

GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES: Monday, August 31, 2020
Greenfield MA

Note: This meeting was held fully remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, §20.

Present: Katie Caron (KC); Susan Eckstrom (SE); Jordana Harper (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); Glenn Johnson-Mussad; (GJ) (arrived 6:02); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW); Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

Absent: none

Also present: Mike Kuchieski, GPS Athletic Director; other school staff, and members of the public.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (KC, SE, SH, AP, JW, RW), Chair Proietti called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Reports

A. Chair – no report

B. Superintendent

- Supt. Harper reported on positive, optimistic mood on staff's first day of school; launched remote learning platform, with 10 days of PD ahead; recognized staff's extensive work over summer
- Class rosters & schedules in development as part of collective bargaining with GEA; currently in negotiations as change to working conditions; SE and GJ are part of those negotiations
- Distributed 350+ Chromebooks last week, with thanks to administrators, tech staff; noted GCET's equity program to bring internet access to families
- Purchased supply sets for every student, to be distributed by start of school

Discussion:

- Families who are able to can purchase a Chromebook or other technology for their students.
- Families who borrowed a Chromebook in spring have kept them over the summer for continued learning.
- Families who have not yet asked to borrow a Chromebook, contact Carol Holzberg, Director of Technology: carhol1@gpsk12.org
- Chromebooks are on backorder due to supply shortage.

C. Subcommittees

1. Budget Subcommittee - SE

- Discussed format of budget reports, anticipate moving fully to MUNIS reports
- Recommending beginning search for Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum Director and payroll/HR assistant
- School Committee needs to vote approval of final budget in September

Discussion: Recognition that lack of schedules & specifics is challenging for families. DESE forbade release of plans before mid-August, thus collective bargaining could not begin until then; need teachers' union agreement to move forward.

IV. New Business

A. Revised 2020-2021 School Year Calendar

JH provided overview of revised academic calendar: School year begins with 10 extra days of PD; waiver approved for students' start-of-school on Sept. 17; some early release days removed; no change to end-of-school date. Parent-teacher meetings are included in PD schedule before Sept. 17.

KC moved that the School Committee adopt the revised 2020-2021 School Year Calendar, as presented. JW 2nd.

Discussion:

Meet & Greet, traditionally held before start of school for families to see building & visit classroom, will be held remotely. Each school will have a different format, as appropriate to age group.

Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Athletics / MIAA Update

GPS Athletic Director Mike Kuchieski summarized preparations and proposed plans:

- Requesting approval for Fall 1 sports schedule: field hockey, golf, XC.
- Franklin County athletic directors met, decided safest approach: will not play teams outside of County.
- Schedule will stagger days for all teams to practice and play.
- Football, soccer, cheering will begin with coach-led practice & drills; playing season to be held at later date.
- Split fall sports schedule gives opportunity for student to be four-sport athletes.
- Transportation: Varsity-only travel team, with maximum 14 players; golf team will transport only 8 players.
- Health/safety modifications necessary at game sites.
- Soccer not offered this fall – required modifications would have been too hard to enforce.
- Sept. 18 is start of fall sports.
- Gov. Baker's rules: max. 50 people on field. Hard to police that limit, so recommend having no fans present. Games may be live-streamed; hoping for GCTV involvement.
- Volunteer Covid-coaches will support safety, take temperatures, document attendance for contact tracing if needed.

KC moved to approve participation by Greenfield Public Schools in the Fall-Only Modified Sports Seasons for School Year 2020-2021. RW 2nd.

Discussion:

- All planning has been shared with Pam Owen, GPS head nurse.
- Kuchieski requested partial payment to coaches of delayed-season fall sports for fall drill & practice.
- Is XC travel team (boys & girls) limited to 14 total or 28? Likely 14 limit, but could expand if more XC participation.
- Sports are valuable points of connection for many students.
- Covid Task Force will discuss winter sports on Oct 18. Indoor track cancelled because Smith College facility is closed. Other states playing hockey, basketball safely. Will know more as health situation evolves.

- Where does liability fall if athlete gets Covid? Not clear. All coaches will have Covid training. Family permission form: will we need additional waivers? JH has contacted GPS insurer, awaiting response.
- Bus transportation precautions: Guidelines call for open windows to increase air flow.
- Transportation will be done in-house by GPS. Parent-provided transportation might be an option.

Roll call: Yes – KC, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Abstain – SE (citing liability concerns).

Motion passed 6-0-1.

SH moved that regarding designated Fall 2 sports & their coaches, to allow 25% of coaching stipend to be paid now and the remaining 75% of stipend paid when the sports program is completed (football, cheering, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, girls' volleyball). GJ 2nd.

Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Executive Session - MGL c 30A, §21, (2): To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

RW moved to enter Executive Session. GJ 2nd. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW.

Motion passed unanimously. Entered Executive Session at 7:02 p.m.

VI. Adjournment of Public Session

JW moved to adjourn public session. SH 2nd. Roll call: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW.

Motion passed unanimously. Public session closed at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Farber

Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

1. GPS 2020-2021 Calendar (August 27, 2020)
2. Athletics Proposal from Mike Kuchieski, Athletic Director, August 31, 2020, with supporting documents:
 - a. Joint Guidance on Modified Sports Season for School Year 2020-21, from MIAA and Mass. DESE, August 18, 2020
 - b. Sports Activity Level Assessment Framework
 - c. Sport Compliance Attestation
 - d. Workplace Safety & Reopening Standards for Businesses & Other Entities Providing Youth & Adult Amateur Sports Activity, August 13, 2020
 - e. NFHS 2020-21 Field Hockey Considerations
 - f. NFHS 2020-21 Cross Country Considerations
3. Letter of Introduction from Michelle Fenimore, Interim Principal, to Federal Street School Community, August 25, 2020
4. Letter of Introduction from Nancy Putnam, Principal, to AEL Families, August 25, 2020