

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, February 14, 2018**
Greenfield High School, 21 Barr Ave., Greenfield MA
approved 03.14.18

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

Absent: William Martin (WM); Cameron Ward (CW).

Also present:

GHS student representatives Dylan Badillo and Anthony Bohannon; Doug Selwyn, resident; Atty. Gordon Quinn; other school staff and citizens.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

DA moved to approve amended minutes of December 13, 2017. SH 2nd. Memo from Doug Selwyn, clarifying public comment, to be added to the record. **Motion passed.**

SH moved to approve minutes of January 10, 2018. KC 2nd.

Change: VI. B. Policy KF: SH questioned change to Policy KF; SH said recommended "because Superintendent's office must be aware of all building rentals for business office fees." **Motion to approve minutes, as amended, passed.**

AN moved to approve minutes of January 29, 2018. KC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Ginny Desorgher, representing Commission on Disability Access, is seeking new members (volunteer). Described Commission's goals and work, \$400K grant for accessibility study.

Doug Selwyn, resident, spoke about state testing, including need to support students with testing disadvantages, how to work with other districts. Provided sample from Grade 3 test written at grade 5-6 reading level. He also asked, on behalf of teachers: Is there a curriculum coordinator coming?

IV. Reports

A. Student Representatives

GHS student Dylan Badillo and Anthony Bohannon reported on GHS activities.

B. Chair

AN reviewed informational items in packet:

- Policy DBE: Revolving Fund and chart
- School Cte Monthly Meeting Calendar
 - Budget & Finance Subcommittee not listed; currently meeting frequently; regular monthly slot not yet selected.
- School Committee Governance Goals
- *Recorder* article
- Collective Bargaining outline
- MASC professional development courses available; new members required to complete *Charting the Course*.

AN and Supt. working on setting dates for members to visit schools.

School Committee professional development to be discussed at March meeting.

State testing: Opportunities to contact legislators. School Cte has voted in support of moratorium on high-stakes testing.

D. Subcommittees

1. Health, Safety & Facilities (KC)

Collecting information on FRTA bussing. Pick-up/drop-off concerns; discussed with Newton and Discovery School principals.

2. Personnel & Negotiations (DA)

Continuing work re: Supt's goals; school/town Human Resources.

3. Policy & Program (DA)

Focus on moving ahead with policies with first reading; priority given to policy requests from other subcommittees.

4. Budget & Finance (AN & SH reporting on CW's behalf)

Developing FY19 budget. Feb. 28 public hearing, full presentation of budget. Thanked members, school staff for ideas, work on budget. Approx \$1million increase in fixed costs; increased funding needs to acknowledge effects of FY18 1% budget cut.

E. School Committee Representatives

5. Town Planning & Construction Committee (SH)

Tour of all school buildings to be scheduled. Focus on solar energy projects, including school buildings.

6. Collaborative for Educational Services (SE)

SE to meet with CES representative for orientation.

V. Business

A. FY19 School Calendar

Presentation of draft 2018-2019 Calendar. GEA reviewed, offered significant feedback.

Proposed revisions:

- Half-days for GHS (early release) Jan. 22-24 for midterms, June 10-11 for final exams; will allow make-up exams; consistent with surrounding districts' practice.
- Aug. 27-28 Meet & Greet, changed to Aug. 27 Meet & Greet and Aug. 28 teacher inservice day.
- Open House moved later in year, to Oct. 25 for all schools.

SH to table [vote on calendar] until February 28 meeting to have corrected calendar for vote and to clarify any questions. KC 2nd. Motion passed 4-1.

IV. Reports (continued)

C. Superintendent's report (JH)

- New feature on website (gpsk12.org) allows alerts re: school events; enhances family/community engagement.
- Math activities to mark 100th day of school
- Black History Month events
- Kindergarten registration Thursday nights in March, Central Office. March 1 K registration at schools. March 9 K screening. Parents encouraged to learn about their neighborhood schools.
- Winter Break next week
- GMS student recognized with Bright Light award at GCC.
- FY18 budget report. Using current year funds to prepay tuition when possible.

VI. Business (continued)

B. Notification of Snow Day Usage (JH)

All 5 snow days used. Wed, June 20 is last day of school. If more snow cancellations, extra school days added after June 20.

C. Legislative Representative

AN referred to Policy BJ, School Committee Legislative Program. School Cte has not designated rep. in prior years.

DA moved to postpone [consideration of legislative representative] **indefinitely. SE 2nd. Motion passed 4-1.**

AN referred issue to Policy Subcommittee.

D. Annual Letter to Stakeholders

SE moved that Member Alexander begin the process [to draft letter to stakeholders for School Committee review & revision]. **KC 2nd. Motion passed 4-0-1.** DA requested members email him in next few days with content ideas.

E. Superintendent Goals

DA summarized: Subcommittee reached consensus on Goals 2 & 3. For Goal 1, some concern that not enough time remains in school year to complete. Will begin developing new set of goals in June.

KC moved to accept Superintendent goals as written. DA 2nd.

Usual to have 4-6 goals; because of time, agreement to fewer goals in areas: Strategic Plan; Enhanced Focus on Instructional Leadership; Family & Community Engagement.

Motion withdrawn.

SH moved that given timeline we agree to two goals for Superintendent for this school year. DA 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

SH moved that one of two goals be to enhance focus on instructional leadership. KC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

SH moved to accept Goal Statement 3 to expand family & community engagement at the district level, including for families whose primary language is not English. DA 2nd. SH clarified that motion's intent is to exclude key actions and benchmarks. Motion passed unanimously.

KC moved to change Key Action #1: Create Propose new bilingual family outreach position, including research for grant funding, to support needs of English Language Learner families and translation services for FY19. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. New Business

A. Meetings & Packets

AN requested members' input on meetings, packets. Printed packets to be available for pick-up before meeting.

VII. Executive Session

AN announced intent to move into Executive Session in accordance with MGL c 30A, §21, (2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and (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.

DA moved to enter Executive Session; SH 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – DA, KC, SE, SH, AN. Moved into executive session at 8:49 p.m.

SH moved to leave Executive Session. SE 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – DA, KC, SE, SH, AN. Returned to public session at 11:15.

VIII. Adjournment

SH moved to adjourn. 2nd KC. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

1. Agenda: February 14, 2018
2. Draft minutes: December 13, 2017 and January 10, 2018
3. Subcommittee minutes:
 - a. Budget Development Workshop, Jan. 29, 2018
 - b. Personnel & Negotiations, Jan. 25, Feb. 5
 - c. Budget & Finance, Jan. 19, 24, 31
 - d. Health, Safety & Facilities, Jan. 30
4. Memo from Doug Selwyn to Chair Nunez re: state testing
5. Notes from Doug Selwyn, public comment, Feb. 14, 2018
6. Notes from Ginny Desorgher, public comment, Feb. 14, 2018
7. School Committee Monthly Meeting Calendar
8. Policy DBE: Revolving Funds and supported chart
9. GPS School Committee Goals
10. "State school board leader encourages lobbying for more aid," *Recorder*, Jan. 17, 2018
11. Collective Bargaining for Student Achievement (MASC)
12. List of MASC events (as professional development opportunities)
13. Budget documents as of Jan. 31, 2018
14. School newsletters (February)
15. "Addressing the needs of students with disabilities relocating to Massachusetts from Puerto Rico," Memo from Russell Johnston, DESE, February 1, 2018
16. Draft Greenfield Public Schools 2018-2019 Calendar
17. Policy BJ: School Committee Legislative Program
18. Superintendent Goals, Feb. 9, 2018