

GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES

August 27, 2009 Work Session
6:00 p.m. Davis Street Building

Approved September 10, 2009

Present: Chairperson Doyle; Committee Members Calderwood, Day, Lunt, Martin. Also present: Interim Superintendent Hollins and School Attorney Smith. Administrator Kathi Titus to discuss special education programs, the press and members of the public.

I. Call to Order:

With a quorum present, Chairperson Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Keith McCormic arrived at 6:07 p.m.

II. Discussion Topics

A. Parking and Traffic Flow at Four Corners School

M. Calderwood raised the topic of parking on the street and said the former principal had successfully reworked parking without using street parking. The Superintendent will check on this.

B. Grade 8 Academy. Discussion of readiness of space and proposed program. No action taken.

C. 2009-2010 Start-up Status/Planning of All Schools. The Superintendent discussed the status of start-up of all school. M. Calderwood said that letters were needed for elementary parents. Hollins said they had sent letters to grades K and 1 and she thought other grades, but would check. Mayor Martin visited Four Corners Elementary and said the school was “stunning” and in particular was impressed with the open learning center as you enter. Board members will be greeters for school opening and each who was free took a school (Doyle/Newton; Lunt/GMS; Day/Federal Street; Calderwood/Four Corners; Athey/8th-grade Academy; Martin/High School.)

D. Use of School Buildings: Buildings used in 2009-2010 reviewed. Administrator Kathi Titus was present to discuss use of Green River School and the goal of providing students more opportunities for inclusion. When students are deemed ready for more inclusion, the Green River location poses logistical hurdles. The pros of using the Green River school building do not outweigh the challenges there, according to Titus. Now that the modular buildings are refurbished, the rooms there are spacious and provide a separate location. These classrooms also allow extensive educational opportunities for students through access to high school programs. Question: Schedule for building payments and waiver if building is not used all year. McCormic suggests letting building be inactive but keeping it for future school or community

use. Lunt suggests and Calderwood and Martin agree that the Green River School should continue to be used as a school. Discussion is framed: "If the Green River School is vacant on or about October 1st the committee will use the time available to create an exciting program for the school system with renovations planned for the spring." Discussion: program relocation opinion, inefficient heating system currently at this facility, need for a year to undergo renovation while committee explores options for future use, sensibility of having special programs closer to peers, the three different programs located at Green River and the 3 different plans under consideration for each. Next agenda to discuss buildings renovation projects for 2009-2010.

- E. Readiness School Initiative. The Readiness School Initiative legislation has not yet passed. Twenty-two schools are in the application/planning pool, including a planning grant in Greenfield for three schools. The planning grant received is for \$15,000. DESE held a conference call with districts planning the 22 schools.

At 7:04 p.m. there was a break until 7:12 p.m.

Following the break, Attorney Smith clarified that the special education administrator has management responsibility to move programs including from building to building. The issue is "if" you are providing services students require, including inclusion, not so much "where."

Regarding the grievance hearing schedule for tonight, the chair should clarify the reason for the grievant's representative not showing up and provide a letter of closure unless the reason requires otherwise.

- F. Policy Subcommittee: Marcia Day will convene meetings every other Wednesday evening.
- G. Superintendent Evaluation: A protocol was shared—a method that could be used for 2009-2010, and perhaps beyond that has goals set in the summer, a review in January and February. The chairperson will appoint a Superintendent's Evaluation Committee of Chair, Vice Chair, and one other.
- H. Charter Change Recommendation: For the next school committee meeting include discussion of a charter school recommendation that any Mayor "may or may not" be chair of the school committee so this is not a continuing confusion.
- I. Executive Session to Discuss Personnel, request of Calderwood.
- J. Motion by Keith McCormic; 2nd Lunt: To adjourn first by pausing for a moment of silence for Ted Kennedy. The group paused for a moment of silence and then adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Hollins
Interim Superintendent of Schools