

GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
POLICY AND PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES OF November 2, 2017

Present: Subcommittee members Hollins (chair) and Mayor Martin. Also present, Superintendent Harper.

1. Call to order at 4:07 p.m.
2. Section B Board Governance and Operations

Policy BB School Committee Legal Status

Was updated in 2010. Talks about statutory authority of school committees as an autonomous division of a city. Since 2010, terms of Greenfield school committee members have changed. Decision to ‘check terms’ and references. Bring back to subcommittee for 2nd November meeting.

Policy BCA School Committee Ethics

Intended to be guidelines for School Committee members. Not binding by law was earlier MASC note. Decision to check for updated MASC version and review again by subcommittee at 2nd November meeting.

Policy BDA School Committee Organizational Meeting

Previously discussed but no record at this time of a final revision vote.

Current policy wording talks about “first regular meeting following the City’s annual election.” We remember deciding the Organizational meeting would take place as first meeting each January. SH recalls there have been special and early January meetings just for organizing and electing officers.

Discussed the practice and current inserted wording that nominations for chairperson be handled by superintendent or designee and then the meeting passes to the elected chairperson.

Consensus to have 1st Reading at the November school committee meeting as this policy needs closure before January.

Policy BDD School Committee - Superintendent Relationship

BDD outlines the division of responsibilities between a Superintendent and a School Committee. No one had any suggestion for revision.

Consensus to bring forward at November meeting for Affirmation vote—one vote. No disagreement.

3. Returning Policy Topics
Policy BDE Subcommittees of the School Committee

BDE returned to committee to include duties of each subcommittee in policy.

Question: what if assignments change? Suggestion to add to 1st paragraph:

“Assignment and responsibility of subcommittees is outlined herein but can be changed or amended by direction of chair and vote of committee.”

Reviewed proposed description of subcommittee functions and duties.

Agreement on Budget and Finance.

Agreement on Policy and Program.

Agreement on Personnel and Collective Bargaining but JH concern that item #4 is not clear enough to assure no confusion on roles. The intent is that prior to either a subcommittee or anyone assigned to bargain on behalf of the school committee, the issues and priorities for bargaining should be known and agreed by the school committee as a whole, after considering all concerns and suggestions including the superintendent's.

Agreement on Facilities, Health, and Safety

Agreement on #1 for Unique Learning (correct title from Unique Schools).

Discussion of #2 as written vis-à-vis process and roles. Item #1 under Unique Learning responsibilities is for the subcommittee to know and be informed about the school committee's role in these various models and this should assure no confusion. Discussion of a school committee's role with private schools—there is a relationship and responsibility. New programs and proposals could be assigned to be vetted to the program or finance subcommittee, depending. Today's change for #2 is: “As appropriate, to review proposals and make recommendations to the school committee.”

Review of the six (6) statements in current BDE policy as to how the subcommittees function. No concern mentioned about #1-4 and 6, as written.

Re statement #5—question about “ex officio non-voting” wording for chairperson who can be a voting member of a subcommittee, whereas the superintendent is always ex officio non-voting. Take out reference to chairperson in sentence?

Adding a statement #7 which some other school committees include— that all subcommittees are subject to the Open Meeting law. No disagreement and will add.

School Committee requested return of policy BDE with subcommittee functions.

Decision to send today's revision to school committee for 2nd reading in November to assure opportunity for feedback. Subcommittee will review at its 2nd November meeting.

Mayor Martin suggests a packet on subcommittees for new school committee members who take office. Hollins mentions that Section B and D provide orientation to how the GPS school committee functions/governs and oversees district finances.

4. Next Meeting: Monday, November 13, 2017

Due to Thanksgiving holiday an earlier meeting than 3rd Tuesday was agreed.

Superintendent will provide comments to the subcommittee. Current agenda for November to continue. Supt shared Youth Opioid Education program for review.

5. Adjournment: 5:20 p.m.