

GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Thursday, November 12, 2015
GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA
(Approved 12.09.15)

Present: Margaret Betts (MB); Maryelen Calderwood (MC); Douglas Mayo (DM); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); Adrienne Nunez (AN). Student representatives Sarah O'Sullivan and Amy O'Sullivan.

Absent: Donna Gleason (DG); William Martin (WM); Francina Wisnewski (FW).

Also present: Tom Bevaqua, GEA President; Gail Connor; Atty. Peter Smith (arrived 7:01), school staff, citizens and the press.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (MB, MC, DM, AN), Chair Calderwood called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

II. Approval of Draft Minutes

AN moved to approve revised draft minutes of October 14, 2015. 2nd DM. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Tom Bevaqua, GEA President, spoke on behalf of GEA membership in support of Senate Bill 326, establishing a moratorium on commonwealth charter schools.

IV. Reports

A. Student Representatives

Sarah O'Sullivan and Amy O'Sullivan, GHS Student Council members, reported on close of fall sports season; advisories reading *Diary of a Part-Time Indian*; volunteering (Key Club at Stone Soup Café, Student Council at Special Olympics); upcoming spirit week.

B. Chairperson

MC noted that this is her second-to-last meeting, having served for 8 yrs on School Cte. Thanked members for serving, congratulated those re-elected, praised Supt. Harper, encouraged all to keep focus on students.

C. Superintendent's Report

JH highlighted her written report, including:

- training on Aesop (substitute teachers)
- high school grand opening
- successful Greenfield Recreation rag shag parade
- extensive list of building projects; noted exceptional work of Alan Schmidt, maintenance supervisor, and team
- superintendent's goals
- Davis Street move: responses due next week to RFP for design services; soil testing at Davis Street site
- Management team working on timeline and resources needed to relocate Math-Science Academy to GMS and Green River to become elementary school

MB moved that Green River School be opened as a K-4 elementary school and that MSA be moved to the middle school effective the start of the 2017-2018 school year. AN 2nd.

Discussion: allow more planning than original 2016-2017 target. Move will create stability. Building grant funding requires students must continue to occupy Green River building. Praise for STAR community members. **Motion passed unanimously.**

D. Subcommittees

Health, Safety & Facilities

AN reported that Subcte. will discuss Davis Street move at next mtg.

Ad Hoc Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee

On behalf of FW, AN reported that ad hoc subcte recommends adoption of supt's SMART goals and formation of on-going, year-round supt. evaluation subcommittee.

AN moved to accept Superintendent's draft goals. MB 2nd.

Goal 1: Curriculum Alignment By the end of the 2015-2016 school year, the district will have taken measurable steps to create an aligned curriculum, including use of common assessment, in keeping with district's Strategic Plan.

Goal 2: Leadership Team Development & Communication Build on positive relationships developed in year 1 to further develop capacity of leadership team and cabinet, strengthen school and community partnerships, and increase opportunities for family engagement and welcoming new families to the district.

Goal 3: (Professional Practice) New Superintendent Induction Program. Refine skills in strategy development, data analysis, and instructional leadership by completing the second year of the New Superintendent Induction Program, including a focus on Action Planning and implementation of the District's Strategic Plan.

Goal 4: Fair, Effective Classroom Teacher Evaluation. The 2015-2016 school year reflects only the second full year of the new Educator Evaluation system in Greenfield Public Schools. DESE has indicated that while most districts phased the Ed Eval system in over two years, Greenfield lags behind and therefore must complete Ed Eval on an accelerated pace. All Principals, teachers, and Central Office staff will participate in the Educator Evaluation System including self-assessment, goal setting, formative and summative evaluations, and progress towards goals. Pursuing this goal will help a district implement the new educator evaluation system at the same time as the district leadership team is strengthened in ways that will lead to improvements in teaching and learning districtwide. Evaluations are completed on all Principals and Central Office administrators (Outcome)

Motion passed unanimously.

E. School Attorney's Statement

Atty. Smith read a public statement regarding the planned FBI federal audit of the district's Food Services Department.

V. Business Topics

A. PARCC Testing Results

Supt. presented district and state PARCC results. District scores received this week. Parent-guardian reports to be sent December. Significantly lower scores cf. MCAS. Noted areas of strength.

Concern re: lower scores for African-American/Hispanic-Latino (district and statewide). Thanks to district tech dept. and teachers for administration of tests.

B. Moratorium on New Charter Schools

AN moved to adopt the Position Statement on New Charter Schools. 2nd MB.

Greenfield School Committee Position Statement on New Charter Schools

We, members of the Greenfield School Committee, support a moratorium on the establishment of any new Commonwealth Charter Schools.

This moratorium will allow time to make an independent evaluation of charter schools across Massachusetts to determine whether charter schools are meeting their intended goal of improving education for all students. In addition, further examination of the current method of funding under which currently, sending school districts are required to pay the full tuition for every student who chooses to attend a charter by reducing its Chapter 70 funds by that amount. This funding mechanism has created a significant burden on public education (an institution that serves the needs of the majority of students) and may not provide equal opportunity for all children in the Commonwealth. Moreover, teachers in the Greenfield Public Schools must be licensed under state law, Section 38G of Chapter 71, while teachers in Commonwealth Charter Schools are only required to pass the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL). Once the test is passed, there are no further requirements, such as keeping current in one's subject matter.

It is our hope that Massachusetts' policy makers and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will thoughtfully and carefully consider this statement and will develop education policy that is reflective of the important concerns we have addressed.

Discussion: Lack of oversight of charter schools. Funding mechanism harms public schools. Lottery system. Threat to public education. Greenfield potential target for charter schools. To be considered a joint resolution with GEA. **Motion passed unanimously.**

C. Petition to rename Mac Lab at GHS in honor of Jeff Comenitz

JH explained town naming policy. MC read petition to have a computer lab at Greenfield High School named after Jeffrey A. Comenitz.

MB moved to endorse the request to rename the Mac Lab Room 1124 in honor of fellow School Cte member Jeff Comenitz. AN 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. Adjournment

MB moved to adjourn. 2nd AN. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary