

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES: Wednesday, December 13, 2017**  
Greenfield High School, 21 Barr Ave., Greenfield MA  
Approved 01.10.18

**Present:** Don Alexander (DA); Timothy Farrell (TF); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Nathaniel Tripp (NT); Cameron Ward (CW).

**Absent:** William Martin (WM)

**Also present:** Sarah Ahearn-Bellemare, Discovery School Council Co-Chair; Susan Cameron-Eckstrom and Jodi Falk, Special Education Parent Advisory Committee; Bob Cooley, resident; Rachel Cummings, GMS teacher with Robotics Team students; Dianne Ellis, Director of Student Services; Carol Holzberg, Director of Technology; Diana Letourneau, HR Director, Town of Greenfield; David Lockwood, The Management Solution; Alan Schmidt, Maintenance Supervisor; Maria Scotera, GHS Band/Chorus teacher; Doug Selwyn, resident; Gary Tashjian, GMS principal, with student; Jake Toomey, Discovery School Principal

### **I. Call to Order**

With a quorum present (DA, TF, SH, AN, NT, CW), Vice-Chair Nunez opened the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

**TF moved to approve minutes of November 9, 2017. SH 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **III. Public Comment**

Susan Cameron-Eckstrom, out-going president of the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee, introduced Jodi Falk, incoming president.

Bob Cooley, resident, asked when and where curriculum and instruction and strategic planning are discussed. AN directed him to Policy and Program Subcommittee. Active discussion of School Committee and Supt. goals continues.

Doug Selwyn, resident, asked for available responses to his questions posed last month re: testing. Additional questions:

Cost to GPS for state testing compared to reimbursement from state

Is there a way for safe conversations with teachers and others who are strongly opposed to testing?

What is opt-out or test refusal policy of GPS?

Would you be willing to take the MCAS yourself?

JH: \$ figures are hard to extract. AN will continue to seek answers. SH recommends identifying staff costs by multiplying days on test prep/administration x daily staff costs.

### **IV. Reports**

#### **A. Student Representative Report**

Student representatives reported on GHS activities, community service, winter sports. PSAT scores just released.

#### **B. Vice-Chair's Report**

AN thanked outgoing School Committee members Tim Farrell and Nate Tripp.

#### **C. Superintendent's Report**

**1. GMS Robotics Team** and Rachel Cummings, advisor and science teacher, reported on their success in recent competition and their Community Service Learning Project.

**2. MSA Transition to GMS Building:** MSA student described positive changes for MSA students at GMS site.

**3. School news:** Holiday concerts, Federal Street Wreath Walk. School vacation dates. Multiple ways for families to be alerted to snow days: on website, text alerts, local media. Launching new feature allowing families to subscribe to school's event-reminder alerts.

**4. Regulatory Change for Bilingual Students:** DESE has published guidance on welcoming students from Puerto Rico and other areas affected by natural disasters.

## **V. Business**

### **A. GHS Band/Chorus Trip to Boston**

Maria Scotera, GHS Band/Chorus teacher, presented proposed overnight field trip for Select Choir and Wind Ensemble. 28 students, 5 chaperones. JH supports trip. **TF moved to approve Select Choir and Wind Ensemble overnight trip led by Maria Scotera for April 27-28, 2018. 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **IV. Reports (continued)**

### **D. Personnel and Collective Bargaining Subcommittee**

NT reported that Subcte recommended approval of Supt's amended goals. Will be on School Cte January agenda.

### **E. School Committee Goals Task Group**

**DA moved that draft internal goals of the Greenfield School Committee be adopted. TF 2nd. SH moved to amend 4th goal to change "ad hoc subcommittee" to "advisory committee." TF 2nd. Motion to amend passed 5-1. Motion to accept goals, as amended, passed 5-1.**

### **F. Greenfield High School Building Committee**

TF reported that at Dec. 6 mtg, Cte accepted MSBA audit and final budget numbers. Project ended with \$2million in excess borrowing authority. Committee recommended \$730,000 borrowing for additional expenditures for GHS, including solar project, technology, fields, furniture, signage, classroom equipment, security system, defibrillators, roof. \$1.6million in borrowing authority to be rescinded. TF noted omission: will need \$7500 for netting by softball field.

### **G. Policy and Program Subcommittee**

**SH moved to affirm the slate of policies reviewed this evening as recommended to continue with no change:**

**BBAA, School Committee Member Authority**

**BDD, School Committee-Superintendent Relationship**

**BE, School Committee Meetings**

**BEDA, Notification of School Committee Meetings**

**BEDD, Rules of Order**

**BEDF, Voting Method**

**BEDG, Minutes**

**BGD/CHB, School Committee Review of Regulations**

**BIBA, School Committee Conferences, Conventions, and Workshops**

**LA, Education Agency Relations Goals**

**LB, Relations with Other Schools and School Districts**

**LBC, Relations with Nonpublic Schools**

**KLK, Relations with Local Governmental Authorities**

**IHAЕ, Physical Education**

**TF 2nd. Motion passed 4-1-0.**

## **H. Budget & Finance Subcommittee**

AN summarized recent discussions on Policy DBB Budget Format; GHS construction funding; supplemental budget request.

**SH moved to request the Mayor to present to Council a supplemental funding request to restore the 1% that was cut from our budget with the guarantee that it would be reinstated. TF 2nd. Motion passed 5-0 (CW absent).**

## **V. Business (continued)**

### **B. Discovery School at Four Corners – School Report**

Jake Toomey, Principal, and Sarah Ahearn-Bellemare, School Council Co-Chair, presented report, including program, site, staff, student demographics, and new theme of Water (to join Flight, Continents, Bridges). Report on meeting goals as innovation school possible after end-of-year results. Currently fundraising \$2900 for signs.

### **C. Special Education Report**

Dianne Ellis, Director of Student Services, presented report “Out of District Placement Update.”

### **D. Capital Improvement Plan Request**

JH provided overview of Capital Improvement request and priorities:

1. Security system swipe cards and cameras
2. Fencing at Newton, Federal Street, Four Corners, North Parish, Newton Prof Bldg
3. Lighting in GMS auditorium
4. Roof repairs at Four Corners
5. Paving at North Parish (prior year funds applied)
6. Asbestos remediation at GMS, Federal Street, Four Corners and Green River
7. Desktop computers, iPads, Smart Boards, laptop hard drives
8. Chromebooks with charging carts

**TF moved to approve the Capital Improvement request. NT 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **E. Status Update on Town/School HR MOU**

SH moved to set end of school year as a timeline and form a broader advisory committee to look at this topic with one charge to reach out to other schools in Greenfield to see if there’s interest in collaborating on HR consolidation. Motion failed for lack of 2nd.

**TF moved to continue process through Personnel Subcommittee and review the document at subcommittee. NT 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **F. Math and Science Academy Transition Update**

Gary Tashjian, GMS principal, summarized responses from MSA students: praise for lunches, teachers, community service learning block, meeting new people, sharing band and other classes, library and gym facilities. Continued changes since start of school year have improved both GMS and MSA systems. MSA program is no longer accelerated to subjects (e.g., algebra, physics) beyond grade level. Double-blocks of math and science provide deeper practice within that grade’s standards, additional technology learning. Personalized learning can include acceleration.

## **VII. Policies for First Reading**

TF made motion to accept first reading of Policies BB, JJ, JLD, KI, and KLG. DA 2nd. Motion withdrawn as unnecessary.

JH asked to share concerns from school staff re: BB, KI, KLG. Supt directed to forward comments to full Committee.

## **VIII. Policies for Second Reading and Vote**

### **A. Policy KF, Community Use of School Facilities**

SH provided 2nd reading of policy.

Changes:

- Under *Permission and Priority of Use*, 1st paragraph, last sentence: “Only the Superintendent and/or his/her designee...”
- Last sentence: “The Superintendent and/or Principals must be aware....”

**NT moved to accept Policy KF, Community Use of School Facilities, with changes.**

**TF 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **B. Policy BDA, School Committee Organizational Meeting**

**TF moved to approve BDA. NT 2nd.**

AN provided 2nd reading of policy.

Change:

- ~~Nominations for the office of chairperson will be made from the floor, by the superintendent or designee.~~ The Superintendent or designee will accept nominations from the floor for the office of chairperson.

**Motion (to approve BDA, as changed) passed unanimously.**

### **C. Policy GCG, Substitute Teacher Employment.**

**SH moved to table GCG until next meeting. 2nd. TF. Motion to table passed unanimously.**

### **D. Policy BDE, Subcommittees of the School Committee**

**SH moved to approve BDE. NT 2nd.**

**NT moved to table consideration of BDE. Motion to table passed 4-2.**

## **IX. Adjournment**

CW moved to adjourn. NT 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Farber

Recording Secretary

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## **Meeting Documents**

1. Agenda: December 13, 2017
2. Draft minutes: November 8, 2017
3. School newsletters
4. Financial reports:
  - a. Year-to-Date Budget Report FY 18, November 30, 2017
  - b. Revenue, Gift & Scholarship account balances, November 30, 2017
  - c. Project account (no date)
5. Mass. Association of School Superintendents newsletter, December 3, 2017
6. Select Choice & Wind Ensemble trip details for April 27-28, 2018
7. Subcommittee minutes:
  - a. Budget & Finance, November 7 and December 5, 2017

- b. Personnel & Collective Bargaining Subcommittee, November 28, 2017
  - c. Goals Task Group, November 9 and 30, 2017
  - d. School Committee Goals (draft), December 2017—July 1, 2019
  - e. Policy and Program, November 17 and 30, 2017
  - f. Health, Safety & Facilities, October 30, 2017
8. Out-of-District Placement update, December 13, 2017
  9. Discovery School at Four Corners, Innovation School Update, December 13, 2017
  10. Capital Improvement Request Fiscal Year 2019, with photo-documentation
  11. HR MOU update, Supt. Harper, December 13, 2017
  12. Policies for Affirmation (with no change) and Vote:
    - a. BBAA, School Committee Member Authority
    - b. BDD, School Committee-Superintendent Relationship
    - c. BE, School Committee Minutes
    - d. BEDA, Notification of School Committee Meetings
    - e. BEDD, Rules of Order
    - f. BEDF, Voting Method
    - g. BEDG, Minutes
    - h. BGD (also CHB), School Committee Review of Regulations
    - i. BIBA, School Committee Conferences, Conventions, and Workshops
    - j. LA, Education Agency Relations Goals
    - k. LB, Relations with Other Schools and School Districts
    - l. LBC, Relations with Nonpublic Schools
    - m. KKK, Relations with Local Governmental Authorities
    - n. IHAE, Physical Education
  13. Policies for 1st Reading:
    - a. BB, School Committee Legal Status
    - b. JJ, Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities
    - c. JLD, Guidance
    - d. KI, Visitors to the Schools
    - e. KLG, Relations with Police Authorities
  14. Policies for 2nd Reading and Vote:
    - a. BDA, School Committee Organizational Meeting
    - b. BDE, Subcommittees of the School Committee
    - c. GCG, Substitute Teacher Employment
    - d. KF, Community Use of School Facilities
  15. HR Field Manual, Protocols and Problems in HR Management Designed for School District Use and Benefit (2017), presented by David Lockwood, TMS