

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, January 8, 2020**
John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant Street, Greenfield MA

Present: Katie Caron (KC); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Jordana Harper (JH); Glenn Johnson (GJ); Susan Hollins (SH); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW); Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

Absent: None

Also present: Paul DeMarco, Massachusetts Teachers Association; school staff, citizens, and the press

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (KC, SE, GJ, SH, AP, JW, RW), Vice-Chair Katie Caron opened the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

AP moved to suspend the rules of order to allow reorganization to proceed. SE 2nd.

IV. New Business

A. Reorganization of School Committee, Election of Officers

Chair

GJ nominated Susan Eckstrom. RW 2nd.

KC nominated Amy Proietti. RW 2nd.

SH nominated Roxann Wedegartner, who declined.

Vote: SE – 3 (Yes: SH, SE, GJ). AP – 4 (Yes: KC, AP, JW, RW). Proietti elected Chair.

Vice-Chair

RW nominated Susan Eckstrom. JW 2nd.

AP nominated Katie Caron. GJ 2nd.

Vote: SE – 5 (Yes: KC, SH, SE, JW, RW). KC – No vote needed. Eckstrom elected Vice-Chair.

Secretary

SE nominated Glenn Johnson. KC 2nd. No additional nominations. Motion passed. Johnson elected Secretary.

II. Public Comment

Paul DeMarco, MTA, reminded Committee of incomplete Unit C contract. Some staff working for less than minimum wage.

III. Reports

A. Superintendent – JH

- Welcomed new Committee members
- No school Jan. 20 (Martin Luther King Day), Jan. 24 (in-service day)
- 2020-2021 school calendar to be presented at next mtg for approval
- Noted the death of Richard Hawkins, beloved school custodian

B. Subcommittees

1. Health, Safety, & Facilities – KC

City Council requested updated proposal for Green River School before approving heating system. Implementation of Green River program stalled due to lack of heating.

2. Policy Subcommittee - KC

Meeting tentatively set for Jan. 13, awaiting new subcommittee assignments from Chair.

3. Negotiations – SE

- Need new School Committee representative for Unit A negotiations to replace Adrienne Nunez. Any member can serve.
- Unit C contract is in limbo, awaiting City Council funding.

C. School Committee Representatives

1. Collaborative for Education – SE

No report

2. City Planning & Construction Committee – SH

Request to distribute Committee's annual report to all School Committee members.

IV. New Business (continued)

B. Update on Four Corners Principal Search

JH launched principal search on short timeline. Position posted, search committee assembled quickly. Interviews held Monday. Strong applicants, but concern that mid-year timing restricts applicant pool. Decision to appoint AEL teacher Caissie Putnam as Interim Principal while search continues.

KC is School Committee representative on search committee.

Suggestion to share Four Corners' Innovation Plan with Committee members.

C. Inform new members of progress on Superintendent Evaluation

GJ provided update:

- Outgoing Chair Adrienne Nunez assigned GJ to follow up on evaluation.
- Evaluation to be done in open, public deliberation.
- Individual members filled out evaluation forms; problems with compiling data; GJ may need assistance to complete.
- To be clarified: are individual responses public?
- Include on February agenda
- DESE rolling out new system to be used next evaluation cycle

D. Typical Budget Timeline

JH provided general overview. Budget process goes very fast after new members sworn in. Need to post Superintendent's budget in six weeks, followed by public hearing, deliberation. Timeline set by City Charter. Recommends reconvening Budget Subcommittee. Work on Superintendent's budget is underway.

Discussion:

- Current budget shows items over 100% spent. Do we have enough \$ to finish the school year?
- We spend more than state minimum requirement but less than neighboring districts. Comparison data from other districts useful.
- Agreement to move quickly to create Budget Subcommittee.
- Agreement to hold special meeting Monday, Jan. 13, 6:30pm, to address subcommittees.
- Members to send subcommittee assignment requests to Chair ASAP.
- Reference policy on Subcommittees and policy on Advisory Committees

Subcommittees:

Policy & Program

Health, Safety & Facilities

Personnel & Negotiations

Budget & Finance

Representatives:

Collaborative for Educational Services

City Planning & Construction Committee

City Library Building Committee

E. Proposed Tuition Adjustments at Academy of Early Learning for 2020-2021

Postponed until February meeting, due to illness of Business Manager.

Hasn't been rate change in 3 years. Small increase likely. Early decision will allow families to plan ahead.

V. Other Business

A. Committee Agendas

- Reminder to include caveat that additional, unforeseen topics may be discussed.
- Request to include "Topics for Next Meeting" as regular agenda item. Members may suggest; Chair's purview to set agenda and priorities.
- Suggestion for Chair to review annual calendar of agenda topics, developed by previous Committee.
- Request to routinely include on agenda: "Executive session may be called."

B. Open Meeting Law & Emails

Reminder not to inadvertently deliberate on-line. Four is quorum.

VIII. Adjournment

SE moved to adjourn. 2nd GJ. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Farber

Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

Financial Reports (January 6, 2020)

School newsletters

Policy BDA: School Committee Organizational Meeting

Policy BDB: School Committee Officers