NOTICE OF MEETING
Inhabitants of the Town of Greenfield:
You are hereby notified that there will be a meeting of:

Public Body: Greenfield Public Schools
School Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2019
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: John Zon Center
35 Pleasant Street

Call to Order
Approval of Minutes
Public Comment
Student Representatives
Committee Reports –Chair, Superintendent, active
subcommittees, and SC Representatives

Topics anticipated to be discussed:
1. 2019-2020 school year calendar
2. Proposed Draft changed to School Website
3. Filling of Vacant Seat
4. Proposed interim Subcommittee leadership due to
   vacant seat
5. Civics Update
6. Superintendent Evaluation Mid-cycle Review
7. Committee and Superintendent Response to public
   input
8. New Business
9. New Agenda Items
10. Executive Session may be called - MGL c 30A, §21,
    (3): To discuss strategy with respect to collective
    bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have
    a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating
    position of the public body and the chair so declares
    (Unit C)
12. Adjournment

*Please note that the list of topics was comprehensive at the
time of posting, however, the public body may consider and
take action on unforeseen matters not specifically named in this
notice.

Posted 03.11.19 4:35 PM
GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, March 13, 2019
6:30 p.m.
John Zon Center, 35 Pleasant Street

AGENDA

I. Roll Call/Call to Order

II. Approval of Draft Minutes: 02.13.19, 02.25.19, & 03.07.19

III. Public Comment

IV. Reports:
   Student Representatives
   Chairperson
   Superintendent
   Subcommittees
   SC Representatives

V. Business:
   1. 2019-2020 school year calendar
   2. Proposed Draft changed to School Website
   3. Filling of Vacant Seat
   4. Proposed interim Subcommittee leadership due to vacant seat
   5. Civics Update
   6. Superintendent Evaluation Mid-cycle Review
   7. Committee and Superintendent Response to public input

VI. New Business

VII. New Agenda Items

VIII. Executive Session may be called - MGL c 30A, §21, (3): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares (Unit C)

IX. Adjournment
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roll Call/Call to Order</td>
<td>6:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>II. Approval of Draft Minutes:</td>
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<td>III. Public Comment</td>
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<td>IV. Reports:</td>
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<td>Student Representatives</td>
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<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>6:55</td>
<td>Resignation of Member Alexander</td>
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<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>7:05</td>
<td>Follow-up on GHS Telephone System, by request of committee, Schools update, other</td>
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<td>Subcommittees</td>
<td>7:15</td>
<td>Budget and Finance Policy and Program HSF Personnel</td>
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<td>Planning &amp; Construction Rep</td>
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<td><strong>Business:</strong></td>
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<td>School Calendar 2019/2020</td>
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<td>VOTE to approve</td>
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<td>Proposed changes to website content</td>
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<td>Filling of vacant seat</td>
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<td>Proposed interim Subcommittee leadership due</td>
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<td>Civics Update</td>
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<td>Superintendent Evaluation Mid-cycle Review</td>
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<td>Executive Session</td>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>Very brief Ex. Session RE Unit C</td>
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GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES: Wednesday, February 13, 2019
John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant Street, Greenfield MA

Present: Don Alexander (DA); Katie Caron (KC); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Cameron Ward (CW)

Absent: None

Also present: Erin Donnally Drake, parent; Matt Holloway, Director of Pupil Services; Stephen Nembirkow, Business Manager; other school staff and citizens.

I. Call to Order
With a quorum present (DA, KC, SE, SH, WM, AN, CW), Chair Nunez opened the meeting at 6:31 p.m. Chair Nunez noted new officers: Vice-Chair Katie Caron, Secretary Susan Eckstrom.

II. Approval of Minutes
KC moved to approve minutes of January 9, 2019. 2nd DA. Motion passed 6-0-1 (CW abstain).

III. Public Comment
Erin Donnally Drake, Newton School parent, shared concerns re: disrepair of Newton’s basketball court, as safety issue and detrimental to Playworks curriculum and students’ outdoor play. School received $5K from Big Y to repair. Urged School Committee support to secure additional funding required.

IV. Reports

A. Student Representatives
Morghan Blanchard reported on events at GHS, including winter sports, club activities, and special academic projects, including Galileo Trial.

B. Chair (AN)
  - AN noted that Supt’s day started at 3 am with snow cancellation.
  - Toured packet materials, including documents related to upcoming March agenda:
    - Audits
    - Documents related to cafeteria workers and Unit C contracts
    - DESE civics requirements to be implemented next year
    - Open Meeting Law information
    - Code of Ethics
    - Superintendent’s goals
    - Ruling that Committee member who is not a Subcommittee member is to be treated like a member of the public at that Subcommittee’s meetings
  - Committee member annual stipend $2,000; can be reduced based on attendance (missing 3+ meetings)
  - Phone chain for emergency communication
  - Members to check school email at least every 3 days
  - SE’s update re: gsk12 website at March meeting
  - Mayor is reviewing contract for GMS to use neighboring church’s parking lot
  - Cafeteria Workers contract going to Town Council
C. Superintendent (JH)
JH provided overview of packet, including:
- Financial reports
- Media coverage of Newton School’s Breakfast in the Classroom program; AEL’s new principal; ice hockey team’s successful season
- Kindergarten registration for Class of 2032
- Big Y donated $5K to support free school store for GHS students in need (hygiene supplies)
- $2,045 grant from MA Emergency Impact Aid Assistance for Homeless Children and Youth
- School newsletters
- Next week is February vacation
- Complex, difficult decisions on school cancellations. DPW’s concern of icy or uncleared road conditions necessitated school cancellation today rather than 2-hour delay.

Discussion:
Grants (Big Y, Homeless) for program expenses, not salaries
Staffing: 3 new full-time hires; GMS special ed teacher is new position; other 2 fill vacant positions
⇒ Request for update from Food Services Director re: GHS new school breakfast program

SH moved that the Budget Subcommittee review the finance report on revolving funds received tonight. WM 2nd. Motion passed 5-2.
Nembirkow explained that large amount of revolving funds being applied to regular budget, per FY19 budget plan. Out of District Tuition has negative balance.

Transportation contract discussions to be in executive session.
⇒ AN to add to upcoming meeting agenda.

D. Subcommittees

1. Health, Safety & Facilities (KC) – No report

2. Personnel & Negotiations (DA) – No report

3. Policy & Program (DA)
Productive review of policies. Completed A and D. Currently working on Section B.
Tonight’s agenda includes first reading of 13 Section A policies and 18 Section D policies.

4. Budget & Finance (CW)

Committee Representatives

5. Collaborative for Educational Services (SE) – No report
AN urged GPS collaboration with CES.

6. Town Planning and Construction Committee (SH)
Committee reviews capital requests. School Department capital requests, with expanded supportive documents, on agenda for Feb. 21.

V. Business
A. 2019-2020 School Year Calendar
KC moved to approve the FY20 School Calendar. DA 2nd.
JH requested to move to Feb. 25 special meeting agenda to allow response to GEA comments received Feb. 11.
Motion withdrawn.

B. FY20 Budget Update
Public Hearing on budget: Feb. 25. Will include comprehensive budget presentation.
Special School Committee meeting for final vote on F20 budget: March 7.
Announcement in Recorder summarizes current and proposed budgets.

JH summarized:
- Budget Subcommittee meeting frequently: developing budget, meeting with school and program leaders. Concerns re: meeting charter deadline.
- Current draft: $300K increase in local funding; uses anticipated $1.1 million increase in state aid
- Green River alternative education program is included, pared back to 1 teacher plus 2 staff.
- Increases are mandated:
  - Transportation, including out of district;
  - Contractual obligations (staff step increases)
  - Special Education, including out of district costs; other programs are raising their fees
- Send her questions so that she can cover in Feb. 25 presentation.

WM moved that the School Committee instruct the Superintendent and Business Manager to provide the comprehensive draft budget to School Committee members tomorrow. SH 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

SH moved that if and when Budget Subcommittee requests information, we can have it before the meeting. WM 2nd.
Discussion:
JH: Difficult to respond to detailed questions on short notice (48 hours before mtg). Preparing additional reports means staff lacks time to complete other work
AN: Urged Subcommittee not to get stuck in details or make non-essential requests that take staff time.
Motion passed 3-2-2.

[ 5-minute recess]
Supt. Harper left the meeting at 7:51.

WM: $1.1 million Chapter 70 given to City. Full amount not necessarily going to School Department; may be used for City's expenses for schools (health insurance, pension, building maintenance and energy, etc.).
Nembrickow: Revolving funds $900K shortfall to be covered by local contribution, now or later.
⇒ WM requested beginning and ending (June 30) balance of revolving funds.
SH: concern not to repeat 2007-2008 financial situation. Increases are required. Seeking places to decrease.

C. Policy Section A First Reading
AN reviewed Policy BGB Policy Adoption.
Consensus to review changes only, not read aloud all proposed policies.
DA summarized changes to revised policies, as listed in Policy Subcommittee minutes of No. 28, 2018.

Discussion:
- ACA on hold, waiting for legal review.
- ACAB – Questioned specific listing of Supt. Harper as Grievance Officer
- AD – Concerns re: vague wording: “in today’s society,” “challenges of rapidly changing world.”
- Policies re: marijuana. ADC: Is marijuana included with tobacco policy; request to clarify with MASC. Is marijuana no longer included in policies addressing controlled substances? What about medically prescribed marijuana?
- ADDA – Recommend separating policy from procedure. Policy is first paragraph; move rest to ADDA-R to allow procedural changes; e.g., cost of fingerprinting.
- ADF – Federal requirement for length of physical education? If so, need to include in policy?
- AE – Is responsibility shared by School Committee, Superintendent and staff? Recommend shortening policy: “The School Committee governs the district with a commitment to accomplishment. We focus on accountability in all programs.”

AN referred to Policy Subcommittee for review before returning for 2nd reading: ADDA series, ACAB, ACA, ACE, ADC, AD, ADF, AE.

D. Policy Section D First Reading
SE moved to table Policy Section D First Reading. WM 2nd. Motion to table passed unanimously.

E. Subcommittee Configurations & Committee Representatives
AN recommended no changes.
Goals & Strategic Plan Subcommittee has not met. → AN will follow up, add to April agenda.

KC moved to support no changes to Subcommittee configuration. DA 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

AN moved that SE continue to serve as representative to Collaborative with DA as alternate, and SH continue as School Committee Representative to City’s Planning & Construction Committee. KC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Vote on Time Limitations of Future Meetings
AN moved that future meetings end at 10:00 pm unless requested to continue by majority vote and all items be tabled to next regular meeting unless another time is specified. SE 2nd. Support for shorter meetings twice a month. Motion passed 6-1.

G. Vote for Permission to Seek Legal Guidance
AN moved that the Committee request legal services from Atty. Gordon Quinn regarding:
- Open Meeting Law
- School Committee impact on work environment
- Input on Committee authority over issues covered by City insurance
- School Committee process and role related to FMLA
DA 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

SH moved to request clarification [from Atty. Quinn]:

DRAFT/UNOFFICIAL Greenfield School Committee Minutes / February 13, 2019
• What is difference between official and unofficial communication regarding Policy BHC? (School Committee – Staff Communication; e.g., saying “thank you” or checking the time of a game)

• What is reasonable practice for accommodations for members who don’t have printers for meeting packet?
• Subcommittee function: Must Subcommittee cancel meetings if Superintendent can’t attend?
• Who is technically responsible for the content of Subcommittee minutes?
WM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

H. Request for Agenda Items
AN requested new practice, for members to put forward an agenda request as a motion to ensure majority of Committee is behind adding the topic for deliberation.

WM moved to consider at future meeting Response to Public Comment. KC 2nd. Motion passed 6-1.

WM moved to pass onto Policy Subcommittee and report back with any recommendation Policy EB-CD: Emergency Cancellations. KC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

AN moved that we do not create a Shared (digital) Folder. WM 2nd. Concerns re: inadvertently violating Open Meeting Law. Motion passed unanimously.

SH moved that School Committee add School Committee District Goals for 2019 to an upcoming agenda. KC 2nd. Superintendent goals, strategic plan, and School Committee goals are not the same things. Motion passed unanimously.

SE moved to hear more about individual programs under the umbrella of special education services in the district. KC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. New Business

A. High School Telephone System
WM moved that we get a report at next School Committee meeting to clarify telephonics communication system with GHS as it relates to callers from city, parents, residents or others with a human contact at the high school. CW 2nd.
WM: Concern that parents can’t reach a person. Wants to know how telephone system works. Brief verbal report from technology director.
Motion passed unanimously.

B. School Committee Meeting Location
AN moved to request the Superintendent to investigate costs related to using the John Zon space and the high school for School Committee meetings. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Executive Session
AN announced intent to move into Executive Session in accordance with MGL c 30A, §21, (3) & (10): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares (Unit A, Unit B, and Administrative Assistants; general/potential litigation).
WM moved to enter Executive Session. DA 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – DA, KC, SE, SH, AN, WM, CW. Moved into executive session at 9:37 p.m.

KC moved to leave Executive Session. AN 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SH, AN, CW. Returned to public session at 11:20 p.m.

**IX. Adjournment**
AN moved to adjourn. CW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

**Meeting Documents**

1. Agenda and Timed Agenda February 13, 2019
2. Draft minutes: January 9, 2018
3. Chapter 56, Article VII: Stipend for School Board Members and Town Councilors
4. "Question regarding School Committee Chairperson and Communication/Access to School Counsel," from Atty. Gordon Quinn to Adrienne Nunez, Jan. 3, 2019
5. Policy BEDH, Public Participation at School Committee Meetings
6. Subcommittee and Committee Minutes:
   a. Policy Subcommittee, Nov. 28, 2018
   b. Planning & Construction Committee, Oct. 16, 2018
7. Superintendent’s Report, Feb. 8, 2019
   a. Media Coverage
   b. Superintendent’s Social Media Posts
   c. Gpsk12.org website materials
   d. Staffing Report
   e. Letter from Big Y, $5,000 donation to GHS, Jan. 31, 2019
   f. Emergency Impact Aid Assistance for Homeless Children and Youth, $2,045 grant, Jan. 21, 2019
   g. DESE re: school breakfast, Jan. 18, 2019
   h. School newsletters
9. Draft 2019-2020 GPS Calendar
10. Policies for First Reading: Section A Foundations and Basic Commitments
    - AA School District Legal Status
    - AB The People and Their School District
    - AC Nondiscrimination
    - ACA Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex or Gender Identity
    - ACAB Sexual Harassment
    - ACE Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability
    - AD Vision and Mission
    - ADC Tobacco Products o School Premises Prohibited
- ADDA Background Checks
- ADDA-R DCJIS Model CORI Policy
- ADDA-E Fingerprint Based CHRI Checks
- ADF School District Wellness Program
- AE Commitment to Accomplishment

11. Policies for First Reading: Section D, Fiscal Management
   - DA Fiscal Management Goals
   - DB Budget
   - DBC Budget Deadlines and Schedules
   - DBD Budget Planning
   - DBG Budget Adoption
   - DBJ Budget Transfer Authority
   - DD Funding Proposals and Applications
   - DGA Approval of School Budget Payroll
   - DH Bonded Employees and Officers
   - DI Fiscal Accounting and Reporting
   - DIF Audits
   - DJ Purchasing
   - DJA Purchasing Authority
   - DJB Capital Improvement Planning (CIP)
   - DJE Procurement Requirements
   - DJG Vendor Relations
   - DKG Payment Procedures
   - DKC Expense Reimbursements

12. Policies to support discussion:
   - EBCD Emergency Closings
   - GBD (BHC) School Committee – Staff Communications
   - BEDH Public Participation at School Committee Meetings
   - BGB Policy Adoption

14. Superintendent’s Performance Goals
15. Open Meeting Law:
   - Open Meeting Law Guide
   - Hanne Rush, Assistant Attorney General, to Adrienne Nunez, Jan. 11, 2019
   - Open Meeting Law Complaint, Marlborough City Council, Jan. 24, 2012
16. Audits
17. History, Social Science and Civics Education in Massachusetts
GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SPECIAL MEETING of the SCHOOL COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES: Monday, February 25, 2019
John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant Street, Greenfield MA

Present: Don Alexander (DA); Katie Caron (KC); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); Susan Hollins (SH) attending remotely; William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN)

Absent: Cameron Ward (CW)

Also present: Kia Burton-King, parent; Bob Cooley, resident; Melodie Goodwin, Principal, Newton School; Stephen Nembirkow, GPS Business Manager; Nancy Putnam, Principal, Federal Street; Jake Toomey, Principal, Four Corners; Mary Traver, SEPAC; Ed Voudren, GPS Transportation Coordinator; Mckenzie Webb, parent; Crystal Zimmer, SEPAC; other school staff and citizens.

I. Call to Order
With a quorum present (DA, KC, SE, SH, WM, AN), Chair Nunez opened the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

II. Public Comment
Bob Cooley, resident, spoke in favor of student services, especially for those who’ve experienced adverse childhood experiences; encouraged Subcommittees to work well together.

Mary Traver, Special Education Parent Advisory Council Co-Chair, urged funding for cameras on GPS buses.

Crystal Zimmer, Special Education Parent Advisory Council Secretary, spoke in support of increased professional behavioral staff (BCBAs); adequate number of and training for paras; using increased state funds directly for schools.

Kia Burton-King, parent, spoke against elimination of two bus routes, and asked about plans for Green River School next year, including re-opening as elementary school to ease space concerns at other elementary schools.

Mckenzie Webb, parent, shared concerns about children’s safety walking to school if bus routes are eliminated, and overcrowding at elementary schools.

III. Business

A. Referral to Health & Safety Subcommittee: Emergency Shelter at School Buildings
KC moved to refer emergency shelter at school buildings to the Health & Safety Subcommittee. DA 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Storm update
Supt. provided an update on electricity outages at Newton, GMS due to strong winds. Newton students briefly evacuated at recommendation of fire dept.; furnace being worked on. GMS power restored. Single-school closures are possible if outages continue.

C. Public Hearing on FY20 Budget and Budget Presentation
Superintendent presented budget, with goal of preserving FY19 level of services for FY20. Requires funding increase as costs increase: staff salaries/benefits, transportation, out of district placements. Difficult decisions – e.g., 20+ new positions requests, only a few included in budget.
• Enrollment – GPS is growing. Expect 50 more students in Fall 2019: 1,795 students
• Per Pupil Spending – comparison with nearby districts. FY17 is most recent certified data available.
• Choice-In – 103 choice-in students this year, bringing $ with them. Choice-in seats offered only if room. School Committee approves and caps number of choice-in seats each year. Typically, all choice seats are filled with a waiting list.
• Chapter 70 increase of $1.1 million. Significant increase, not seen in previous years.
• Budget process (timetable) - Development of budget has been going on for a long time. Open opportunity for comments.
• FY20 Operating Cost Increases – 3 main areas: Salaries (80+%); transportation; special education
• FY20 Staff Needs – 6 new positions – 3 in special education, required; 3 to open Green River program. Another site possible (GHS) if Green River building not ready.
• FY20 Increases – $351K for substitute teachers; contract salary adjustments; transportation; out of district tuition. Other needs not presented: many requests by building principals not included in budget.
• Reductions to Budget – Eliminate 4 instructional aides (IAs); eliminate before-school care; eliminate 2 bus routes; in-house busing
• Teacher Salaries and Class Size
• Economically Disadvantaged and High Need Students
• What is not in this budget
  o Four Corners 4th grade teacher provided by eliminating one K class.
  o Step increases; application to City to cover

Draft budget (35 pages) available on website, publicly available.

Steve Nembirkow, GPS Business Office reviewed FY20 Budget Points
• Per pupil spending is low, compared to region
• Average teacher salary is low; average class size is high
• High % of students with disabilities and high needs
• Funding above minimum
• Greenfield identified for Focused/Targeted Support
• Revolving funds
• Increases and decreases in FY20 budget
• Choice-in, Choice-Out

Discussion:
• GREAT School (Green River) would share nurse coverage
• Small, gradual annual increase of % students with disabilities. Increase of English Language Learners has been large, rapid.

• Busing
  o 2 bus routes to be cut, 1.5 miles and under: Oak Courts, Greenfield Gardens
    o Voudren does not support; safety, liability concerns, requires additional $ for crossing guards
    o Effect on students' attendance, late arrivals
  o Intra-district school choice: parents responsible for transportation
  o $70K for transportation includes purchasing van/bus for short routes. Assessment underway.
  o Public bus transport (FRTA) for GHS?
  o Bus cameras
need for non-verbal students, in case of injury, accident
funds not in FY20 budget. Use special ed revolving fund? Supt. seeking alternative $

- Lower average teacher's salary reflects higher % of newer teachers

- Before-School Care
  - Currently provided at all 3 elementary schools; to be eliminated FY20
  - Costs = paying IAs for before-school hours beyond their regular workday
  - 50-60 students
  - School alternatives possible, e.g., partnering with Rec Dept.
  - Y and other early-bird programs available in town
  - Convenience for some families; necessity (safety, supervision) for others

- Class size numbers are from DESE; normative comparison across districts, not actual class size
- Effect of choice-in, choice-out: to be discussed when School Cte votes choice-in numbers
- Circuit breaker: $960K estimated revenue for FY19, $903K to be spent this year
- WM, Nembirkow to meet to reconcile beginning balances
- Chapter 70 $1.1 million increase – WM: City will claim some for City-paid benefits
- 4 instructional aid positions cut; currently vacant
- Green River School: ADA compliant, flooring asbestos-free. Discrepancy in timing when GPS needs City to install heat (June) vs when Mayor expects (August or later)
- Account for $ savings through energy efficiency

AN moved to request that town hall, in coordination with our business department, provide us with estimates for increases to these estimated costs, insurance expenses and any other relevant expenses that the city will be paying for that we do not have numbers on, specifically increases from this year to next year. KC 2nd.
Medicare, health insurance, retirement pension; central maintenance, DPW, energy
Health insurance % amount of increase not available until late May
Supt. receives annual aggregate report; itemized breakdown would be more useful
Roll call vote: Yes: WM, DA, KC, AN, SE. Abstain: SH. Motion passed 5-0-1.

Budget discussion continued:
- Support for increasing substitute teacher pay; lack of subs “major problem”
- Concern that technology (hardware, software) not in budget
- Level services budget = $19,161,000 = $600K increase over FY19 (contractual obligations, balancing offsets). What is impact to average taxpayer?
- All-funds cost – Nembirkow to prepare for next discussion

AN moved that at March 7 meeting we have a side by side comparison [FY19/FY20] overview of the all-funds budget for this year as well as what is being drafted for next year including an estimate as to what increases would incur to local taxpayers to fund next year’s budget.

Budget discussion continued:
- “Find efficiencies” – JH: no ways left to reduce budget without affecting students
- Request to resolve $100K state pothole award from 2013
- Balances in revolving accounts required by policy
- Strong AP program; who pays AP exam costs?

Public comment
Mary Traver: “more than happy to see a reasonable increase [in taxes] to fund the school budget"
Crystal Zimmer: Concern that city will over-use Chapter 70 $, prefers it go to classrooms; concern that cuts affect the most needy students.

Public hearing closed.

**IV. Executive Session**

AN announced intent to move into Executive Session in accordance with MGL c 30A, §21, (3) & (10): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares (Unit A); and to discuss trade secrets of confidential, competitively sensitive or other proprietary information prepared.

KC moved to enter Executive Session. SE 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – WM, DA, KC, AN, SE, SH. Moved into executive session at 9:21 p.m.

KC moved to leave Executive Session. DA 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – WM, DA, KC, SH, AN. Returned to public session at 9:57 p.m.

**V. Transportation contract**

DA moved to support the Kuzmeskus bid, pending contract approval, for a 5-year term. WM 2nd. Roll call: YES, WM, DA, AN, SH. Motion passed unanimously.

**IX. Adjournment**

AN moved to adjourn. KC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

**Meeting Documents**

1. FY20 Budget Point from the GPS Business Office
2. Superintendent’s FY20 Budget
GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SPECIAL MEETING of the SCHOOL COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES: Thursday, March 7, 2019
John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant Street, Greenfield MA

Present: Don Alexander (DA); Katie Caron (KC); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Cameron Ward (CW)

Also present: Sarah Ahearn Bellemare, parent; Matthew Barrett, parent; Pete Brown, parent; Julie Kimball, GEA; Stephen Nembirkow, GPS Business Manager; Karin Patenaude, GHS Principal; Joseph Ruggeri, parent; Michael Sustick, teacher and parent; Crystal Zimmer, parent; other school staff and citizens.

I. Call to Order
With a quorum present (DA, KC, SE, SH, WM, AN, CW), Chair Nunez opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

II. Public Comment
Crystal Zimmer, parent, spoke in favor of funding for additional 4th grade teacher at Four Corners and early care program.

Pete Brown, parent, urged Committee to invest in public schools and town's growth rather than cutting budget.

Julie Kimball, representing GEA, spoke about schools' challenges, including special education, high-need, ELL, economically disadvantaged students; and need for reduced class sizes, better pay for instructional assistants, lower caseloads for specialists, reliable budget.

Matthew Barrett, parent, Federal Street, noted that Four Corners has part-time librarian and other elementary schools have none; asked for funds to address disparity.

Joseph Ruggeri, parent, noted additional funding needs in town, spoke in support of increased Kindergarten class as way to bring in funds.

Sarah Ahearn Bellemare, parent, spoke in support of additional 4th grade teacher and Kindergarten class at Four Corners.

Michael Sustick, Four Corners teacher and parent, spoke of need to support large number of students dealing with trauma; support for 3 Kindergarten classes at Four Corners and maintaining bus routes.

Karin Patenaude, GHS Principal, spoke to students' increasing needs met by schools, including meals, clothing, mental health services; urged investment in education for educational, social, emotional needs.

III. FY20 Budget Vote
AN outlined process: Vote tonight on bottom-line budget; budget then goes to Mayor, then Council vote; if changes needed, back to School Committee for revised vote.

Steve Nembirkow reviewed document "FY2020 Budget Statistics."
• Budget increase FY20 (cf. FY19)
• Revolving accounts
• Additions to FY20 budget
• Requests not included; decreases; not funded
• School choice $ in and out
• Class size
• Per pupil expenditures
• Greenfield’s community wealth
• Economically disadvantaged and high need students
• Funding above Foundation
• Cost Centers
• General/Special Education expenses
• Salary/Expenses
• Cost classification
• New positions
• Major expenses by category
• Supplemental appropriations
• Level service budget detail

Discussion:
ELT = grant $, not included in budget.
Budget Subcommittee brings no recommendation, did not reach consensus.

AN moved to approve a FY20 Budget with a total local budget of $19,970,347. SE 2nd.
Discussion:
AN: Supports continuing early morning care, perhaps sliding-scale fees; supports 4th grade teacher
to keep 3 Kindergarten classes at Four Corners.
SE: Supports adding items to budget, but unclear where $ would come from.
SH: $500K increase = intractable costs. City’s education costs increasing – e.g., health insurance,
retirement; supports splitting Chapter 70 $. Supports before-school care. Need to bring back
students going out of district. Customary to pre-pay summer tuition.
KC: Supports early care, teacher position at Four Corners, bus route. Use $200K from revolving
funds.
Nembirkow: $1.1million Chapter 70 increase likely to continue in coming years.
WM detailed City’s costs, including health insurance, life insurance, retirement, workers comp,
property liability insurance. Intent to share Chapter 70 increase. Revolving funds stabilized at
$2.4million. Discrepancies in beginning balances. Questioned comparisons to other districts.
Nembirkow: 5-community RFP for transportation resulted in economy-of-scale savings. New
contract $95K increase. IDEA grant to be spent, potentially small surplus.
SH: School Committee states priorities; doesn’t decide details.
CW: Public’s comments heard. Support for Supt’s budget plus bus route, 4th grade teacher,
Kindergarten.
KC: Required to keep $2million in revolving funds. Use $200K revolving $ to add to budget.

WM and KC offered friendly amendments; rejected by AN.
Revolving funds not applicable to this motion re: local budget.
Budget relies on $150K from City’s Special Education Stabilization fund. District special ed costs
increasing $200+K.

Roll call: Yes: AN, KC, DA, CW, SE, SH. No: WM. Motion passed 6-1.
WM made a motion to instruct the Superintendent to provide funding for 2 bussing routes indicated to be eliminated via any revolving account. KC 2nd. Motion passed 6-1. (No: SH) KC moved that the Superintendent fund the third Kindergarten classroom at Four Corners using grants, revolving funds, or surpluses in other areas. CW 2nd. Motion intends to include additional 4th grade teacher at Four Corners. Motion passed unanimously.

WM moved to instruct Superintendent to provide before-care programs at all schools using funds from grants, revolving funds or any other funding source. Motion's intent is to continue existing elementary programs. Could include sliding-scale fees. Motion passed unanimously.

AN moved to request that the Mayor present to Council a request for utilizing $150,000 of Special Education Stabilization funding to partially address projected increases in Out of District Tuition for FY20. KC 2nd. Motion passed 5-1-1. (No: WM; abstain: SH)

SH: Concern that of 3 elementary schools, only 1 has librarian.

AN moved to utilize the full amount of state aid for education in the form of Chapter 70 funding, currently projected increase at $1.1 million, to fund the schools' operational budget. KC 2nd.
Discussion:
Debt servicing, retirees’ health care costs not eligible to be paid with Chapter 70 $. Included in City’s education expenses.
Motion is advisory. School Cte cannot direct City’s Chapter 70 $.
Desire for increased communication between School and City finance staff. Motion failed 2-3-2.

DA left the meeting at 8:45.

IV. Open Meeting Law Complaint
AN filed complaint as individual, not Chair, that Subcommittee deliberated on topics not in posted agenda.

Subcommittee reviewed, discussed complaint at meeting earlier today.
Consensus for AN to stay for discussion (not recuse). Ethics Commission says AN can participate if unbiased, suggested filing 23B form with Clerk.

WM read Subcommittee’s draft response, disagreeing or refuting all claims in complaint. Concern re: intimidation, motives behind complaint.
JH: Subcommittee’s response to 2 claims had been Agreed. Changed all to Disagree? Urged caution re: public statements about staff’s job performance. Two sets of minutes: one at time of complaint filing; revised minutes appeared later.

AN summarized: There is a draft response to OML complaint. Most of us are hearing this for the first time. Draft was sent via email to Budget Subcommittee members earlier today; Budget Subcommittee hasn’t deliberated on draft response. Is Subcommittee asking for any action from full Committee?
CW: No action requested. Subcommittee to review response, submit to Attorney General. Upset at process, lack of direct communication.
CW, WM left the meeting at 9:12 pm.

SH: Awkward situation. Feels Subcommittee members are treated differently.
AN: Stayed for discussion at behest of members. Added to tonight's agenda at Mayor's request. Acknowledged awkwardness.

**VI. Adjournment**
KC moved to adjourn. SH 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

**Meeting Documents**
1. Agenda March 7, 2019
2. FY20 Published Budget 2/14/19
3. FY2020 Greenfield Schools – Budget Statistics
4. Open Meeting Law Complaint Form