

GREENFIELD SCHOOLS
POLICY AND PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES

Meeting of August 15, 2017

Present: Subcommittee members Hollins (Chair), D. Alexander (DH). Also, present: Superintendent Harper, Transportation Director Smith, Registrar McGuinness.

1. Call to Order at 9:08 a.m.

2. Discussion of Policy

Transportation Policy is not on the agenda; however, the superintendent stated that the Mayor said transportation policy would be discussed by this committee. To accommodate the Superintendent and opening-of-school concerns, SH said transportation policy would be discussed and #4 on the agenda (other) would start the meeting.

SH said this discussion was unanticipated so there are no materials ready. JH said she would like to not change EEAA policy language this year and wait until next year. SH said a full meeting recently reviewed transportation policies, made revision recommendations that had support and seemed helpful. SH read prior-meeting minutes.

SH reviewed EEAA revisions agreed to previously, particularly as regards grade levels and schools. SH said there is no policy recommendation coming forward to begin having GHS students walk 2.0 miles to school in the winter and there is no information that this 2.0 distance has ever been enacted in Greenfield, although it has been in GPS policy.

SH reviewed the overarching GPS transportation policy goal of helping students get to school. Although the school committee had been reassured, apparently the Safety Subcom has not reviewed the new routes for safety. JH confirmed that at the time the proposed 2.0 guideline was reviewed with the safety subcommittee the routes were not available.

DA commented that the policy revision as proposed still allows routes to be developed by the superintendent. SH said the wording added gives clarity that the superintendent oversees bus transportation routes and has authority to make exceptions.

JH provided information about a city proposal to have increased public transportation through FRTA with students having monthly passes. There was a recent meeting that included the superintendent, mayor, FRTA, and school transportation coordinator. SH: In the new proposal, how is payment for monthly passes handled? Answer: The proposal involves the cost of bus use being in the GPS budget with a comparable reduction in contracted transportation. \$400,000 was mentioned as potential savings goal.

JH: According to the Mayor, it will be an addition to the GPS transportation budget.

Administrators shared information about busing and budget opinions/directives from city councilor Isaac Mass. SH expressed concern and questions about Councilor Mass' role in matters of school policy and budget. SH mentions attending all policy and budget subcommittee meetings and never receiving any information from Councilor Mass. Where are these directives coming from?

LM: Raised concerns about young children riding buses and adult predators. The Chair has heard no information about the FRTA proposal but recalled no mention at school committee meeting of any suggest regarding young, unsupervised children The Chair recalled that recent school committee discussion about a public transportation initiative was clarified as a pilot project to offer a bus choice to high school students.

The Chair offered adding a clarifying statement to the revised policy that "During the 2017-2018 school year, the Mayor will work with FRTA to explore an FRTA transportation option." The superintendent does not think this will be helpful. The Superintendent requests that distances are not changed in the current policy because there are too many questions. Not changing distances would give more time for study.

LM mentioned that at this time 96 students have transferred out but more students are transferring in than out.

SH mentioned concern from this subcommittee that safety considerations of GHS students walking 2.0 miles as proposed were not reviewed by the Safety Subcommittee. Safety considerations include: street lights, sidewalks, adequately cleared sidewalks, cross walks where needed, weight of backpacks vs. distance and medical recommendations, high speed zones, traffic lights, frigid weather in winter, location of registered sex offenders, students without warm coats-gloves-footwear, length of time students would be outside walking in winter (to date the P & P recommendation was up to 20 minutes in freezing cold, not more than 1.5 miles).

DA suggests that all the safety issues being raised be referred to the Safety Subcommittee.

Question about the district having clarity about who is riding on buses and software proposed last year. JH said the district has PowerSchool which can generate rider lists.

There is no information today to review as regards Policy or Program related to the FRTA proposal. Several concerns were mentioned: timing of rides so students might be able to use FRTA in time for school starting and for late bus home from GHS, FRTA stop signs needed, ride times posted at actual stops and not only available online because not everyone has online access

Admin requests leaving (distance) guidelines in current policy for now. The Policy and Program Subcommittee has to wait for information to discuss transportation policy and any revisions needed based on a pilot program with FRTA.

3. Discussion of Policy Agenda

KF-Regulation #2: Fee Schedule

- a. The \$30/hour custodian fee is an average hourly. It does not specifically address a particular custodian's salary or if the particular hour worked is overtime or not. Consensus to leave an "average" hourly rate and not start individualizing rates.
- b. The \$21/hour Faculty Stage Manager fee was based on the two (2) prior stage managers who are no longer in this role. SH asks if this should be \$20/hour just for ease of figuring since specific people are gone. No.
- c. The \$9.00/hour Student Stage Manager. Title should be Student Assistant Stage Manager. The technology now is too expensive and complicated to be operated by a student without supervision. Rate should be \$11.00/hour to reflect minimum wage. SH mentions that city is exempt. JH would like rate to reflect the state rate of \$11.00.
- d. The \$9.00/hour Stage Hands. See above. Request is for \$11.00/hour.
- e. The \$25.00/hour for Technology Staff. No change.
Question: If someone is already on salary, is this an additional amount paid on top of the hourly salary received? No.
- f. Shot Clock/Score Board. The \$25/hour is justified as a fund so that when the clock breaks, based on use, there is money available to replace it.
- g. Piano. JH asked SH about charging for use of piano and tuning. SH suggests tuning be optional. A piano usually does not go out-of-tune from being played one time. Use of the GHS concert grand should have a charge—it is a very expensive piano to replace. GHS would do well to have a lesser valuable piano for general use. Needs to be moved only with cover on due to banging into walls—very little clearance. Takes 2-3 people to move onto stage. Other pianos in schools? \$100 an event to use seems high. SH thinks care of piano is important when granted permission to use.

JH mentioned need to assure building is in the same condition as found when community use ends. Notes this is not possible with bathrooms, but in general there should be some pre- and post- review to add responsibility to the user to leave the building as found. Add to policy something like "Users of school facilities need to be responsible to assure the building is in the same condition after use as it was prior to use (with some exceptions).

Fee conversation ended at 11:10 a.m. when admin had to leave.

Discussion of policies in process, approved, needing to be addressed. Concern about having updated policies posted and distributed. Today's agenda was not completed due to an unanticipated discussion of policy. SH will post today for a Thursday reconvening.

4. Adjournment: 11:30 a.m.