

GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, June 25, 2015
Town Hall Meeting Room, 14 Court Square, Greenfield MA
(Approved 08.12.15)

Present: Margaret Betts (MB); Maryelen Calderwood (MC); Donna Gleason (arrived 6:15) (DG); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN).

Absent: Jeff Comenitz (JC); Francina Wisnewski (FW)

Also present: Atty. Peter Smith, other school staff and citizens.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (MB, MC, WM, AN), Chair Calderwood called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

II. Interviews for Director of Pupil Services Interviews

A. Elaine Mount, Assistant Director of Students Services, Greenfield High School

B. Adam Garand, Assistant Director of Special Education, Holyoke Public Schools

JH reviewed search and interview process.

MB summarized reference checks.

Questions asked of each candidate:

WM: What coursework have you had in special education assessment?

MB: The job description and responsibilities were posted. Another copy is available for you. If you are selected, in the first 30 days on the job, what approach would you take to begin to address and prioritize the various job responsibilities?

AN: Please describe how you have handled a very difficult, highly emotional situation that involved students, parents and/or staff.

DG: Out-of-district placement is not always the best choice for children, not the least restrictive environment. *To Ms. Mount:* Under the last director, there were program started in Greenfield to keep children in-district. Are you familiar with those programs, and do you foresee creating further programs to keep children in Greenfield? *To Mr. Garand:* In your current position, did you develop any programs to help keep students that might be sent out, and if you did not, do you have ideas on what you would like to develop?

MC: How would you describe your supervisory experience and style of communicating with staff?

WM: My question concerns the cost of special education. There is some discussion that there should be an assessment tool that can trigger an identification of whether it's a 504 or IEP, is this a special education need or a situational requirement? Are you aware of how billing takes place and to get reimbursement, Medicaid or insurance?

MB: In your opinion, what are two or three key trainings all teachers need to effectively teach and reach special education students?

AN: What leadership and educational philosophies guide you day to day?

DG: Are you familiar with our pre-referral process at the elementary level, and would you continue with that process?

MC: Can you speak to your experiences in labor management, namely, participating in labor management meetings and/or collective bargaining?

Follow-up questions for Elaine Mount:

DG: (regarding paraprofessionals) Evaluation can help them to really help the children. Have you had experience evaluating paras at the high school?

WM: How do you would you handle or instruct people working with you to handle the very destructive behavior of a child?

Follow-up question for Adam Garard:

WM: (regarding PBIS and UDL) UDL would be related to more learning theory than teaching modes, so if students have different ways of learning, then the teacher has to have different ways of teaching. Sometimes teachers need to learn new things. How we as a School Committee do a better job helping the teachers teach to a wider variety of learning modes?

III. Executive Session

AN made a motion to move into executive session for purpose of collective bargaining with non-union and union personnel. DG 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes: MB, MC, DG, WM, AN. Motion passed unanimously. Moved into executive session at 7:45 p.m.

MB moved to return to public session. 2nd DG. Yes: MB, MC, DG, WM, AN. Motion passed unanimously. Public session resumed at 10:17 p.m.

IV. Hiring of Director of Pupil Services

MB moved to recommend hiring Adam Garand as the Director of Pupil Services of the Greenfield Public Schools as soon as practical. WM 2nd. Members expressed reasons for supporting his nomination. **Motion passed 4-1** (nay: MC). Atty. directed to enter negotiations; desire for Garand to start sooner than August 1.

V. Ratification of Contracts

A. Administrative Assistants Association Contract

DG moved to ratify the contract between the Greenfield School Committee and Administrative Assistants Association, dated July 1, 2015—June 30, 2018, subject to % increases of 2, 2, and 2 written on the salary scale and subject to verification of salary scale figures being correct to members of the Committee. WM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Collective Bargaining Agreement between Greenfield School Committee and UE Local 274: Custodial/Maintenance Personnel

MB moved to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Greenfield School Committee and UE Local 274: Custodial/Maintenance Personnel. WM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Appendix A: Agreement between School Committee and Paraprofessionals

MB moved to ratify agreement between School Committee and Paraprofessionals (2%) 2015-2016. AN 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Adjournment

MB moved to adjourn. 2nd DG. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary