

GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

GCTV Studio

Thursday, September 10, 2009

MINUTES

Approved November 12, 2009

Present: Chairperson Doris Doyle; members Athey, Calderwood, Day, McCormic, Lunt. Also present: Superintendent Hollins, School Attorney Smith, administrators, and members of the press and public.

- I. Call to Order: With a quorum present, Chair Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. To accommodate personnel and since the station is not broadcasting at 6:00 p.m. due to the county fair, the Non-public Session will be taken up first.
- II. Non-Public Session: Motion by Calderwood; 2<sup>nd</sup> Athey: To enter non-public session for the purpose of matters relating to personnel. Roll Call Vote: Yes by all members present. The school committee entered non-public session at 6:20 p.m. Committee Member Martin arrived at 6:21 p.m. A personnel matter was discussed.

Motion by Mayor Martin; 2<sup>nd</sup> Athey: To instruct the Superintendent to create a letter compatible with the agreed to remedy to the GEA. A motion to call the motion by the Mayor fails for lack of a 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion to Call the question by McCormic; 2<sup>nd</sup> Athey. Motion passes. Unanimous by roll call vote of the 7 members.

Motion by Mary Martin; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lunt: To re-enter Public Session. Unanimous by roll call vote.

- III. The committee re-entered public session at 7:42 p.m.  
Reports: The Superintendent reported on the opening of the Greenfield Schools. She said they had customary school-opening difficulties with transportation routes, last minute personnel changes, and new program start-ups, but overall the opening of the Greenfield schools was positive and one of the best openings many people can remember. People seem quite appreciative of the effort to clean and update the schools. The 8<sup>th</sup>-grade Academy opened very well as did the re-opening of the Four Corners Elementary. Students seem to like their teachers. Teachers seem positive. Administrators are all busily working out details of school opening. Brief committee reports were presented on status of the Franklin County School Committee Caucus, strategic planning, and policy committees, which continue to meet. No action taken.

- IV. Minutes:  
Motion by Athey; 2<sup>nd</sup> McCormic: **To approve the minutes of August 13, 2009.**  
Discussion/changes: 1) “by” unanimous consent. Passed with 1 Abstention.  
Calderwood.

Motion by Athey; 2<sup>nd</sup> McCormic: **To approve minutes of the August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009, work session.** Discussion/changes: 1) page 2. “every other Wednesday evening...”  
2) “subcommittee,” not “committee” 3) at “i” to “discuss” not “discussion.”  
Passed with 1 abstention. Athey (not present).

V. Virtual School. The chair, with committee approval, moved the agenda to accommodate Attorney Smith. Attorney Smith addressed the committee giving his review of the amendment for the virtual school contract. He said this agreement is for services and hybrid programs. He had three areas of concern which he discussed and has brought to K12's attention and these details are being changed. He said he would "recommend these two contracts for approval" (with the adjustments he's requested). K12 is going to give Greenfield 100 courses with no cost for this year. The pilot program would cap costs at approx. \$25,000. Mayor Martin clarified his research into sole source services and said his findings were favorable, based on the official ruling he received. Chairperson Doyle said the virtual school steering committee would review these documents. After discussion, Motion by Lunt; 2<sup>nd</sup> McCormic: **Move that the school committee pursue with Senator Rosenberg and Representative Donelan a legislative remedy to the current process with DESE regarding the ability of Greenfield to pilot a virtual school.** Passed. 5:1 Calderwood abstained. The chair did not vote.

VI. Reports, continued

Chairperson: The music department at Greenfield Middle School wants to start a jazz band and needs 3 tenor saxophones. They found a plethora of instruments in the attic and the Dollar Club is paying \$720 to recondition the instruments. The teacher would like a xylophone.

Add'l Comments by the Superintendent on H1N1 Flu Preparations. School and city personnel are working together, following state Department of Public Health guidelines. The protocol to follow is developed and advanced by the state. Within the schools, nurses work together with faculty and oversee hygiene of bathrooms and water fountains. M. Calderwood explained a related presentation she attended at UMass.

Process for Establishing Goals for this Year The Superintendent mentioned that actions of the committee have actually set out broad goals/initiatives for 2009-2010: Strategic Planning, Building Renovations & ESCOs, Evaluations, Virtual School, Policy Review; Energy Efficiencies; Strategies to become Green, to name a few. Member Athey suggested measurable goals related to achievement. M. Calderwood suggested a retreat.

Strategic Planning: Mr. Lunt said he expects to report on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. He wants to bring others into the process as this is a big project and it needs a lot of perspective.

Negotiations Committee: Mr. Athey would like the negotiations committee to meet with Attorney Smith. Committee = Athey, Doyle, Mayor Martin.

VII: Old Business, continuing

Franklin County Fair. Briefly discussed. No action taken.

Schedules for subcommittees. Briefly discussed. No action taken.

VIII. New Business

Renaming Greenfield Middle School: Motion by McCormic; 2<sup>nd</sup> Calderwood; (regarding renaming Greenfield Middle School for Edward Kennedy—enter the statement into the record)

Discussion. Respectful; Disrespectful; reminder that the city is considering a naming ordinance; clarification of which body names the schools; the school committee is capable of naming its schools; “Kennedy is a person who has had a profound impact on our civic landscape—he is a good example of the kind of American children should learn about, a family of immigrants, many troubles, dedicated service...” Motion by Lunt; 2<sup>nd</sup> Athey: To postpone this decision until the next meeting. Discussion: Calderwood would like the law checked to see if the law allows the committee to name school buildings. Passed 5:1. McCormic abstained.

Building Renovation Projects: Current renovations are great to see but the high school needs a major renovation. Hollins reported that she and Lane Kelly submitted updated documents. Mayor Martin discussed a different avenue for school renovation funding; he is in the pre-application phase doing fact-gathering and putting together information to submit an application.

Proposal for Charter Change: Motion by Athey; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lunt: **To request a charter change so the Mayor has the option of serving as school committee chairperson.** Discussion: the committee chairperson should not have divided loyalties; the committee should consider the importance of separation of authorities; the change would not require the Mayor to be chairperson or make this automatic. Passed: 5:1 Opposed. McCormic.

- IX: Other: Superintendent Evaluation  
Chairperson Doyle stated that Lunt, Doyle, and Day were appointed to a Superintendent Evaluation Committee.
- X. Motion to Adjourn by Athey; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mayor Martin: Passed. Unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Hollins