

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

December 10, 2009

5:30 p.m. Library, Greenfield High School

Approved January 14, 2010

Present: Chairperson Doris Doyle (DD); Committee Members: Marcia Day (MD), Dalton Athey (DA), Keith McCormic (KM), Mayor William Martin (MM) (arrived @ 7:09 p.m.). Also Present: Interim Superintendent Susan Hollins, Attorney Peter Smith, and members of the press and public.

- I. Call to Order: With a quorum present, Chairperson Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.
- II. Approval of Minutes: Supt Hollins reviewed topics included in the minutes of November 5, November 12, and November 17, 2009.
 - DA moved; KM 2nd. To adopt the draft minutes of **November 5th**. **Passed**. Unanimous
 - KM moved to accept the minutes of **November 12th**. There was no second and these minutes were **tabled** at the request of KM, wanting to clarify information on one topic.
 - DA moved; KM 2nd. To accept the draft minutes of **November 17th** MD pointed out typo on page 2, (“different” should be “difference”). **Passed**. Unanimous

III. Reports:

Chair Report:

No report; turned over to Superintendent Hollins.

Superintendent Report:

SH provided an update on the overall activities going on in the schools. Highlights: More flu clinics being set up (by Nicole Zabko, DPH); 8th Grade going to start Jr. Honor Society; High School will offer Early PSAT to help students prepare; Cross Country Team won the league; overall; the Poet Seat program has moved to the high school location, open houses are well received by parents; all schools doing well and funding is on target.

Committee(s) Report:

- **(MD) Policy Subcommittee:** First Reading of Section F and Section A (Governance). Also brought up that many policies did not have date last updated/approved listed on them. MD has created a Scheduled next meeting for December 22nd @ Davis Street.
- **(DA) Negotiation Subcommittee:** Met with GEA today to discuss recent events. Agreed to meet again ASAP to work through problems.

IV. Public Comment (None)

V. Old Business

A. Charter School Hearing

SH, MD, JL, MM all attended. Reinforced point that there is no need for new charter school in the area; just opened a new elementary school that focuses on Science. School program would be redundant and would only serve to divide a small elementary student population. Written testimony needs to be submitted by January 4th; authorization decision by the state will be made in February.

B. SBA/High School Renovation Status – Superintendent explains her conversation with the SBA. Two documents need to be completed and returned to the SBA. SH is hoping that the SC will act on this within the next month.

- First document is an Initial Compliance Certificate to be signed by the SC Chair and the Mayor. MD had questions about items 7 and 14 that were addressed by the Superintendent. MM requested to be kept in the loop on any/all issues.
- Second is a letter clarifying who will be on the School Building Committee. DA suggested an attorney/firm that specializes in School Building Projects to advise. Committee would appreciate a recommendation for next meeting and is amenable to an additional meeting to meet prospective attorney(s). Also, suggests owner's project manager. KM volunteered to be the SC representative.
- A letter is also needed from Mayor verifying where funding will be coming from for the first phase of the project. And the schools need to submit enrollment projections. The superintendent suggested an evening with presentations by architectural firms that have renovated high school to familiarize the committee generally with style and approach. All agreed for presentations at the March work session.

VI. Old Business

A. Policies

1. File: FA Facilities Development Goals, 1st Reading for Revision (DD read).

Changes: #3 "...to promote savings"; #2 Keep Community interests" and last paragraph; change "...every third year..." to "...every fifth year."

2. File: FCB Retirement of Facilities, 1st Reading for Revision (DD read)

MD explained the intent was to distinguish closing from retiring a building. Changes recommended: "...closing..." to ..."closure..."; adding the word "permanent" prior to the word "retirement"...suggested adding "...review by the Town's Finance Manager prior to retirement of any building..."

3. File: FCC Closing Facilities (Temporary), New 1st Reading (DD read)

Changes: need to define how long "temporary" is.

Motion by DA, 2nd KM: To accept the three policies presented for a first reading with changes noted. Passed. Unanimous

B. HEC Program Co-location at GHS

Greenfield is engaging in another co-location project with Hampshire Collaborative which is setting up an alternative learning program; HS aged students. Will use space in modular from 3 p.m. – 8 p.m. Tuition is \$6,800. Use of Greenfield space (agreement) essentially is same as cost of one tuition. Each party will have liaison for collaboration. HEC will provide copier. KM questioned if chapter 766 program as a caution re: discounted tuitions. Supt. to verify for next meeting. MM questioned enrollment; liability. KM/MM recommended that this arrangement be reviewed by counsel. Follow-up at next meeting.

C. Transportation Contract, 2010-2014

Currently in it's last year. Current provider only bid received for our route. Contract was reviewed; comments offered. Supt. requested that SC members review soon for decision. [MD left at 7:48 p.m.] Four-year agreement requires approval by the Town Council. Does need to be approved by SC first. Two districts send buses into Greenfield to pick up children on Greenfield routes. Contract requires Greenfield pay for routes with or without students. Chairperson offered to write to other districts who pick up students on Greenfield's routes.

Supt. to send (electronically) summary of changes document to SC members for their review and decision for next meeting (Jan 14). Chair will submit to Town Council for first reading and vote.

VII. Other

DA – would like ELT and Title I Grant to be on future agenda for review/discussion

KM – would like eRate Grant on future agenda for review/discussion (February)

VIII. Non Public Session: DA motioned; KM 2nd: To enter Executive Session for purposes of litigation and negotiation strategy (8:18 p.m.). Passed by roll call vote. Session begins at 8:30 p.m. The committee then discussed negotiation strategy. Request to have executive session first at next meeting.

Motion by KM; 2nd MM: To leave executive session. Passed by roll call vote. Unanimous. 9:43 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

Motion by MD; 2nd KM: To adjourn the meeting. Passed. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.