

GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, May 30, 2017
GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA
Approved 06.14.17

Present: Don Alexander (DA); Timothy Farrell (TF); Elizabeth Pratt, Assistant Superintendent; Susan Hollins (SH); William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Nathaniel Tripp (NT).

Absent: Cameron Ward (CW)

Also present: Howard Barber, GPS Business Manager; Paul DeMarco, MTA; Lukas Martin and Tamara Grogan, GHS teachers; other school staff, citizens, and the press.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (DA, TF, SH, WM, AN, NT), Chair Martin opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

II. Public Comment

Lukas Martin and Tamara Grogan, GHS teachers, spoke on behalf of many GHS staff present, re: changes, uncertainty in GHS leadership and in support of Karin Patenaude, acting principal. Requested formal path for staff to offer feedback on leadership. Presented letter, signed by approx. 60 GHS faculty/staff, detailing Patenaude's achievements. SH noted Policy Subcte is working on "Staff/School Committee Communications."

Paul DeMarco, MTA, requested consideration of petition from GEA members, emailed to School Cte members.

III. Business

A. Progress towards MOU: Greenfield Public Schools and Town of Greenfield HR Dept.

WM summarized preparations for transferring HR responsibilities from GPS to Town. Status report at June 14 School Cte mtg. SH announced Policy Subcte to review Section G, Personnel Policies, for changes necessitated by HR transfer.

B. FY 18 Budget Update

Town Council voting on budget tonight. Supt and Business Mgr. will modify school budget to meet new \$ amounts, report at June meeting.

C. Policy for 2nd Reading and Vote: JHCDA Life-Threatening Food Allergies

Correction: Line 3 to read: "...goals of this policy are to ensure ~~compliance with the policy through~~ Greenfield Public Schools has...." Ignore underlining throughout.

SH described new comprehensive policy. Eliminates food being used casually in classrooms; eliminates food parties; requires those with life-threatening food allergies to document; calls for guidelines to train staff (classroom, cafeteria, bus, etc.). Policy has been reviewed by Atty. Quinn.

Discussion:

- "Guidelines" to be developed (likely over summer) by Superintendent and appropriate staff. Resource: *Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Schools (DESE, 2002)*. Attach guidelines to Policy. Policy Subcte to confer with Supt to set date for guideline completion.
- Need to communicate with parents – e.g., birthday cupcakes no longer allowed.
- Curriculum-related food – e.g., "Taste of World Culture" – will be allowed.
- No-food guideline has extra effect of addressing obesity, food safety concerns. Consider healthy ways to celebrate with students.

- Policy Subcte to discuss how school provide snacks for hungry children. Snacks personally provided by teachers not allowed.

TF moved to accept policy JHCDA. SH 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

D. ELT Application and Status Update

State budget for ELT is still pending.

Request for Supt to provide budget proposal and collective bargaining agreement re: ELT, and for presentation on achievement data.

SH suggested middle school chorus for K-12 alignment; acknowledged curriculum alignment to be flexible for special education, alternative programs, innovation schools, gifted/talented programs, etc.

E. Choice-in Availability Review and Vote by Site/Class

School Cte voted to approve at prior meeting. Affirmed that choice-in is based on empty seats, not creating new classroom.

Request to review choice-in seats in light of nearby districts closing small schools (e.g., Leyden families' interest in Newton School) and rising grade 7 MSA students choicing out.

Request for clarification: Will MSA include grade 4?

IV. Old Business

A. Substitute Shortages

DA requested update on shortage of substitute teachers and nurses. Concern that administrators cover classrooms, or one teacher must supervise two classrooms. Central Office is tracking with surveys, collecting data. Refer to Budget Subcte to prepare update for full Committee. Include teacher vacancies, staff on leave.

V. New Business

A. Personnel and Collective Bargaining Subcommittee and Upcoming Negotiations

NT proposed that negotiations be done by Superintendent, staff as directed by Supt, one Subcommittee member, and Atty. Quinn, rather than by full Subcte. Consensus to approve.

SH recommended gathering administrators' comments on sections of contracts that are causing difficulties, what parts are strengths.

VI. Executive Session

MGL c 30A, 21 (2): to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and (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.

TF moved to go into executive session. DA 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – DA, TF, SH, WM, AN, NT.
Entered executive session at 7:32 p.m.

TF moved to leave executive session. AN 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – DA, TF, SH, WM, AN, NT.
Returned to public session at 10:21 p.m.

VII. Public Session Votes

AN moved to approve MOU between GEA and Greenfield School Committee incorporating into Unit A contract positions of occupational therapists, physical therapists, Board certified behavior analysts. NT 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

AN moved to approve settlement agreement between Greenfield Public Schools and municipal employee. TF 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

AN moved to approve MOU between GEA and Greenfield School Committee pursuant to settlement and salary schedules for occupation therapy assistant, physical therapist assistant, speech language assistant, and behavior interventionist, as amended. TF 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

AN moved to approve MOU between GEA and Greenfield School Committee for purposes of settling MUP-17-5839. TF 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

AN moved to accept contract, as amended, for Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development. TF 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

AN moved to approve the Contract Addendum, as amended, and authorize our attorney to offer one-year extension to Superintendent to allow for further negotiations. NT 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment

TF moved to adjourn. NT 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

1. Agenda: May 30, 2017
2. Greenfield Human Resources, memo/schedule
3. Policy JHCDA Life-Threatening Food Allergy
4. School Choice-in Availability 2017-18, memo from Supt. Harper to DESE, May 1, 2017
5. DESE FY 18 Expanded Learning Time grant application, with MA ELT School Newsletter, May 2017
6. Letter from Faculty and Staff of GHS to Mayor, School Committee, Superintendent, re: Karin Patenaude, May 25, 2017

Executive Session Documents

7. Contract of Employment: Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development
8. Contract Addendum for the Superintendent of GPS
9. Memorandum of Agreement between the Greenfield Education Association and the Greenfield School Committee for purposes of settling MUP-17-5839
10. Memorandum of Agreement between the Greenfield Education Association and the Greenfield School Committee negotiated pursuant to the settlement between the parties dated December 2, 2014 regarding the unfair labor practices complaint MUP-14-3854
11. Memorandum of Agreement between the Greenfield Education Association and the Greenfield School Committee negotiated pursuant to the settlement between the parties dated December 2, 2014 regarding the unfair labor practice MUP-14-3854

12. Settlement Agreement – GEA, Greenfield School Committee and [employee ML]