

GREENFIELD SCHOOLS  
POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

MIINUTES, APRIL 6, 2016  
Davis Building Conference Room

1. Call to Order at 4:02 p.m. Present: Hollins (Chair), Farrell, Superintendent Harper, Administrator Garand.

2. Other (discussed first)

- BBA School Committee Powers and Duties
- BBBA School Committee Qualification for Office
- BBBC School Committee Member Resignation
- BDB School Committee Officers

Four policies will go forward to school committee in April for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading/adoption. Hollins mentioned there was no feedback on these four policies from March first reading. Chairperson responsibilities under BDB School Committee Officers was discussed regarding use of attorney services. No changes recommended.

3. Policies Discussed

**\*\*BEDB AGENDA FORMAT**

Para. 1, line 2. Delete “the order of”

Para. 2, line 3. Delete “three days prior to the meeting”

Para. 2, line 5. Change “press” to “media”

Discussion: remove reference to specific number of days prior to meeting for materials being distributed and just keep “to permit adequate time to prepare.”

Discussion about the meeting being the school committee’s business meeting and the committee chairman setting the agenda; that said, it’s essential the chairman and the superintendent communicate so the chairman is apprised of issues that need timely attention by the school committee.

**\*\*BAA SELF-EVALUATION OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

No changes recommended. Discussion about the “continuous improvement” philosophy voted in 2012—the idea being ongoing goals in all areas, always improving all aspects of the school system. Also, discussion about the school committee and superintendent being a team and the importance of

both parties' efforts being evaluated. Will go forward in April for 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

**\*\*BDG SCHOOL ATTORNEY**

Consensus on changes in introductory paragraph to reflect complexity of legal issues in schools today, then clarifying that more than one attorney can be used for the variety of school law and general law matters, and 2<sup>nd</sup> opinions might be sought. Will clarify current wording to explain that the superintendent sometimes must contact attorney in the moment without going through school committee. Rework for next meeting. Reviewed current statutes noting \$25,000 limit for collective bargaining work. Discussion of whether or not GPS has contract for attorney services and for reviewing attorney services annually at budget time.

**\*\* BJ SCHOOL COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS**

No changes recommended. Will go forward to school committee for 1st reading in April. Discussion about importance of staying informed of legal issues and how this MASC-drafted policy encourages school committees to be active with MASC.

**\*\* BEC EXECUTIVE SESSION**

This policy is completed out of date, given latest statutory guidelines of July 2015. Chair provided redraft using current statutory language.

**\*\* DA FISCAL MANAGEMENT GOALS**

Discussion about the philosophy of the policy and how it should better reflect a balance of advocacy for school system needs but also ability to manage with resources provided, and not having a "blood in the streets" approach where the public is alarmed if the full amount requested is not provided. Will redraft for next meeting.

A question was raised about how policies are selected for review. There are several hundred policies. The selection for review is a balance of 1) systematic section review, starting with B: Governance, 2) policies pertinent to topics under discussion and tasks at hand, 3) requests for policy review.

Consensus to try to schedule a second meeting in April.

Adjournment at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
S. Hollins, Chairperson

