

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Monday, October 21, 2019
(rescheduled from October 9)**

Greenfield High School Cafeteria, 21 Barr Avenue, Greenfield MA
Approved 11.13.19

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

Absent: none

Also present: Stephen Nembirkow, Business Manager; Kathy Scott, City Clerk; Bill Diehl, Collaborative for Educational Services; Susan Voss, Academy of Early Learning staff; other school staff, and the press.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (KC, SE, SH, GJ, AN, WM), Chair Nunez opened the meeting at 5:03 p.m. *Noted that the Greenfield Recorder is recording as well as GCTV.*

II. Approval of Minutes

SH moved to approve minutes of October 7, 2019. SE 2nd.

p. 2, line 4: add *“to approve FY20 district budget.”* **Motion passed unanimously.**

III. Public Comment

(Unit C Instructional Assistants = IAs)

Susan Voss, IA at Academy of Early Learning, talked about trust and 3-month delay in approving contract, concern that IAs are leaving, request to approve contract.

Katerina Pavlou, Four Corners staff, spoke to concerns of underpaid educators, need to approve contract, need for staff available to keep students safe and supported.

IV. Reports

A. Chair

No report, in deference to full agenda

B. Superintendent (JH)

- Thanked staff in attendance
- Noted community events, including Federal Street Family Fun Night and Book Sale; Four Corners Harvest Sampler, Newton Community Readers celebration and Pajama Night; GHS National Honor Society induction.
- Concern re: lack of substitute coverage; requested for November’s agenda

C. Subcommittees

1. Policy & Program (KC) – No report

2. Personnel & Negotiations (SE) – No report

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

Committee Representatives

4. Collaborative for Educational Services (SE)

Bill Diehl from CES will present later in meeting.

5. Town Planning and Construction Committee (SH)

- Annual Report posted on City's website
- Green River School not used this year, no heating; Council must approve cost for new heating system, approx. \$600K
- Library repairs for code compliance = approx. \$8million; same cost of new building.

Green River School will be on School Committee's November agenda.

V. Business

A. Greenfield High School Election Floor Covering

Kathy Scott, City Clerk, reported on need for ADA-compliant floor coverage to avoid tripping hazard. New floor covering will be ordered and available next election March 2020. After last election when floors were not covered, \$4K repairs required. No city/school funding available if repairs needed after this election.

Scott will ask state whether special election funds can be used for repairs.

Last time repairs done over vacation, minimal impact on school classes, sports.

Cannot use cafeteria for elections: not large enough to separate precincts.

CW moved approve the plan for moving forward with election without floor covering this year. SE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Collaborative for Educational Services Vote on New Members

Bill Diehl, CES Director, provided overview of CES services provided to GPS.

SH spoke to need for programs for high-need students.

Changes to Collaborative Agreement:

- adding new members Worthington, Gateway Regional;
- Section 4.c. DESE liaison (not voting member) on Board
- 25% surcharge to non-members (up from 20%)

All 36 member-districts must vote to support.

GPS membership fee by enrollment, \$3.50/student. Additional fees according to services used.

Supt. praised Diehl's work and GPS partnership with CES.

WM moved to approve the revised and amended agreement with the Collaborative for Educational Services dated Sept. 25. CW 2nd. Motion passed 5-0-2 (abstain: SE, GJ)

C. Council Vote on Stipend Proposal

City Council requested input on proposed stipend increase to \$4K for elected officials, which would include School Committee members. Vote is to provide opinion, not decision-making.

GJ moved to support the amendment as written, "The Town of Greenfield shall appropriate funds to compensate members of the Greenfield School Committee and the Town Council with an annual stipend in the amount of ~~\$2,000~~ \$4,000 to be paid annually at the completion of each year of service. The president of the council and the chair of the school committee shall receive for their duties an additional stipend of \$500." SE 2nd.

Discussion:

- Intent is to allow greater diversity of people to serve (e.g., childcare for evening, daytime meetings).
- Source of funds - \$24K annually?
- Concord that stipend needed only by some individuals, but stipend would be given to all.

Motion failed: 3-3-1 (Yes: AN, SE, GJ; No: WM, SH, CW; abstain: KC).

SH moved that we suggest a childcare fund be set up for elected officials that need babysitting costs. CW 2nd.

- JH: Be aware of costs for family responsibilities in addition to children, such as caring for elders.
- GJ: Consider making childcare available at meetings for community members who want to attend. Full agenda tonight, suggested withdrawing motion, to be added to future meeting.

SH withdrew motion.

D. Superintendent Evaluation Materials & Process

AN reviewed evaluation materials and process. Members to submit individual evaluations by 10am Nov. 1, preferably via email. Members' evaluations are public. Combined responses to be reviewed at next meeting.

JH: At Committee's recommendation to focus on district priorities, Superintendent's self-evaluation is abbreviated; requests for additional information and additional feedback are welcome.

E. FY20 Budget

JH and Steve Nembirkow presented budget documents. Need to identify source for \$400K to balance. Recommend school choice as most flexible source. Includes \$150K from City's special education stabilization fund.

Out-of-district special education line item fluctuating; wait to New Year to settle; reflects savings with transportation, modified placements.

SH moved to approve the FY20 budget in the amount of \$19,301,080 to align with the City Council appropriation. WM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Clarification: \$19,301,080 is local funds. All-funds operating budget includes much more, such as grants.

SH moved that an additional \$400,000 be added to the 2019-2020 Greenfield school budget and that the source of funds be balances in the school district revolving fund. GJ 2nd. Motion passed 6-1 (No: WM).

SH moved that in using the revolving funds balance, we take \$150,000 from Pre-K Tuition fund, and \$200,000 from Circuit Breaker fund, and not deplete School Choice. WM 2nd.

- Motion's intent is to use \$50K from school choice.
- Follow School Committee's policy on revolving funds.
- Suggestions of additional sources (vacancies, undistributed salary, Safe Schools) rejected.
- Supt. can request transfers between revolving funds if needed; not "made of cement"
- Friendly amendment to change to \$50K from PreK, \$200K from Circuit Breaker, \$150K from Choice, rejected.
- May need to use Choice \$ for contracts.

CW called the question. SH 2nd. Motion to end debate passed unanimously.

Motion passed unanimously.

AN moved to approve grand total budget of \$23,732,102. KC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

No follow-up information on School Committee's request to investigate short-term borrowing (passed at least meeting).

IV. Executive Session

AN announced intent to move into Executive Session in accordance with MGL c 30A, §21, (3) & (10): (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 information prepared (Greenfield Middle School Parking).

GJ moved to enter Executive Session. 2nd. SE 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – (KC, SE, SH, GJ, AN, WM, CW). Motion passed unanimously. Entered Executive Session at 7:02 p.m.

Returned to public session at 8:23 p.m.

VI. Adjournment

SH moved to adjourn. GJ 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

1. Agenda and Timed Agenda October 21, 2019
2. Draft minutes: October 7, 2019
3. Email from Kathy Scott to Karen Patenaude et al., “High School Election ADA Complaint,” October 11, 2019
4. Letter from William Diehl, Collaborative for Educational Services, “Request for a Vote on Revisions / Amendments to the ‘Agreement of the Collaborative for Educational Services,’” October 8, 2019
5. Email from Councilor Dolan, “Amendment to Annual Stipend,” July 23, 2019
6. Memo and attached documents from Supt. Harper to School Committee, “Superintendent Evaluation,” October 2019
7. DESE End-of-Cycle Summative Evaluation Report: Superintendent (blank form)
8. Budget Documents: Talking Points 10/15/19; FY20 Estimated Revolving Account Balances and Usage; FY20 Budgeted Offsets; FY20 Budget
9. School newsletters; Media coverage including *Greenfield Recorder* articles; social media (Twitter)