

GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES: Tuesday, May 26, 2020
Greenfield MA
Approved June 10, 2020

Note: This meeting was held fully remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, §20.

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

Absent: Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW), Chair Proietti opened the meeting at 6:54 p.m. *(The 6:30 start time was delayed due to connection problems.)*

II. Public Comment - None

III. New Business

A. Revote on Last Day of School to be June 12, 2020

GJ moved to accept the adjusted last day of school date to be June 12, 2020 for Greenfield Public Schools. 2nd. Roll call vote: YES – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW. Motion passed unanimously.

B. School Choice

Supt. Harper reviewed process of offering choice-in seats. Challenging to know now how many seats will be available – e.g., if class size must be limited for social distancing; how classes will be affected by budget reductions. Process prioritizes admitting siblings of choiced-in students to keep families together. Once choiced-in, students are allowed to continue in Greenfield through graduation. If more families request than seats available, selected by lottery.

Recommends conservative number of choice-in seats, less than prior years:

Elementary – Kindergarten: 2 seats at Four Corners & 2 seats at Newton; no additional elementary seats

Middle School – 2 seats in 5th grade; no additional seats for grades 6-7

High School –

Grade 8 – 5 seats

Grade 9 – 5 seats

Grades 10-11-12 – 2 seats each grade

Discussion:

Some special education students come to Greenfield for special program we offer; this is tuition-in agreement, not school choice.

How flexible is choice-in list we submit to state? Can we change when we have the actual enrollment and class numbers? Can we wait-list families?

Will families choice out of GPS to seek smaller schools?

GJ moved to accept the School Choice plan as submitted. SE 2nd. Roll call vote: YES – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Executive Session - MGL c 30A, §21, (2), (6) & (10): (2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; (6) To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body; (10) To discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively-sensitive or other proprietary information provided in the course of activities conducted by a governmental body as an energy supplier under a license granted by the department of public utilities pursuant to section IF of chapter 164, in the course of activities conducted as a municipal aggregator under section 134 of said chapter 164 or in the course of activities conducted by a cooperative consisting of governmental entities organized pursuant to section 136 of said chapter 164, when such governmental body, municipal aggregator or cooperative determines that such disclosure will adversely affect its ability to conduct business in relation to other entities making, selling or distributing electric power and energy. *Note: (10) is related to transportation.*

KC moved to enter Executive Session. SH 2nd. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW. Motion passed unanimously. Entered Executive Session at 7:22 p.m.

Returned to public session at 8:05 p.m.

III. New Business (continued)

C. GEA/GPS Memorandum of Agreement

GJ moved to approve the GEA/GPS Memorandum of Agreement, written as the Addendum to the Remote Learning Plan for Google Meet & Content Standards. KC 2nd. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. Adjournment

GJ moved to adjourn. SE 2nd. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Document

1. Agenda: May 26, 2020