

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES: Wednesday, June 10, 2015**  
GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA  
(Approved 08.12.15)

**Present:** Maryelen Calderwood (MC); Donna Gleason (DG); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Francina Wisniewski (FW).

**Absent:** Margaret Betts (MB); Jeff Comenitz (JC)

**Also present:** School personnel, citizens, and the press.

### **I. Call to Order**

With a quorum present (MC, DG, WM, AN, FW), Chair Calderwood called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

### **II. Approval of Draft Minutes**

WM moved to table consideration of May 13 minutes. 2nd DG. WM moved to approve minutes of May 28, 2015. 2nd DG. Motion passed unanimously.

### **III. Public Comment (MSA = Math & Science Academy)**

- Susan Hollins commented on posting of agenda (item "MSA" unclear), concern for transparency.
- Scott Cote spoke to unclear agenda (MSA); difficulty for public to participate in meetings; requested to know how facility-use fees were set.
- Anna Marchefka, teacher, praised MSA staff and program, expressed need for expanded support services at MSA.
- Jamie Cote expressed support for MSA; asked about cancellation of awards.
- Martha Maloney, praised MSA staff and program, urged no significant changes.
- Todd Day spoke against moving MSA to GMS building.
- John Passiglia, parent, praised MSA; shared concerns re: "combative tone"; spoke against moving MSA to GMS building.
- Heather Evans, MSA principal, shared data showing success of MSA, including continuation of scholarship habits at GHS.
- Donna Rivers, teacher and parent, said that public comment timing works against dialogue; praised quality of teaching at MSA.
- Maria Burge, Greenfield Youth Commission Chair, spoke to school facilities policy, request for greater dialogue in process, desire to work together.
- Adelle Ferreira, parent, spoke to strengths of MSA as small school; timing of public comment.
- Holly Shepard, parent, praised GMS teachers, desire to have GMS and MSA work together to share opportunities.

### **FW moved to open public comment after business topic 1. MSA. WM 2nd.**

WM called question. FW 2nd. Motion to end debate passed unanimously.

### **Motion to add public comment passed unanimously.**

Atty. Smith recommended tabling of MSA discussion until next Cte. mtg., recommended special mtg. in June.

MC explained that presentation of student awards was not on agenda; public had 20 opportunities to speak on facilities use policy; agreed to make agenda more specific.

At FW's request, Atty. Smith explained chairs of cte or subcte have power to decide whether and how public comment is included. FW asked for clarification of public's right to know agenda 48 hours in advance; Atty. Smith explained that and open meeting law.

**FW moved to table Business Topic MSA to a later date, within 14 days. AN 2nd. Motion passed 4-1.**

#### **IV. Reports**

##### **A. Chair's Report**

MC announced that William Bazyk, Director of Pupil Services, has resigned effective August 1.

##### **B. Superintendent's Report**

JH's report:

- Introduced Madison Walker, newly hired Food Service Director. District partnering with Mass. Farm to School, using Harvest of the Month program. Food Service program in full review.
- Just Roots received \$36,000 grant from United Way of Franklin County for K-6 Growing Units curriculum.
- Wm Bazyk implementing Mindful Schools practices, staff training, through special education grant
- Staffing reports
- State's preschool learning grant reduced by 78%; no longer entitlement grant.
- DESE replacing Free & Reduced Lunch "low income" measure with "economically disadvantaged" metric
- Strong response to School Choice openings: more applications than spaces; lottery needed.
- Town Council approved Newton School modular classrooms. Goal to complete construction by start of school, allowing 4th grade to stay at Newton.
- Update on School Councils. Committee requests update on Special Ed Parent Advisory Council from Bazyk.

##### **Public comment re-opened :**

Martha Maloney asked that special mtg to discuss MSA not conflict with MSA graduation June 18. Scott Cote requested access to MSA proposal.

#### **C. Subcommittees**

##### **1. Negotiations Subcommittee**

DG announced that administrative assistants' contract to be discussed in later executive session. Custodians' contract complete, will come to School Cte's next meeting.

##### **2. Building Committee**

DG gave update on GHS construction. Proceeding on time. Old building to be demolished day after school closes.

##### **3. NEASC at GHS**

AN reported that all reports have been accepted; document-gathering continues; final evaluation from NEASC team in December.

##### **4. Health & Safety**

AN invited public to participate at meetings, join email list.

Subcte reviewed transportation study by School Bus Consultants. Current system (outsourced buses, with special needs transportation provided by district vans) “not sustainable.” Recommend routing software (\$9,500 cost over 3 years). Options:

- Move to 100% outsourced system
- Increase outsourcing to include special needs transportation; use district fleet for field trips
- Continue with current system with pay increase to transportation manager and addition of administrative assistant

Shortage of CDL drivers: increase pay to attract more drivers. Subcte seeking more information on cost of field trips and sports teams’ travel.

Update on move of Davis Street administrative offices. WM proposing moving to Lunt property.

## **5. Policy Subcommittee**

FW reported subcte working to update Pest Management policy.

DG provided first Reading of Policy K-F, Community Use of School Facilities

**AN moved to approve Policy K-F, Community Use of School Facilities. FW 2nd.**

Discussion: See amended document. **Motion passed unanimously.**

(Announcement by MC: Front door of GCTV was locked. Door re-opened. Event will be reported.)

Members provided first reading of Policy KF-R, Community Use of School Facilities.

**AN moved to adopt Policy KF-R, Community Use of School Facilities. FW 2nd.**

Discussion: Superintendent’s “designee” is not same person always but may vary based on circumstances and applicant’s use. Need for licensed food handler (life-threatening allergy policy). See amended document. **Motion passed 4-0-1** (WM abstain).

FW provided first reading of KG-R2 Fee Schedule for Use of Facilities.

**DG moved to accept KG-R2 Fee Schedule for Use of Facilities. AN 2nd.**

Discussion: computer/internet use. Overall, fees low cf: other districts. See amended document. **Motion passed 4-0-1** (WM abstain).

## **Public Comment**

- Susan Hollins expressed community’s need for stability and desire to include teachers in discussions; recommended documents explaining GMS and MSA; suggested posting draft minutes quickly.
- Scott Cote: Students disappointed not to receive awards tonight. Postings for subcte mtgs should indicate if public comment will be included. School Cte sets policy, not regulations. Facilities-use fees are not reasonable for underprivileged people.

## **IV. Business Topics**

### **B. Central Office Relocation**

MC reported that Town intends to close Davis Street office by end of October.

Atty Smith: Need for safe, secure space which allows for public access. Moving offices must protect confidential documents. Concern that Davis Street has no heating system.

**DG moved to table B. Central Office Relocation, to be added to agenda to special meeting. FW 2nd. Motion failed 1-3-1.**

WM presented options:

- Davis Street rehabilitation costs are “impractical.” Heating system no longer functioning.
- TD Bank: Rental \$120K/year plus utilities.
- Middle School: \$703K to rehab space
- Unit B at Lunt Silversmith property: 7,000 sq ft. Declared clean from contamination. Offers parking, new HVAC, plumbing, etc. Goal: Move complete by September; Davis Street to be emptied by October 31.

**WM moved that School Cte accept and authorize the School Dept to review and accept relocation to 298 Federal Street. FW 2nd.**

Discussion: Timing is not ideal. EPA clean-up. No future at Davis Street. \$40K town funds to support move. Is site safe? Building has been declared clean. Office space is front of property. Medical clinic will be in back of property. Desire for cost estimates to compare options, walk-through of site. What are costs to prepare Lunt building interior? Can GMS cost be reduced? WM to address concerns re: toxicity, cost, other use at property, adequate space. WM withdrew motion.

**Executive Session**

DG made a motion to move into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining. AN 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes: MC, DG, WM, AN, FW. Moved into executive session at 11:13 p.m.

MB moved to return to public session. 2nd DG. Yes: MC, DG, WM, AN, FW. Motion passed unanimously. Public session resumed at 11:18 p.m.

**V. Adjournment**

DG moved to adjourn. 2nd FW. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Farber  
Recording Secretary