

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
DRAFT MINUTES: Wednesday, October 10, 2018  
GCTV Studio, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA**

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

**Absent:** Don Alexander (DA)

**Also present:** Student representatives M. Blanchard and I. Passiglia; Carole Collins, Greenfield Energy and Sustainability Manager; Terri Dodge, GHS history teacher, and Global Glimpse students; Matthew Holloway, Director of Pupil Services; Stephen Nembirkow, Business Manager; other school staff and citizens.

Also video-recording during Global Glimpse presentation: Ingeborg Kuhlka

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

With a quorum present (KC, SE, SH, WM, AN, CW), Chair Nunez opened the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

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

**KC moved to approve minutes of September 12, 2018. 2nd SE. Motion passed 5-0-1 (WM abstain)**

### **III. Public Comment**

Doug Selwyn, resident, citing Columbus Day holiday, recommended increasing support for social studies education and professional development for social studies teachers.

### **IV. Reports**

#### **A. Student Representatives**

GHS students Iggy Passiglia and Morghan Blanchard reported on club activities and community service, including Green River Clean-up and Walk for Hunger; Open House and parent-teacher conferences Oct. 25; fall sports; and academic topics.

#### **B. Chair (AN)**

- Professional development opportunities: MASC Division 5 meeting; Open Meeting Law training
- Update on request to City Clerk's office for School Committee to receive Council minutes: Preparation of full minutes is behind schedule; agreement to post highlights, important votes on public website.
- Cancelled MASC workshop: consider re-scheduling?

AN asked members to reflect on the challenges and workings of the Committee, their commitment to School Committee, priorities, and how much Committee asks of Superintendent.

#### **C. Superintendent (JH)**

- Monthly Superintendent's Report designed to help with year-end evaluation
- GPS website supports communication with families
- Hiring report and employment campaign to fill vacancies, including instructional assistants
- Project HERE - concerns re: vaping
- Media coverage of GPS
- Outreach via Franklin County Guide for Parents
- Student Handbook still being developed

- Has cancelled school visits to fulfill request of School Committee for office hours

SE moved to suspend agenda and move next to V. Business Item 1 (Report on Global Glimpse Trip), followed by New Business, report from Carole Collins, Energy and Sustainability Manager. KC 2nd. Motion passed 4-2.

## **V. Business**

### **A. Terri Dodge, Report on Global Glimpse Trip**

Terri Dodge (GPS history teacher) introduced GHS students who traveled to Dominican Republic July 26-August 10, with Global Glimpse (non-profit organization). Students described goals, social-emotional and leadership development, learning activities, community service project (reconstructing park); highlights. Second year of Global Glimpse program continues for this group.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Energy Upgrades**

Carole Collins, Greenfield Energy & Sustainability Manager, presented:

- School building energy use statistics and trends
- Working with EverSource's municipal lighting efficiency program to change to LEDs for no cost to GPS. Projected to save \$30K/year in school buildings. Dec. 15 completion deadline. Second-shift work to avoid interfering with school day.
- Rooftop solar under development for 4 additional schools. Collins to convene mtg with Mayor, Supt, others, to discuss rooftop solar.
- Green River heating: single bid received exceeded budget. Will reissue RFP. Asbestos remediation used a lot of funds available for building upgrade.

Timeline for Green River program on future School Cte agenda.

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

### **D. Subcommittees**

#### **1. Budget (CW)**

Meeting twice a month. Goal: transparency in budget process. Working well with new Business Mgr. Subcommittee voted 2-1 to recommend FY19 budget.

#### **2. Health, Safety & Facilities (KC)**

Successful completion of Four Corners parking improvements.  
Upcoming issue: Green River heating system

#### **3. Town Planning and Construction Committee (SH)**

Decision to separate library project from health/safety complex  
Importance of fixing roofs for safety, preventing mold and deterioration. Communicating concerns to City Council.

#### **4. Collaborative for Educational Services (SE)**

CES reviewing proposal to provide health education for people with disabilities about body changes, relationships

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

### **B. Vote to support modified FY 19 Budget**

Steve Nembirkow provided overview of budget data.

- Evolution of budget from April 11, June 18, Oct. 5 versions
- Total budget \$22million = \$18,575,000 from Town + \$1.15million grants + \$2.856 million revolving accounts
- \$430,452 cuts from April 11 budget
- \$18,575,000 amount, as voted by Town Council, has not changed in Oct. 5 budget

Discussion:

Whether reduction in student enrollment affects budget

Changes to Out-of-District placements? Nembirkow to provide details on OOD to Mayor.

Concerns re: using choice \$ in operating budget, reductions in revolving funds balance

New teacher: Grade 2, Federal Street

Concerns re: reduction of special education secretarial staff

Should AEL's social worker, lead SPED teacher be in AEL budget or SPED?

Need 3 or 4 K teachers at Four Corners?

JH: Reminder that this is an All Funds budget. Teachers are not in jeopardy. Needs exceed local budget; decision to use choice funds is necessary but not sustainable future years; place for this discussion is FY20 budget.

**WM moved to table [consideration of the budget]. CW 2nd. Motion passed 4-2.** Referred back to Budget Subcommittee.

### **C. Student Achievement Reports (MCAS) and New Accountability Measurements**

JH presented Mass. DOE's 2018 Student Accountability Report:

“not requiring assistance or intervention” – Four Corners, Federal Street, GHS

“requiring assistance or intervention” – GMS, Newton

DOE teams assigned to GMS, Newton, to support turnaround plans. GMS, Newton principals invited to present plans to School Cte.

Highlight: GHS metrics reflect engagement, participation, progress toward goals.

### **D. Draft Superintendent Goals**

**CW moved to schedule full committee meeting, with MASC Glenn Koocher leading discussion, with objective of coming to conclusion of FY19 Superintendent goals. KC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **E. Annual Enrollment Report**

JH presented enrollment reports:

Greenfield: School Attending Children (DESE, Jan. 1, 2018)

GPS Enrollment (Oct. 1, 2018)

GPS Choice-In Data (Oct. 1, 2018)

Choice Receiving and Sending, FY18, 17, 16

Charter School Sending, FY19, 18, 17, 16

- Total number of school-age children residing in Greenfield = 2,167; GPS enrollment = 1,490 (Jan. 1, 2018)
- Choice-in enrollment is increasing. Requests exceed availability. School Cte to set number of choice-in seats for next school year in April/May.
- Charter schools: Number of students attending from Greenfield fairly constant over past 4 years, but \$ rate has increased so cost to GPS has increased.

**WM moved to send a letter of opposition to DESE to the expansion of the Chinese Immersion School. KC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **F. Referrals to Subcommittee**

### **1. Health & Safety SRO MOU**

AN referred School Resource Officer MOU to Health & Safety Subcommittee to review along with recently developed template from Attorney General's office.

### **2. Policy: School Attorney Policy BDG**

AN requested DA to provide Policy Subcommittee review of Policy BDG. Concern that BDG's restrictions hamper School Cte work. Consensus to refer to Policy Subcommittee.

### **G. Follow-up on MASC Workshop and MASC offer to support the Committee**

Workshop-meeting was cancelled. Consensus to reschedule workshop with MASC on School Committee goals, likely end of November, after Superintendent's goals are confirmed; possible additional special meeting on School Committee goals.

### **H. MASC Joint Conference – Nov. 7-10**

SH, SE, KC interested in attending. Funding, including lodging, in school budget, typically for 2 members. AN to email members to confirm who will attend.

### **I. Follow-up on Declassification of Executive Session Minutes**

AN reported that Attorney General's office clarified there are no requirements or guidelines, but recommends quarterly review. AN to pursue review, release of Executive Session minutes.

## **VI. New Business**

Considered previously

## **VII. New Agenda Items**

None

## **VIII. Executive Session**

AN announced intent to move into Executive Session in accordance with 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 A, C and Cafeteria workers; general litigation/potential litigation*).

AN moved to enter Executive Session. 2nd WM. Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SE, SH, AN, WM. No – CW. Moved into executive session at 10:09 p.m. CW left the meeting.

SE moved to leave Executive Session. 2nd KC. Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SE, SH, AN, WM. Returned to public session at 11:10 p.m.

## **IX. Adjournment**

WM moved to adjourn. 2nd SE. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Farber  
Recording Secretary

## Meeting Documents

1. Agenda: October 10, 2018
2. Draft minutes: Sept. 12, 2018
3. Subcommittee minutes (draft)
  - a. Health, Safety & Facilities (Sept. 4, Oct. 2)
  - b. Budget & Finance (Sept. 5, Sept. 17, Oct. 3)
  - c. Personnel & Negotiations (Sept. 18)
4. Superintendent's Report
5. Website screenshots (gpsk12.org): events, employment campaign
6. Project HERE newsletter (Oct. 2018)
7. Media coverage: "Jaywalking: Angelo Thomas returns home to coach Greenfield boys basketball team" (Oct. 8); "Risky behaviors among local teens decline" (Sept. 29)
8. School newsletters
9. FY19 Budget Summary Data, Steve Nembirkow (Oct. 5)
10. Budget reports (Sept. 27)
11. School Resource Officer MOU: template; current Greenfield MOU (Sept. 15, 2016)
12. Policy BDG: School Attorney
13. Information on professional development opportunities:
  - a. MASC workshop announcement: Future of Public Education in the Connecticut Valley
  - b. Open Meeting Law trainings, Attorney General's office
  - c. MASC/MASS 2018 Joint Conference
14. Enrollment reports:
  - a. Greenfield: School Attending Children (DESE, Jan. 1, 2018)
  - b. GPS Enrollment (Oct. 1, 2018)
  - c. GPS Choice-In Data (Oct. 1, 2018)
  - d. Choice Receiving and Sending, FY18, 17, 16
  - e. Charter School Sending, FY19, 18, 17, 16
15. 2018 Official Accountability Report (Mass. DOE)
16. Memo from Jeffrey Riley, DESE Commissioner, Sept. 28, 2018, re: schools requiring assistance or intervention
17. School Committee Energy Upgrades, Carole Collins, Greenfield Energy & Sustainability Manager, Oct. 10, 2018)