

GREENFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES of FEBRUARY 3, 2016

Davis Street Conference Room

6:00 p.m.

Present: Subcommittee members Hollins (chair), Farrell (TF), Wisnewski (FW). Also, Superintendent Harper, SEA Adam Garand, and the press.

1. Public Comment. None
2. Review of Minutes. Motion TF/2nd FW. Unan.
3. Review of Section B: Governance Policies
Policies on policy development, new member orientation, school committee member orientation, unexpired term fulfillment were discussed and and consensus reached on advice to school committee.
4. At 7:30 p.m. several policies were reviewed based on issues of hand.
 - a. FF Naming buildings. Review of MA statute pertaining to school committee authority and responsibility to manage buildings and grounds. Review of city charter. Change . to clarify school committee's role with buildings and grounds, conforming to statute.
 - b. Recycling and Conservation: Request related to new grant. Consensus on new policy wording that commits the district to composting and recycling.
 - c. Family Engagement: Request related to grant requirement. Passed to March.
 - d. Health and Wellness policies (7). Passed to Health and Safety committee for its review and comment.
5. Return to Governance Policies: School Committee Objectives. Consensus on recommendation to add a phrase that underscores the committee's obligation to govern the district as a whole, not just the education portion of the system.
6. Decision to have 2nd meeting, Tuesday, February 9, 8:30 a.m., to finish the first group of Section B: Governance policies.

Our discussions covered details of the roles and responsibilities of a school committee, orienting new school committee members, how policy is used to govern a school system, and details of state laws and Greenfield's charter. Key to policy's role in school system governance is easy access to school system policies. The subcommittee thinks the GPS online policy manual and meeting notices are not prominent enough on the GPS website.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Susan Hollins