

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES: Wednesday, October 14, 2015  
GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA  
Approved 11.12.15**

**Present:** Margaret Betts (MB); Maryelen Calderwood (MC); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Francina Wisnewski (FW). Student representatives Sarah O'Sullivan and Amy O'Sullivan.

**Absent:** Donna Gleason (DG); Douglas Mayo (DM)

**Also present:** Molly Chambers, resident; Tara Cloutier, GHS Spanish teacher; Maureen Donovan, Safe Schools/Safe Streets Coordinator; Lane Kelly, Town of Greenfield Finance Administrator; Penny Ricketts, Town Councilor; citizens, and the press.

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

With a quorum present (MB, MC, WM, AN, FW), Chair Calderwood called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

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

MB moved to approve revised draft minutes of September 9, 2015. 2nd AN. Motion passed unanimously.

WM requested update on Federal Street Afterschool program. JH will provide next month.

FW made a motion to move IV.A. Student Representatives Report after III. DG 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

### **III. Public Comment**

Molly Chambers invited all to attend Town Council's Community Relations Committee discussion with Supt. Harper on Oct. 26, 6 p.m., Greenfield Planning Office.

Penny Ricketts, Town Council member, praised Supt. and STAR committee.

FW moved to amend agenda to discuss Douglas Mayo's subcommittee appointment. 2nd. Motion passed. With concurrence of members, Chair will appoint him to Negotiations Subcte.

### **IV. Reports**

#### **A. Student Representative Student Representatives Report**

Sarah O'Sullivan and Amy O'Sullivan, GHS Student Council members, reported on field trips, fundraisers, sports. Open House at new GHS building. NHS induction Oct. 27.

#### **B. Chairperson**

MC praised Oct. 8 Community Cookout and Open Houses and JH's leadership role.

#### **C. Superintendent's Report**

JH's summarized her written reports, including:

- Afterschool program at Federal St began Sept. 28. Timing similar to last year. No grant funding; families pay sliding scale. GEA and Collaborative supporting.
- Community Cookout: thanked organizations, volunteers, staff; 2,500 people attended
- Eos Foundation grant \$24,956 for breakfast at GMS and Newton. Grant covers start-up costs.

Discussion: Request for JH to provide total new hires since July and October 1 enrollment numbers. MCAS/PARCC positive results attributed in part to faculty PLCs. District needs substitute teachers.

## **D. Subcommittees**

### **1. Strategic Task Force for Alignment and Reorganization (STAR) Ad Hoc Committee**

MB reviewed goals, process, recommendations. Praised committee for transforming problems into solutions; thanked AN for co-leadership.

Discussion: PreK to stay at AEL. Green River building becomes 4<sup>th</sup> elementary school. MSA moves to GMS building. 8<sup>th</sup> grade cannot move to GMS due to GHS building funding requirement.

### **AN moved to charge the Superintendent to consider and report by November School Committee meeting how the district would implement this proposal for both 2016-17 and 2017-18 school year. MB 2nd.**

Discussion: Need for fiscal impact report. How would families be assigned to Green River? Would Green River phase in grades? Positive involvement of parent and teacher members, admin team. MSA to continue as accelerated program with own associate principal. Need for clear process for students to enroll in MSA program. Request for Supt's plan to include communication with families. **Motion passed unanimously.**

### **2. Health, Safety & Facilities**

AN reported that subcte met with public health director, discussed survey data. Some nurses need support in covering absences, nutrition and health ed programs. Lack of affordable dental care. Community Nursing Program. Request that District Wellness Policy be updated.

### **3. Ad Hoc Committee on Supt Evaluation**

FW reported on progress: standards for evaluation, DESE model. Met w/ Glenn Koocher, MASC. Ideally, goals/indicators set earlier to allow data-gathering. Atty. Smith working on contract. Next step: Oct. 28 mtg, confirm standards and indicators for evaluation.

## **V. Business Topics**

### **A. Tara Cloutier, GHS Spanish Teacher, Field Trip in April 2016 to Spain**

Cloutier requested permission for GHS trip to Spain: 10 students, 3 adults. Suggestion for School Cte to receive reports on student trips. **MB made a motion to approve April 15-23, 2016 trip to Spain. AN 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **B. Maureen Donovan, Safe Schools/Safe Streets Coordinator, Field Trip to Washington DC in February 2016**

Donovan presented goals, details of trip: 3 students (to be selected), 1 adult (Donovan). JH praised positive data from GHS, active group. **FW made a motion to approve Safe Schools/Safe Streets field trip to Washington, DC, in February 2016. AN 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **C. Greenfield Public Schools Vision, Mission, and Strategic Objectives**

JH reviewed draft document and process. Plan responds to request from School Cte and community for long-range plan. With School Cte's endorsement, next step: JH to work with leadership team to create Action Plan. **WM moved to accept the Greenfield Public Schools Strategic Plan. 2nd.** WM praised plan, will use as model for town departments. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## **D. Update on Davis Street Building**

Discussion:

- Summary of progress on plan to move admin offices to GMS.
- Town continues to look at alternative sites, e.g., Dakor Center (not ideal).
- Combine school admin office with new public library? Not allowed by state funding regs.
- Davis Street offices now have heat; will move heating system later to Green River building.
- Building and soft costs to move to GMS: estimated \$750K
- Safety, parking concerns. Use town-owned property on Beacon St. for busses and vans.
- Town has hired project manager (Dan Pallotta, P<sup>3</sup> Inc.)
- Preference to move into town-owned building, not rental.
- Renovation and relocation: who pays? (town / GPS)
- To get firm numbers, Lane Kelly will put out for bid next week. School Dept. will review before RFP sent out.
- Will need Building Committee to oversee project.
- How do other districts design admin offices within school building (e.g., Amherst)?

**AN made a motion to request the Mayor to provide a feasibility study to be presented to the School Cte on or before its December meeting. 2nd. Motion passed 4-0-1 (WM abstain).**

**MB made a motion that a representative from P<sup>3</sup> Inc. attend and report on progress on study of moving admin offices to the middle school, at the Nov. 12, 2015 School Cte meeting. FW 2nd. Motion passed 4-0-1 (WM abstain).**

## **E. Charter School Funding**

MC presented annual reports from Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion School and Four Rivers Charter Public School. Has requested but not received report from Pioneer Valley Performing Arts School. Discussion: Effect of charter schools on public schools. Requirement that charters return surplus to sending districts. Low-performing districts targeted by new charters. GPS response: offer innovation and Horace Mann schools? Could elementary school at Green River be innovation school? Consensus for MC to bring to next mtg motion supporting moratorium on charter schools.

## **VI. Executive Session**

AN made a motion to move into executive session to discuss litigation. MB 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes: MB, MC, WM, AN, FW. Motion passed unanimously. Moved into executive session at 9:23 p.m.

MB moved to return to public session. AN 2nd. Yes: MB, MC, WM, AN, FW. Motion passed unanimously. Public session resumed at 9:45 p.m.

## **VII. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn. 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Farber  
Recording Secretary