

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

**November 12, 2009 Regular Session
6:00 p.m. Greenfield High School Library**

Approved January 14, 2010

Present: Chairperson Doyle & members Athey, Day, Calderwood, Lunt, McCormic Martin, Also present: Interim Superintendent Hollins, Attorney Smith; district employees, members of the public, students, and the press. Chair Doyle had to leave just before the meeting started.

- I. Call to Order: Vice Chairperson Lunt presiding and called the meeting to order at **6:05 p.m.**

- II. Minutes: **Motion by Calderwood; 2nd Athey: To pass minutes to the next meeting.
Passed. Unanimous.**

- III. Reports:
Chair: Turned over to Superintendent.
Superintendent: The Superintendent reviewed the recent School Building Authority visit and walk through at Greenfield High School. The consulting architect for the SBA thought the building was very well designed. Mayor Martin clarified that the ceiling for reimbursement of facility costs is 80%.
Policy: Pass
Strategic Planning: Pass
HEC Participation: Calderwood said HEC has changed its name to Collaborative for Educational Services. They are waiting for DESE to approve their merger and she feels it was a good decision to join.

- IV: Presentations:
A. Gwenn Ares, Nurse. She explained the H1N1 issues of inoculation and how the state assigned funding and vaccine, working through the local Department of Public Health. They are setting up clinics. Washing hands to prevent spread was discussed. Mayor Martin thought the policy subcommittee should review the issue of in-school inoculations so the district had policy guidance.

- IV. New Business:
A. Capital Requests. The Superintendent explained her role with capital planning, and her intent to ask for support for ESCO projects unless otherwise directed. On the cost of ESCO, a \$40,000 audit fee is anticipated and these costs will be rolled into any ESCO project cost.

B. Budget: Hollins explained the need for two new budget line items to implement the paraprofessional contracts—one for 2009 paraprofessional fair wage adjustment and one for the 2010 paraprofessional insurance agreement. Details are outlined in the 7-page report distributed with the packet. (attached page)

Motion by Mayor Martin; 2nd McCormic: Move that we create two new lines for the budget for paraprofessional wage adjustment and paraprofessional insurance adjustment and that this 2nd line item be funded by the line item adjustments noted by the Superintendent in her November 10th memorandum.

Passed with Maryelen Calderwood abstaining.

C. Spain Trip

Teacher Tara Cloutier discussed a 2010 Trip to Spain. She has used the same travel tour company for each trip to Spain. She explained the piece of mind this provides. She has 12 students signed up at this time. Trip dates are April 16 to April 25th, during April vacation. “There will be a tour director there.” “All students and chaperones have to raise their own money. The cost is approximately \$2300—to be paid in full by January.” The school committee encouraged the world language teachers to look into less expensive trips that could include more students and to put a donation button on the school’s website. Mr. Athey asked that World Language departments come before the committee and propose alternatives for the future.

Motion by Athey; 2nd McCormic: To approve on condition that the adult: student ratio is no more than 6:1. Passed on a 4:2 vote with Day and Calderwood abstaining. Mayor Martin asked the Superintendent to follow up and bring in suggestions for lower cost trips sooner.

V. Executive Session.

Motion by Lunt; 2nd McCormic: To enter executive session for matters related to negotiation, clarified as the continuation of Level 3 grievances.

Passed on a unanimous roll call vote. Executive Session began at 7:53 p.m. The committee was joined by members of the GEA. Following discussion, on a first matter:

Motion by McCormic; 2nd Mayor Martin: Whereas the evidence presented by the Greenfield Education Association failed to substantiate a contractual violation, and, given that further investigation of the Committee did not uncover any evidence supporting claims made by the Greenfield Education Association, the Committee upholds the Superintendent’s response and finds against the aggrieved; however, given the Committee’s respect for Mr. Jakub’s decades of service, and recognizing that the process for interviewing and hiring coaches was confusing, the Committee offers Mr. Jakub full remuneration for the academic year 2009-2010 as if he had been hired for coaching, in the amount of \$3,655. Roll call vote: Unanimous.

A second matter was discussed with testimony. There is concern about withholding of information. **Motion by McCormic; 2nd Lunt: Given that**

there has been no communication from the GEA since the first meeting as promised about the documentation presented, the committee upholds the Superintendent's response and finds against the aggrieved. Passed on a roll call vote with only McCormic voting against. The school committee made an effort to give the opportunity to substantiate claims. **Motion by McCormic; 2nd Lunt: Same motion as before, ending before the 2nd portion about remuneration.**

A third matter was reviewed. **Motion by Calderwood; 2nd Mayor Martin: Based on the fact that the school committee relied upon the information provided by the Greenfield Education Association that has yet to be shown true, and that the committee has never been provided a signed version of the new evaluation procedure, the school committee retracts its decision and directs that the grievance be re-opened at Level III. The vote is unanimous on a roll call vote.**

Motion by Calderwood; 2nd Mayor Martin. To come out of executive session. By roll call vote executive session ends at 9:44 p.m.

Continuing:

Motion by Lunt; 2nd Calderwood: Items 6D and 8A are tabled to the next meeting. Passed. Unanimous.

Motion by Lunt; 2nd Calderwood; Move to ask the Superintendent to address VIII B. The mayor wants to table to another evening as the subject is the Superintendent's contract and evaluation instrument; it is 10:00 p.m. and people are too tired. A special meeting is set for Tuesday, November 17th at 6:00 p.m. This will be a one issue meeting and part of the meeting may go into Executive Session.

Prior to closing Mr. Athey stated it was inappropriate for the chairperson to discuss the Superintendent's contract on the radio. The chairperson was not present at the time.

Motion by Lunt; 2nd McCormic: Move to table VIII B until Tuesday, November 17th, 2009; 6:00 p.m. Unanimously passes.

Motion by Calderwood; 2nd Athey; To adjourn. The vote is 5:1 with Mr. McCormic voting no. The meeting ended at 10:12p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan D. Hollins
Interim Superintendent

