



GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 2020
6:00 p.m.

This meeting is being held fully remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, Section 20

**To join the meeting, copy this link: <https://meet.google.com/acq-uxka-xxh>
By phone, dial +1 662-532-9115 and enter this PIN 356 403 953#**

AGENDA

- I. Roll Call/Call to Order
- II. Approval of Draft Minutes: January 27, 2020 (Special Meeting), February 12, 2020, March 4, 2020 (Special Meeting/Budget Hearing), March 16, 2020 and March 24, 2020 (Special Meeting)
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Committee Reports:
 - Chairperson
 - Superintendent
 - Subcommittees
 - SC Representatives
- V. New Business
 - A. Remote Learning Plan Update
 - B. April Vacation
 - C. Vote on 2020-2021 Lunch Prices
 - D. Vacancy for Director of Pupil Services
- VI. Executive Session - MGL c 30A, §21, (2) (3) & (6): (2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, (3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, and (6) To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.
- VII. Adjournment

*Please note that the list of topics was comprehensive at the time of posting, however, the public body may consider and take action on unforeseen matters not specifically named in this notice.

Posted 4.2.20 11:30 AM

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Draft: Monday, January 27, 2020**

John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant Street, Greenfield MA

NOTE: Due to an equipment failure, minutes of the January 27, 2020 meeting are not available. School Committee Recording Secretary Farber was unable to attend the meeting to take notes in person, and had planned to write minutes from the GCTV video recording and/or live broadcast, as she occasionally does. Due to an equipment failure, GCTV was unable to broadcast or record the meeting.

The Vice Chair of the School Committee kept a record of all votes taken at the meeting (written notes will be provided).

The executive session was audio-recorded, and minutes of the January 27 executive session were taken by the Recording Secretary.

The Massachusetts Secretary of State's office is aware of this situation and has provided guidance.

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Draft Minutes

November 18, 2019

December 11, 2019

December 16, 2019

January 8, 2020

January 13, 2020

[NOTE: Approval of minutes was postponed to the February 12, 2020 meeting.]

III. Public Comment

IV. New Business

A. School Finance & FY 21 Budget Process

B. Co-op Football Options

V. Executive Session

[NOTE: Executive session minutes are available.]

VI. Adjournment

Meeting Documents

1. Agenda January 27, 2020
2. Draft minutes: November 18, 2019; December 11, 2019; December 16, 2019; January 8, 2020; January 13, 2020
3. Letter from Karen Patenaude, GHS principal, re: Co-op Football

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES: Wednesday, February 12, 2020**
John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant Street, Greenfield MA

Present: Katie Caron (KC); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Jordana Harper (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); Glenn Johnson (GJ); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW); Roxann Wedegartner (RW) (arrived 6:39)

Absent: None

Also present: Lynn Dole, GMS Principal; Tom King, AEL Principal; Steve Nembirkow, Business Manager; Doug Selwyn; Susan Voss, AEL staff; other school staff, citizens, and the press

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (KC, SE, GJ, SH, AP, JW), Chair Proietti opened the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

II. Approval of Draft Minutes

SE moved to approve minutes of November 18, 2019, December 11, 2019, and December 16, 2019. KC 2nd.

Approval of Nov. 18 minutes was tabled at Dec. 11 meeting, with questions re: van procurement in V.A. Transportation Cost Savings Proposal. Recording Secretary Farber reported on review of GCTV recording of Nov. 18 discussion: there was no discussion of procurement.

Motion passed 4-0-3 (abstain: AP, RW, JW).

SE moved to approve minutes of January 8, 2020, January 13, 2020. KC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Susan Voss, IA at AEL, spoke about effect of stalled Unit C contract on IAs, concerns that IAs are frustrated and angry, leaving Greenfield for better-paying positions thus affecting students' need for consistency.

Doug Selwyn urged Committee to find the money to pay IAs who work with most vulnerable students; described the budget process as rushed, "scrambling to meet a deadline that's not your fault," and urged revision to budget process; and spoke in favor of hiring a curriculum coordinator, with financial benefit of strong curriculum in keeping students in district.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Chair (AP)

Affirmed School Committee's support for Unit C contract. City Council proposed to fund half, with GPS to fund other half. Looking to find funds in school budget to support this year and next for Unit C. Clarified that there is precedent of Council not fully funding first year of a contract, with GPS required to fund the remainder.

B. Superintendent (JH)

- JH introduced Caissie Putnam, newly appointed Interim Principal at Discovery School at Four Corners.
- Proposed tuition rate increase at AEL to be discussed later on agenda
- Kindergarten registration in March
- Local media coverage, including "grandbuddies" and champion GHS girls basketball team
- School newsletters
- Financial reports: soft hold on non-essential expenditures, typical for this time of year

- Valley Kids media focus on community connections in schools
- Continued progress on audit of Chap. 70 funds in Town-School Committee; working on MOU between City & GPS how to count direct & indirect expenses.
- Thanks to Cub Scout Pack 3 for Valentines
- Celebrated 100th Day of School
- Provided flight details for GHS trip to Spain; School Committee previously approved this trip

C. Subcommittees & SC Representatives

1. Budget & Finance (SE)

Susan Eckstrom, Chair; Members Amy Proietti, Jean Wall

Mayor Wedegartner & Susan Hollins also attending.

Meeting frequently. Building budget to include all requests from schools to show cost of education; not expecting full funding of that total.

2. Policy & Program (KC)

Katie Caron, Chair; Members Glenn Johnson, Roxann Wedegartner

Reviewing Section G Personnel. After budget season, many policies to come before full Committee.

3. Health, Safety & Facilities

Katie Caron, Susan Hollins, Glenn Johnson

Has not yet met. No report.

4. Personnel & Collective Bargaining

Susan Eckstrom, Katie Caron, Amy Proietti

Has not yet met. No report.

5. Collaborative for Educational Services

Katie Caron

Next meeting March 25

6. City Planning & Construction Committee

Jean Wall, Chair; Susan Hollins, member

Legal clarification that JW can serve as Chair of this committee and School Committee member.

JW to remain aware of any potential conflict of interest.

No report. Lacked quorum at January meeting.

7. City Library Building Committee

Jean Wall, voting member. Susan Eckstrom non-voting School Committee rep

Reviewed preliminary design approaches.

Request for minutes to be shared with School Cte.

8. Sick Bank

Katie Caron, Glenn Johnson, School Committee reps

Meets on as-needed basis :

GJ moved that KC represent us [School Committee] at the Collaborative for Educational Services. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

V. New Business

B. GPS 2020-2021 Calendar

KC moved to accept 2020-2021 calendar as presented. SE 2nd.

JH summarized process and overview of calendar. Changes:

Meet & Greet, parent-teacher conferences: families felt these were held too close together last year.
Additional days on preschool calendar

Discussion:

- For next year: Cancel February break? Replace February & April breaks with 1 week in March?
Need community input.
- Appreciate that MLK Day and In-service Day not in the same week
- First day of school as half-day eases students into big transition
- Moving GMS from trimester to semester schedule

Motion revised with friendly amendment: **To accept the 2020-2021 calendar as presented, inclusive of change by GMS to semester schedule, and to create an ad hoc [advisory] committee to study [vacation calendar] issue before next year.**

Motion passed unanimously.

B. AEL Tuition Rates for 2020-2021

Business Manager Steve Nembirkow and AEL Principal Tom King presented rationale for 10% tuition increase. Low cost compared to other preschools in region. Sliding scale. Families are aware of coming increase. Will provide \$22,000 additional revenue. Supt. Harper described AEL program, need to invest in youngest learners. 20-25% increase would have covered actual increased costs; held to 10% in consideration of families. Next year's AEL calendar adds 9 days. AEL is full, wait list.

SE moved to approve 10% tuition increase for FY 2020-2021 and release additional information as a draft schedule based on current conditions. RW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Childcare by National Honor Society for School Committee Meetings

KC moved to have the Superintendent, NHS advisor and GHS principal come back to us with a plan for how this [childcare at School Committee meetings] could work out. SE 2nd.

Discussion:

Goal is to increase participation by families.

Is childcare possible at Community Center? Would this affect location of meeting?

Additional ways to increase participation, including student music performances before meetings, listening sessions throughout community.

Many people watch meetings at home via GCTV

Motion passed unanimously.

D. Unit C Contract

Status report provided earlier in Chair's report.

City Council: first reading and vote to fund half of the contract; final vote next Wednesday.

Budget Subcommittee working on identifying funds to use to fund other half of contract; plan to use reserve accounts, but these are not fully replenished or intended for this type of use.

Discussion:

- School Dept., with 10-month employees, lowest-paid, not comparable to other City departments
- Unfair to pay IAs less than minimum wage
- Concerns re: cutting school budget to provide half of contract cost
- Suggestion for short-term loan to settle contract

D. Procedural Updates on GCTV recording of January 27, 2020 meeting

Recording Secretary (absent from Jan. 27 meeting) was to write minutes from GCTV recording, but due to technical problem, no audio available on GCTV's recording.

Received public records request for minutes

Chair awaiting advice from state. Likely will need to re-take votes.

SE will provide meeting notes to Recording Secretary

E. Procedural Updates on Subcommittee Assignments

Covered in Subcommittee reports.

VI. Other Business

A. Admission to Vocational Technical Schools

RW shared discussion among mayors at recent Mass. Municipal Association meeting re: disparity in admissions to regional vocational-technical schools. RW & other mayors signed letter to Education Secretary James Peyser and Commissioner Jeffrey Riley. No known concerns this is happening at Franklin County Technical School.

Request for minutes from FCTS School Committee.

B. New Guidelines for Dept of Ed for addressing needs of LGBTQ.

School Committee members to read guidelines. GJ will send link to access.

C. Release redacted executive session minutes

Not all executive session minutes have been released. Issues still on-going. Release process to continue.

VII. Executive Session - MGL c 30A, §21, (1): To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.

GJ moved to enter Executive Session. KC 2nd. Yes: KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously.

Jean Wall left the meeting due to illness.

Susan Eckstrom left the meeting, recusing herself from executive session topic.

AP called Executive Session to order at 9:05 p.m.

Returned to public session at 9:26 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

SH moved to adjourn. KC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

1. Agenda February 12, 2020
2. Draft minutes: November 18, 2019; December 11, 2019; December 16, 2019; January 8, 2020; January 13, 2020
3. GPS webpages
4. School newsletters
5. Financial Reports: MUNIS 02/07/2020; Year-to-Date Budget 1/31/2020; Revenue, Gift and Scholarship Accounts 1/31/2020
6. Email re: "Flight Information" for GHS trip to Spain
7. Draft 2020-2021 GPS Calendar and Addendum re: semesters/quarters
8. Memo from Steve Nembirkow, Business Mgr, to Jordana Harper, re: AEL Tuition, Feb. 5, 2020
9. Subcommittee meetings (from GPS website); schedule of Budget & Finance Subcommittee meetings
10. Budget & Finance Subcommittee minutes: January 21, January 28, January 30, 2020
11. Letter to Secretary James Peyser and Commissioner Jeffrey Riley, re: Reform of Vocational School Admissions, January 2020

GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING: BUDGET HEARING
DRAFT MINUTES: Wednesday, March 4, 2020
GCTV Studio, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA

Present: Katie Caron (KC); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Jordana Harper (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); Glenn Johnson (GJ) (attending remotely due to out-of-town travel); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW); Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

Absent: None

Also present: Tara Cloutier, GHS teacher; Jodi Falk, parent, SEPAC; Shirley Gilfether, resident; Lukas Martin, GHS teacher; Steve Nembirkow, Business Manager; Karin Patenaude, GHS principal; Aleashia Pease, parent; many school staff; citizens, and the press.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW), Chair Proietti opened the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

II. Public Comment

Aleashia Pease, parent, shared concerns about GMS no-homework policy due to extended learning time, prefers homework to reinforce learning and prepare for high school.

Ginny Desorgher asked for update on enrollment and on GPS providing special education transport to other towns.

Lucas Martin, GHS teacher, noted increase in Chap. 70 funding and asked what share of Chap. 70 funds the City would keep; asked about cost-of-living increase for teachers; requested appointment of School Committee representative to continue Unit A negotiations.

Tara Cloutier, GHS teacher, noted that teachers have been without a contract for about a year and asked about cost-of-living increase for teachers.

Jodi Falk, parent and SEPAC member, spoke to need for more behaviorists and inclusion specialists, and benefits of well-supported inclusion.

Shirley Gilfether spoke against proposed 11.9% increase, provided handout of recommended cuts, including special education administrators, building administrators, psychologists; praised cost savings in transportation.

III. Public Hearing on FY21 Budget

AP opened public hearing at 6:28 p.m.

AP reviewed work of Budget Subcommittee; different approach to start not with level funding but "what do we need?"; seeking structural changes in process, cooperation between school and City.

SE, Budget Subcommittee Chair, reiterated goal of showing actual costs of educating students; acknowledged budget likely to be decreased.

Budget presentation from Superintendent Harper

- 11% increase would be challenge for Greenfield; changes are likely; encouraged all to stay involved
- Enrollment figures with increases in special education and high-needs students

- Most schools at capacity, which limits choice-in seats & income
- Chap. 70 State Aid increases; Student Opportunity Act Plan to address achievement gaps
- Increases re: Units A and C contracts, operating costs
- Which new positions are included (most required for special education) & omitted from budget
- Per pupil spending comparisons
- Concern that we are unsustainably spending revolving funds
- Cost savings – e.g., transportation
- Karin Patenaude, GHS principal, briefly explained goals of Green River Alternative Education program

Discussion:

- Newton has PT music teacher
- Noted that SH has long warned of risks of spending down revolving accounts
- Reminder of policy on spending revolving accounts
- RW: Challenging budget year. “Nobody is going to get what they need.” Seeking creative ways to bring in revenue, find efficiencies.
- City uses Chap. 70 \$ to cover School Dept’s indirect costs (e.g., health insurance, retirement, vehicles)
- Reduction of school space: administrative offices replaced by Community Center; GMS space taken by new administrative offices; Green River School, now closed, had housed 100-student MSA program, now moved into GMS space.
- Concern that School Dept bears full burden of minimum wage adjustment for Unit C
- Importance of updating schools’ technology
- RW focusing budget decisions on safety, security, infrastructure. Support for beginning budget process earlier in year.
- Effect of Greenfield’s high-needs students (trauma, frequent transition, poverty)
- Need to stagger expenses (e.g., contracts, vehicle purchases)
- Concern that “cutting” the budget gives negative impression; support innovations, e.g., how to buy computers with sources other than property taxes
- Discussion, adjustments will continue, but budget must be settled this month

SE moved to approve the draft proposed budget as presented by the Superintendent and the Budget and Finance Subcommittee, to be shared with the Mayor for review. GJ 2nd.

Roll call: Yes – KC, AP, JW, SE, GJ; No: SH; Abstain: RW. Motion passed 5-1-1.

Budget Subcommittee will continue to meet. Budget on agenda for next School Cte. meeting.

SE moved to close public hearing on budget. 2nd SH. Roll call: YES – KC, AP, JW, SE, GJ, SH, RW. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Funding Unit C Contract

SE moved to use School Choice funds from FY 19 funds in the amount of \$169,099 to fund the unfunded portion of the Unit C contract. JW 2nd.

Discussion:

- Thanked Unit C for patience with process
- Unit C contract negotiated anticipating customary reliance on City’s contract stabilization funds. Because of lack of quorum at City Council meeting, funds not made available.

Roll call – Yes: SH, RW, AP, JW, GJ, SE. Abstain: KC. Motion carried 6-0-1.

SH moved to urge the Mayor and City Council to replenish the special education stabilization fund and return to the historic process of full first-year funding of new contract negotiations through the contract stabilization fund. SE 2nd.

Discussion:

- Suggestion that this should be two separate motions
- Suggestion for working group to study contract stabilization practice
- RW abstaining because funding cannot be assured

Roll call – Yes: SH; No: AP, JW, GJ, SE, KC; Abstain: RW. Motion failed 1-5-1.

SH moved to urge the Mayor and City Council to replenish the special education stabilization fund. SE 2nd. Roll call vote – Yes: SH, KC, RW, AP, JW, GJ, SE. Motion passed unanimously.

SH moved to work as a School Committee with the Mayor and the City Council to study the historic process of first-year funding through the contract stabilization fund or alternate funding methods. KC 2nd. Roll call vote – Yes: SH, KC, RW, AP, JW, GJ, SE. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Vote to Cap Enrollment at Greenfield Commonwealth Virtual School at 1%

JH recommended 1% cap; Greenfield's enrollment is slightly above 1%.

GJ moved to cap the enrollment at GCVS at 1%. SE 2nd.

Discussion:

- No currently enrolled students would be removed
- Support for parents' choice; students' legitimate needs for VS (e.g., illness, bullying)
- Students should stay in Greenfield; GCVS competes for Greenfield students
- State cap is 2% which would allow potentially up to 20 additional Greenfield students; however, doubt that there would be such a large increase
- GCVS has different reimbursement rate than charter schools, lower impact to GPS funding
- If VS isn't available, parents likely would not choose regular public school

Roll call vote – No: SH, KC, RW, JW, SE; Yes: AP, GJ. Motion failed 5-2.

Cap remains at 2% (state limit).

VIII. Adjournment

JW moved to adjourn. 2nd SE. Roll call: SH, KC, RW, JW, SE, AP, GJ. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

1. Agenda March 4, 2020
2. FY21 GPS Budget Hearing Presentation (Supt. Harper)
3. Notice of Budget Hearing with Draft/Proposed Budget
4. Chapter 132, "An Act Relative to Educational Opportunity for Students" (Nov. 26, 2019)
5. Published Budget FY21 (Feb. 20, 2020)

6. Budget Reports (March 2, 2020)
7. Massachusetts Virtual School Enrollment Restrictions (December 2019)
 - a. Appendix A: FY2020 District Enrollment Information and % in CMVS
 - b. Appendix B: Letter Template for Department Notification of School Committee Vote to Restrict CMVS Enrollment
 - c. Letter re: CMVS enrollment to DESE from Supt. Harper (draft, March 4, 2020)

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES: Tuesday, March 24, 2020**

Note: This meeting is being held fully remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, §20.

Present: Katie Caron (KC); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Jordana Harper (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); Glenn Johnson (GJ); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW)

Absent: Roxann Wedegartner

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW), Chair Proietti opened the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Reports

A. Chair (AP)

- Praise for Superintendent Harper for “amazing and exhausting work,” her good communication with government officials, staff, informing families & public, and advocating for students.
- Concerns re: equity in access for all students, in response to state’s potential push for virtual learning.

Discussion re: school closure

- What do GHS students preparing for college, technical training need? Different ages need different supports.
- Some districts loaning Chromebooks. Opportunities like on-line band practice. Keep options open.
- What are State’s recommendations for regions that don’t have reliable internet or cell phone service? GPS could use those strategies.
- MASC says state is not asking us to educate students during closure; focus is keep them engaged, feed them, keep them safe.
- Resources on gpsk12.org held as model of engaging students.
- Concern for special education & ELL students, students with trauma. Special concern for students with difficult home lives, for whom school is a refuge.

B. Superintendent (JH)

- Much dialogue, communication with families, teachers, principals & staff, state officials. Goal: best way to support students.
- Thanks to Greenfield families following Governor’s guidance to stay home (e.g., no playdates). GPS in-person work limited to essential employees.
- Distance learning topic evolving quickly via state, federal guidance. Franklin & Hampshire County superintendents speaking out about distance-learning challenges for families & staff in Western Mass (lack of broadband, cell service, lack of computers/devices in homes). If we move to distance learning, must be fair.
- State legislation HD.4974 filed today to support municipalities (extending deadlines, \$ relief).
- Work continues. Teachers & IAs focusing on professional development, connecting with students. IEP meetings happening remotely. GEA meetings on-going. Buildings cleaned. Food service providing lunch/breakfast. GPS YouTube channel launched this week. Thanks to all staff.

III. Executive Session - MGL c 30A, §21, (3) & (6): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation of an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; (6) To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

SH moved to enter Executive Session. KC 2nd. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW. Motion passed unanimously. AP called Executive Session to order at 7:11 p.m.

IV. Adjournment

SE moved to adjourn. GJ 2nd. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

Agenda, March 24, 2020

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES: Monday, March 16, 2020**
City Hall Conference Room, 14 Court Square, Greenfield MA

Note: Regular monthly meeting on March 11 was rescheduled to March 16 due to expected lack of quorum.

Present: Katie Caron (KC); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Jordana Harper (JH) (attending remotely); Susan Hollins (SH) (attending remotely); Glenn Johnson (GJ) (attending remotely, joined at 7:09); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW); Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

Absent: None

Also present: Steve Nembirkow, Business Manager; other school staff and citizens.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (KC, SE, SH, AP, JW, RW), Chair Proietti opened the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

II. Approval of Draft Minutes: January 27, February 12, March 4, 2020

SE moved to table consideration of minutes. KC 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Motion to table passed unanimously.

AP clarified that meeting business to be limited to Covid-19 emergency preparedness, including plan to approve paying all regularly scheduled employees through April 7.

III. Public Comment

Shirley Gilfether, retired educator, provided handout and spoke to FY21 school budget, encouraging funding these priorities: technology; professional development for teachers; retaining quality teachers through competitive salaries; filling curriculum coordinator position.

IV. Reports

KC moved to add to the agenda a report from the Mayor on the state of the city. JW 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor's Report

- Praise for department heads & all staff
- Covid-19 Response Team: representatives from public safety, finance, technology, health, school departments
- City Hall, 20 Sanderson Street, Economic Development offices closed to public until April 8. Staff continues to work. Public to use on-line resources or call.
 - Will on-line convenience fees be waived? TBD.
- Transfer station and curbside pickup continue on schedule.
- Collaborating with towns in region

A. Chair (AP)

- Congratulations to Green Wave hockey team, first ever state championship
 - RW announced intention for City to celebrate Hockey Week, delayed due to Covid-19 priorities
- Noted many emails, comments from public, assured that all are read & appreciated
- Free grab-and-go breakfast & lunch available, 11am to 1pm, for children ages 0-18; child must be present
- Praise for Supt. Harper's tireless work and leadership

B. Superintendent (JH)

- Praised “remarkable team,” urged public to visit gpsk12.org website for up-to-date information
- Sunday evening Governor announced 3-week suspension of school operations until April 7.
- Guidelines:
 - Students, families, staff stay home as much as possible, practice social distancing.
 - Staff planning for non-academic services – e.g., meals, special education resources
 - No plans to move to online instruction
 - Last day of school = regular 185-days calendar; earlier snow days will be counted but not Covid-19 closure
- Food distribution sites expanded: Newton, GMS, GHS, Oak Court, Leyden Woods, Y, Days Inn
- Deep cleaning of all school buildings; special thanks to custodians & food service workers

Discussion:

Can special needs students ages 19-22 be included in free meals program? JH will follow up.

Residential & day programs for special education students are not closed.

State is extending deadlines for FY21 budget, details TBA.

10th grade MCAS will be rescheduled.

Changes needed to contracts based on school days? – e.g., transportation

C. Subcommittees & SC Representatives

None

V. New Business

A. Green Wave Hockey State Champs

postponed

B. COVID-19 Preparedness & International Trips

1. International Trips

GHS trip to Spain with EF cancelled. Students can receive \$ credit for future travel, transfer \$ to someone else, or receive reduced cash refund.

2. Paying school employees during Covid-19 closure

SE moved to pay all Greenfield Public Schools contractual employees according to their regularly scheduled hours, for the period of time from March 16 to April 6, excluding sub-contracted individuals, with their work assignments as determined by their direct supervisor. KC 2nd.

Discussion:

- Subcontracted individuals: e.g., bus drivers working for outside company
- Business Mgr. Steve Nembirkow: If schools go to 185 days, will require detailed calculation for some employees' pay, discussion with union & other school districts, anticipate guidance from state.

Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously.

C. FY21 Budget & Student Opportunity Act Plan Update

JW moved to table New Business C through H, excluding [from tabling] Item G Van Purchase. GJ 2nd.

Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Motion to table passed unanimously.

Tabled items will be on agenda for next meeting. Anticipate special School Committee meeting before regular April 8 meeting.

D. School Committee Rep for Unit A Negotiations – tabled

E. Director of Pupil Services – tabled

F. Proposal for School Lunch Price Increase for 2020/2021 School Year – tabled

G. Van Purchase

Bid expires on Wednesday, so action needed. Supt. has not had time to review bids.

RW moved to approve van purchase for full amount of \$158,662. SE 2nd.

Discussion:

- Low bid \$158K for Dodge van from eastern part of state. Special installations needed before delivery.
- Purchase, not lease.
- Routine maintenance by DPW. Special maintenance can be done by local Dodge dealer.
- Payment ultimately to come from transportation revolving fund.

Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously.

H. Parent/Student Handbook – tabled

VI. Other Business

None

VII. Executive Session - MGL c 30A, §21, (2): To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

SE moved to enter Executive Session. KC 2nd. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously. AP called Executive Session to order at 8:15p.m.

Motion made and seconded to leave executive session. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously. Returned to public session at 8:26 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary