

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES: Monday, August 19, 2019
GPS Central Office, 195 Federal Street, Greenfield MA
Approved 09.11.19**

Present: Katie Caron (KC); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); Glenn Johnson (GJ); William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Cameron Ward (CW).

Absent: Susan Eckstrom (SE)

Also present: Mike Browning, GMS/MSA Associate Principal; Lynn Dole, GMS/MSA Principal; Angela Mass, parent, GHS teacher; Stephen Nembirkow, Business Manager; Johanna Rizzardini, parent, community medical provider; Alan Schmidt, Facilities Manager; Alyssa Valbona, Community Health Center of Franklin County; Andrew Varnon, parent; Jenni Vernon, parent; Caitlin von Schmidt, parent; other school staff and citizens.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (KC, SH, GJ, WM, AN, CW), Chair Nunez opened the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

II. Public Comment

Johanna Rizzardini spoke in support of 3Rs curriculum recommended by Superintendent's Health Education Task Force, as comprehensive, flexible, and free; offered student and family data showing need.

Angela Mass shared concerns that Math & Science Academy creates unhealthy us/them environment at GMS, recommended accelerated instruction available to all students without separate program.

Andrew Vernon urged timely, effective communication from schools; asked whether GMS will have school nurse; shared concerns re: retention of teachers; spoke against GMS rule of only one student at a time in bathrooms.

Caitlin von Schmidt spoke in favor of sex education earlier than 8th grade which includes how to deal with relationships; spoke against separate MSA program with concerns that "middle school" vs. "academy" creates division and in favor of accelerated offerings available to all students.

Jenni Vernon noted that hiring freeze left only one staff person in GMS front office, asked that second staff person be added; supports filling nurse position at GMS.

III. Approval of Minutes

SH moved to approve minutes of July 10, 2019. WM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Reports

A. Chair

AN reminded members of Charting the Course class, required for School Committee members, on Sept. 7 at CES, Northampton.

AN made a motion to move Superintendent's Health Education Task Force and Update on GMS/MSA ahead of rest of reports. GJ 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

V. New Business

A. Superintendent's Health Education Task Force

JH thanked Task Force, presented executive summary report. Recommendation that middle school adopt 3Rs (Rights, Respect, Responsibility). Curriculum is available for all to preview, includes parent communication component. Parents will be notified and can choose to opt out, in keeping with School Committee policy. Recommendation to purchase Whole Children/Whole Selves, additional modified curriculum for students with disabilities.

CW moved to support the recommendations of the Superintendent's Health Education Task Force. KC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Update on Greenfield Middle School/Math & Science Academy

- JH presented Turnaround Plan representing "tremendous, hard work" of staff on TAP team. Submitted plan to DESE, awaiting feedback; revisions possible. Plan in effect for new school year, includes increased time and expanded offerings in science, math; advisory at start and end of every day.
- JH introduced Lynn Dole, new GMS/MSA principal, to applause.
- Middle school nurse (RN) hired today.
- New additional teaching position for 6th-7th grade science.

Discussion:

After many years of ELT (extended learning time), why are proficiency scores not improving?

Some parents against ELT, say school day is too long for children.

Increased % of high-need students affects achievement.

School Committee recently reviewed, voted to support ELT.

Effect on budget: Turnaround Plan recommends additional staff but no commitments.

IV. Reports (continued)

B. Superintendent (JH)

Enrollment climbed to 1800 students

Opened fourth section of Kindergarten at Newton; incoming class larger than predicted.

Jon Cavallo is new associate principal at GHS.

C. Subcommittees

1. Policy & Program (KC)

Will present policies for first/second reading at upcoming School Committee meeting

2. Personnel & Negotiations (SE) – No report

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

Committee Representatives

4. Town Planning and Construction Committee (SH)

Committee prepared comprehensive annual report of accomplishments, recommendations. Site visit to library Aug. 20.

5. Collaborative for Educational Services (SE) – No report

SH requested to reinstate standing Budget Subcommittee.

V. New Business (continued)

C. Timeline for Superintendent Evaluation

AN reviewed timeline.

KC moved to support suggested timeline. SH 2nd.

Discussion:

Is DESE dropping required Superintendent evaluation? Many districts struggle with evaluation process. Should we continue? Contract with Supt. requires us to fulfill evaluation.

AN will seek information from MASC and DESE

Motion passed unanimously.

D. Update on Lead in Water

- JH presented recommendation for follow-up testing of 250 fixtures of concern in 2016.
- Under leadership of Facilities Manager Alan Schmidt, GPS lead testing and remediation in 2016 was selected as exemplary case study.
- Health & Safety Subcommittee has discussed, with community input.
- Strategic step to prepare GPS for anticipated state funds for remediation.

WM moved to support funding of third-party water testing to let us know how safe the water is in the schools. KC 2nd.

\$17K cost to be paid out of which account? Cost estimates for repairs?

GJ called the question. Motion to end debate passed unanimously.

Motion passed unanimously.

CW left the meeting at 6:28.

E. Budget Update, Information, Discussion FY19, FY20.

- FY19 is complete, ended with \$37K balance. Revolving accounts kept within parameters.
- Many transfers in last 60 days to balance out accounts. Small transfers via warrants; major changes would need to come to School Committee.
- Revisions continue to refine FY20 budget, adjust for many changes in staffing.
- Prepayment of special education tuition: For past 5 years, prepaid \$200K (approx.) annually. In FY19, no prepayment to cover FY20 cost. Had requested Mayor to provide \$ from City Council's Special Education Stabilization Account. WM pointed to School Choice \$ available to use instead of Stabilization Account.

SH moved to reinstate standing Subcommittee on Budget and Finance. WM 2nd.

- SH: Concerns about Committee's lack of financial oversight, including budget transfers, revolving fund levels.
- Full Committee's monthly special meetings to discuss budget, as replacement for Budget Subcommittee, have not happened. Summer scheduling difficult.
- WM: Request for budget information in advance to allow study. Budget Subcommittee had set up schedule for desired reports.

GJ called the question. Motion to end debate passed 3-2.

Motion failed 1-3-1.

AN will look to schedule additional meeting before Sept. 9 meeting.

SH moved to get updated, current Revolving Fund report and FY19 close-out report that was inadvertently left out of packet. AN 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

SH requested report on new transportation initiative at future meeting.

F. Update on DESE Audit

AN moved to table Update on DESE Audit. GJ 2nd. Motion to table passed unanimously.

VIII. Executive Session

AN announced intent to move into Executive Session in accordance with MGL c 30A, §21, (1), (3) & (10): (1) To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, our complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual; (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); and (10) To discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively sensitive or other proprietary information prepared. (parking lot, transportation contract). *Clarification that executive session will be for reasons 3 and 10 only; inclusion of 1 was for prior agenda since revised.*

AN moved to enter Executive Session. KC 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes –WM, SH, KC, AN, GJ. Entered Executive Session at 7:14 p.m.

WM moved to leave Executive Session. KC 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes –WM, SH, KC, AN, GJ. Returned to public session at 8:28 p.m.

Transportation Contract

AN moved to approve the contract for school transportation services with Kuzmeskus for the term of July 1, 2019 until June 30, 2024, pending inclusion of: “Contractor will comply with all School Committee policies relevant to student transportation”; Contractor shall provide side-arm cameras at a one-time cost not to exceed \$15K; and remove he/him/his section from paragraph 1. KC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Adjournment

WM moved to adjourn. GJ 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

1. Notice, Agenda, and Timed Agenda August 14, 2019
2. Draft minutes: July 10, 2019
3. Superintendent’s Health Education Task Force, School Committee Recommendations
4. Superintendent’s Report:
 - a. Memo from Steve Nembirkow to Jordana Harper, “8/12/19 School Committee Information – Mayor Questions,” August 12, 2019
 - b. Memo from Steve Nembirkow to Jordana Harper, “8/12/19 School Committee Information,” August 12, 2019
 - c. Enrollment Report, August 9, 2019
 - d. Financial Reports, August 12, 2019

- e. DESE Net School Spending, Foundation Budget FY18 & FY19
 - f. Staff changes / budget adjustments
 - g. Greenfield Middle School Turnaround Plan Template, DESE, June 21, 2019
 - h. Lead information sheet
 - i. DESE Office of School Financing, Net School Spending (NSS) and Foundation Budget FY18 and FY19, Greenfield
 - j. Superintendent's Social Media Posts
 - k. "Academics and Athletics" flyer
- 5. Greenfield Middle School Turnaround Plan, June 21, 2019
 - 6. Case Study: "How a Daycare in Greenfield Solved Their Lead Problem Using Bottle Filling Stations"
 - 7. Letters to GMS Families: Welcome; Turnaround plan