

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Greenfield High School Library

Approved January 19, 2012

Present: Andrew Blais (AB), Maryelen Calderwood (MC), Daryl Essensa (DE), John Lunt (JL), William Martin (WM). Doris Doyle (DD) arrived 6:55.

Absent: Marcia Day (MD)

Also present: Susan Hollins, Superintendent (SH); Elizabeth Gilman, Lane Kelly, and other school staff.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (AB, DE, JL, WM), Chair JL called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

MC moved to approve draft minutes of Nov. 17, 2011. AB 2nd. Passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment – none

IV. Reports

A. Chair – No report, in deference to full agenda.

B. Superintendent

SH reported that many good things are happening in schools -- for example, 6th grade teacher started new tradition for students and pen pals (adult volunteers) to read and correspond about one book. This year, seeking 100 adult volunteers.

C. Subcommittees

1. High School Facilities and Planning – AB reported on meeting earlier today.

AB reported that the subcte. met earlier today re: reopening Green River School. Three questions: whether to reopen Green River; if so, what programs/grades to place in Green River; and then, how it would be administered.

- Goals include having decisions data-driven and creating least amount of disturbance.
- Cte. reviewed data/graphs showing student enrollment growth, classroom capacity of current elementary schools. Data show need for additional classrooms.
- Federal St – OK, has room for growth; Newton – 11 classrooms, full to capacity, with need to repair/replace 2-room modular; Four Corners will need rooms currently housing Math-Science Academy; North Parish – 6 of 7 classrooms used by preschool; Middle School can adapt by partitioning large rooms for specialty programs. Math-Science Academy = 34 students.
- 3 types of expenses at Green River: maintenance issues (e.g., painting); capital issues (e.g., roof); technology expenses.
- Costs of Green River: different levels: minimum to re-occupy; complete renovation for energy efficiency (ESCO); \$50,000 for technology. WM reported \$1.8million cost estimate from Board of Health. Cf. cost of modulares. Kitchen upgrade expenses may be covered by Food Service program. Asbestos can be abated without replacement.
- Suggestion to move Math-Science Academy to middle school.

- Green River could house Math-Science Academy; Poet's Seat; Virtual School offices; SPED program.

MC moved to table discussion until next meeting, with request for cost analysis. AB 2nded. Motion carried 3-1-2.

2. Policy – DE provided readings of 3 policies:

- IC-2 – Virtual School Year/Virtual School Calendar (2nd reading)
 - throughout: Replace "Greenfield Virtual School" with "MAVA at Greenfield"
 - para. 2: Does flexible calendar conflict with teachers' contracts? No - would pay for summer tutors.

JE moved to adopt IC-2 (with changes to language as noted). DD 2nded. Passed 3-1-1 (MC nay; AB abstain).

- IC-3 – Enrollment & Attendance (2nd reading)
 - Discussion of 15-day period between no communication and withdrawal

MC moved to send IC-3 back to Policy Subcte. for further research and drafting similar truancy policy for brick-and-mortar schools. AB 2nd. Motion passed 3-1-2 (DD nay, JL DE abstain).

- JJIF – Head Injuries and Concussion (1st reading for adoption)
MC moved to adopt JJIF, AB 2nd. Passed unanimously.

3. Negotiations – JL reported that meetings continue; proposal was offered. Next School Cte. mtg. with Attorney Smith in attendance will include further report in executive session.

4. Innovation Schools – DD reported on DESE's policies on Innovation School Zone, with guidelines for steering committee.

5. Community Outreach – No report.

6. Anti-bullying – No report.

7. Middle School Library - MC reported that she continues to gather information; met with Middle School Library Learning Center teacher Mr. Rucker.

8. Collaborative for Educational Services – DD reported that CES director received national award at annual meeting in Colorado.

9. Franklin County School Committee Caucus – DD reported on Nov. 19 summit: well attended, excellent speakers, important topic.

V. Business

A. Planning for 2012-2013 Budget

SH noted that school budget due to Town Council March 9. Next year's budget approx. \$1.2 million.

- \$600,000 grant for personnel ends in June. Need for additional elementary teachers, FT nurse at 4Corners, 3 more science sections at high school.
- Growing gap between out-of-district tuition costs and aid.
- Increasing enrollment means more state aid \$ coming in.
- Suggested half-million in stability fund.

SH reviewed Preliminary Budget Notes.

WM noted that school budget represents 56-57% total town budget. WM asked about "pay forward" (using \$ left at end of year for next year's out-of-district tuition); \$35K in extraordinary maintenance remaining. WM requested Finance Administrator Lane Kelly give a "budget lesson" at next meeting. JL noted that reduction in state aid is creating pressure on communities. MC asked when is time for School Cte members to make suggestions to budget, specifically need for funding middle school library. MC clarified that crossing guard salaries and supplies are with school district; hiring/training will be done by district, not police dept.

B. Innovation Schools

SH noted that School Cte has voted to support continued work on Innovation Schools and perhaps becoming Innovation School Zone. Others potentially in process – Math-Science Academy, 8th Grade Academy, Poet Seat, Grades 4-5 GEM program. \$15,000 planning grants available.

Review of Virtual School Report (Dec. 7). MC requested statistics on race of students and clarification/details on "Reason for Enrolling." 13 Greenfield students enrolled in Virtual School.

VI. Executive Session not needed.

VII. Other

- SH reported that local facilities cte. voted unanimously to support Option 8 (new building, save existing auditorium) if the state allows new construction status. Decision from state expected end of January.
- SH shared safe walking program at Lebanon (NH) School District.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by AB, WM 2nd. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary