

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, April 10, 2019**
John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant Street, Greenfield MA
Approved 05.08.19

Present: Katie Caron (KC); Susan Eckstrom (SE) arrived 6:37; Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Cameron Ward (CW) arrived 6:37.

Absent: None

Also present:

School Committee candidates: Doug Selwyn, Jean Wall, Allison Garriss, Glenn Johnson. Theresa Dodge and Luke Martin, GHS Social Studies teachers; Stephen Nembirkow, Business Manager; Karin Patenaude, GHS Principal; Edward Voudren, Transportation Coordinator; Crystal Zimmer, Four Corners parent; other school staff and citizens.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

WM moved to approve minutes of March 13, 2019. KC 2nd. Revision: p. 2 V. A. "Funds for teachers' pay during summer after July is encumbered in a reserve account from prior year."

Motion to approve minutes as revised passed 4-0-2 (abstain CW, SE).

Subcommittee minutes: Who is responsible for approving Subcommittee minutes? AN will consult with Attorney General's office for recommended practice.

III. Public Comment

- Crystal Zimmer, Four Corners parent, thanked members for passing budget that prioritized student safety, staffing, special ed. services.
- Doug Selwyn, resident, announced Greening Greenfield's "Drawdown" meeting on June 3 at Greenfield Public Library, invited all, especially young people and decision-makers, to join discussion of climate challenges and solutions.

IV. Reports

A. Student Representatives

M.B. reported on club activities and spring sports at GHS, including the Drama Club's successful play *Clue*.

S.T. (6th grade) and A.V. (5th grade) introduced GMS Student Council program and reported on GMS events, including Shout Out Kindness Week.

B. Chair

AN thanked all GPS staff for working to create a safe, healthy, supportive environment for students.

C. Superintendent

JH reported on:

- Ongoing activities to support School Committee goals
 - P. 2, goal 3: Includes seeking DESE funds for GMS and district-wide analysis of English language learners; special education programming working with CES; grant funds for curriculum audit

- Awarded \$105K grant from Governor's office for Improving Student Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Services
 - Funds aren't for regular operating budget; no new positions. Will support professional development, collaboration.
- Special Education Overview
- Green River Update (alternative education program): awaiting results of city's RFP for heating system, potential delay in fall opening
- Health Education Task Force and Curriculum Update – educators and parents discussing comprehensive, research-based curriculum; Community Task Force to meet May 6, May 22, June 10, seeking parent, teacher, community representatives, to craft recommendations to come before the School Committee and to be implemented in fall
 - Task Force not yet formed; internal planning meetings so far. Includes sex education, physical education, positive choices, substance use prevention. Preparing proposal to support Health Manager position.
- Middle School Turnaround Team to report at next month's School Committee meeting; to be presented to state late summer. In data collection and reflection phase.
 - Parents, PTO, School Council, community stakeholders involved.
- Transportation: Plan to purchase 3 vans to drive Greenfield students to neighboring district placements, replacing more expensive contracted routes. Using capital funds already approved and funds currently paying outside vendor.
 - Vote today? Discussion whether item needed to be specifically on agenda or could be voted as part of the Superintendent's Report.
 - Informational report from Steve Nembirkow, Business Manager, and Edward Voudren, Transportation Coordinator: Currently transporting out-of-district students to Holyoke = \$354K/year, \$1,1612/day. Savings \$1K/day. Opportunity to transport students from other districts to Holyoke, for fee/income. Concern that vehicles are "past aging," over 100K miles.
 - No need to go out to bid; special education transportation is exempt.
 - AN referred to Budget Subcommittee.
- Upcoming events include vacation April 15-19; May 9 Healthy Start Award (breakfast in classroom); May 10 Film Fest and Art Show; May 29 Town Council vote on budget
 - Central Office open during April vacation; school offices will be closed.
- Staffing report
 - Recently vacated positions will be filled. Clarification that employees left for higher-paying positions in other districts, not within GPS.
- Food service: Intent to keep school lunch prices the same for next year, expect small increase year after.
 - Reduced lunch is 40-cents
- Financial reports
- School newsletters
- *Valley Kids* ad focus on GHS

SH moved that in FY20 school lunch prices will be the same as they are this year. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Subcommittees

1. Budget & Finance (CW) – No report

2. Policy & Program (KC)

Continuing review of policies. Website revision to be discussed at next mtg.

3. Personnel & Negotiations (SE) – No report

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

Committee Representatives

5. Town Planning and Construction Committee (SH)

- Reviewed Mayor’s proposed capital budget, including Federal Street request for 2 elevators, recommend 1 this year, 1 next year
- Considering anaerobic digester to respond to doubling cost of transporting sewer waste

6. Collaborative for Educational Services (SE)

- Reviewed alternative education programs, including CES schools in Holyoke; Pioneer proposing alternative in-district program. Cost per pupil for alternative programs?
- CES evaluation tool for evaluation of executive director

V. Business

A. Filling of Vacant School Committee Seat

Each candidate provided a 2-minute statement and answered questions.

- Doug Selwyn
- Jean Wall
- Allison Garriss
- Glenn Johnson

Consensus for each member to express which candidate(s) they think is best fit, prior to bringing motion to floor.

WM: Jean Wall, realistic approach; followed by Allison Garriss, Doug Selwyn, Glenn Johnson

SH: Jean Wall, for experience in city-side budget

KC: Top choices Allison Garriss and Doug Selwyn, for their fresh perspective, ability to see picture on all sides; followed by Glenn Johnson, Jean Wall

AN: Glenn Johnson, for diverse background, Board experience, strong relationships with key stakeholders; followed by Doug Selwyn, Allison Garriss

SE: Top choices Doug Selwyn and Allison Garriss

CW: Jean Wall

WM moved that the Committee accept the candidacy of and appoint Jean Wall. CW 2nd. Motion failed 3-3 (Yes: WM, SH, CW).

SE moved to nominate Allison Garriss to fill the seat on the School Committee. KC 2nd. Motion failed 3-3 (Yes: KC, AN, SE).

AN moved to appoint Glen Johnson to Greenfield School Committee. SE 2nd. Motion failed 3-3 (Yes: KC, AN, SE).

AN moved to appoint Doug Selwyn to Greenfield School Committee. SE 2nd. Motion failed 3-3 (Yes, KC, AN, SE).

AN moved to table [filling vacant School Committee seat]. KC 2nd. Motion to table passed unanimously.

B. GHS Civics Update

Karin Patenaude, GHS Principal, and GHS teachers Theresa Dodge and Luke Martin presented changes to GHS history and social studies curriculum, as required by new MA law (Chap. 296, Act to Promote and Enhance Civic Engagement)

- New 8th grade Civics course to be implemented 2019-2020
 - Re-alignment of grades 9-12 electives to come 2020-2021
 - Will require purchase of new textbooks, curriculum resources
- Changes to Grade 8 History Standards
- Civics Engagement Project (2 required)
- Funding: \$22K for 2019-20; \$73K 2020-21 (includes additional 9-12 teacher)

Discussion:

Grade 8 World History I and II courses condensed, moved to grade 11 (single semester). US History I and II moved to grades 9-10.

Major shift in frameworks from content to historical thinking skills

C. Referral to Health & Safety Subcommittee

AN presented MA legislation related to lead in drinking water at schools, referred to Health & Safety Subcommittee for recommendation re: legislation.

D. 1st Reading Policy Manual Section D: Financial Policies

AN moved to table. KC 2nd. Motion to table passed unanimously.

KC to email members explanation of formatting of revised policies.

VI. New Business – 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 C).

AN moved to enter Executive Session. 2nd KC. Roll call vote: Yes –WM, SH, KC, AN, SE. Entered Executive Session at 9:46 p.m. KC left the meeting.

WM moved to leave Executive Session. 2nd SE. Roll call vote: Yes –WM, SH, AN, SE. Returned to public session at 10:45 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

AN moved to adjourn, 2nd SH. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

1. Posting, Agenda and Timed Agenda March 13, 2019
2. Draft minutes: March 13, 2019
3. Subcommittee and CES Minutes
 - a. Budget & Finance: Feb. 6, Feb. 8, Feb. 13, Feb. 19, March 7, March 12, March 18, 2019;
 - b. Policy & Program: Jan. 7, Jan. 28, 2019
 - c. Health, Safety & Facilities: March 5, 2019

- d. Collaborative for Educational Services: Jan. 30, 2019
- 4. Superintendent's Report documents
 - a. Superintendent's Report
 - b. DESE grant notification: \$105,000, Improving Student Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Services, April 4, 2019
 - c. Memo from Steve Nembirkow to Jordana Harper, re: Van Purchase, April 9, 2019
 - d. Staffing Report
 - e. Special Education Programs, Matthew Holloway, Director of Pupil Services, April 10, 2019
 - f. Memo from Steve Nembirkow to Jordana Harper, re: Food Service prices, April 5, 2019
 - g. *Recorder* articles re: "Big Y donates fund to upgrade school's playground"; "Child abuse awareness month raises attention to issues locally"; "Mayor Martin proposes \$51.3M budget"
 - h. "GPS selects student project 351 ambassador," April 2, 2019
 - i. School newsletters
 - j. Social media from Superintendent
- 5. Applications for vacant School Committee seat
 - a. Doug Selwyn
 - b. Jean Wall
 - c. Allison Garriss
 - d. Glenn Johnson
- 6. GHS MA History and Social Science Curriculum Framework, April 2019
- 7. Letter to Gov. Baker re: lead in schools' drinking water; "Act ensuring safe drinking water at school, S500 and H744"
- 8. Policies:
 - a. Section D Fiscal Policies, Revisions & Rationale
 - b. DA Fiscal Management Goals
 - c. DB Budget
 - d. DBC Budget Deadlines and Schedules
 - e. DBD Budget Planning
 - f. DBG Budget Adoption
 - g. DBJ Budget Transfer Authority
 - h. DD Funding Proposals and Applications
 - i. DGA Approval of School Budget Payroll
 - j. DH Bonded Employees and Officers
 - k. DI Fiscal Accounting and Reporting
 - l. DIE Audits
 - m. DJ Purchasing
 - n. DJA Purchasing Authority
 - o. DJB Capital Improvement Planning (CIP)
 - p. DJE Procurement Requirements
 - q. DJG Vendor Relations
 - r. DK Payment Procedures
 - s. DKC Expense Reimbursements