderwood withdrew her motion. The 2nd was withdrawn

11. Adjournment: Motion by Athey/ 2nd McCormic: To adjourn
Passed. Unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Hollins
Interim Superintendent of Schools