

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**HEALTH, SAFETY, & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MINUTES: August 6, 2019**

Greenfield Public Schools Central Office, 195 Federal Street, Greenfield, MA 01301

**Present:** Katie Caron (KC), Chair; Susan Hollins (SH) (joined remotely at 12:54 p.m.); Cameron Ward (CW)

**Absent:** None

**Also present:** Glen Ayers, public citizen; Eliza Calkins, Food and Nutrition Services Director; Jordana Harper, Superintendent; Chris Nosel, Grants and Professional Development Coordinator

**I. Call to Order**

With a quorum present (KC, CW), KC opened the meeting at 12:43 p.m.

**II. Public Comment**

Glen Ayers, a retired health agent, requested to present his findings (put together as a private citizen) on lead contamination in the district's water to the full school committee.

**III. Water Quality Testing**

Superintendent Harper cited a review of GPS's action on lead and water quality, noting the action taken at the preschool was highlighted as a case study.

- GPS is in ongoing communications with the DPW and city regarding water testing protocols and changing regulations
- Superintendent Harper recommended that GPS move forward with independent third-party testing, re-testing any sites where lead was found in the past.
  - Cost of the testing is approximately \$16,000; would be a proactive measure, above and beyond what is required
  - Having quality results may set GPS up for receiving related grant money in the future

Members discussed whether or not the burden of the cost of water testing/remediation should fall upon the school, as GPS water comes from the city and the city owns the facilities.

- Regulations for schools are different than municipalities due to the age of the users of the water system

**Consensus to recommend to the full school committee Superintendent Harper's proposal to begin third-party water testing. KC: if the full school committee would like more information prior to supporting this subcommittee's recommendation, then a request will go out to Mr. Ayers to present his findings to the full school committee.**

**IV. \$60,000 Grant Award from Governor Baker for School Safety Improvements**

Superintendent Harper noted that GPS was awarded a grant to upgrade entrance security (including visitor check-in funding) and to re-key doors and locks. GPS is working with local law enforcement, fire, principals, and facilities staff to implement the updates.

**V. Update on Superintendent's Health Education Task Force**

Superintendent Harper informed the committee that the Health Education Task Force is recommending a health education curriculum which begins at the middle school level.

- Curriculum is evidence-based and free of charge; titled “Rights, Respect and Responsibilities”
- Task Forces also recommending a component for students in special education programs

#### **VI. Green River School**

City Council did not approve funding for heating the building, tabling the decision. Funding must be approved before the project goes out to bid (a process which will be handled by the city).

#### **VII. New Business**

Director Calkins shared that GPS does not participate in “lunch shaming”, a practice in which children are offered an alternate meal if their lunch balances are in the negative.

- All efforts are being made to collect on lunch balances
- Revisions have been made to non-policy language, with guidance from USDA
- SH requested that the topic of providing free milk be re-visited once the cost of doing so is determined

#### **VI. Adjournment**

KC closed the meeting at 1:20 p.m.