

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Monday, November 9, 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); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW) (joined 6:15)

**Absent:** Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

**Also present:** Andy Paquette, TMS; Jake Waldsmith, Transportation Specialist; Ed Voudren, Transportation Coordinator; other school staff, members of the public, and the press.

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

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

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

GJ moved to approve minutes of October 27, 2020. SE 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP. Motion passed.

### **III. Public Comment**

Pamala Cutler, Greenfield, parent, complained of lack of communication to parents.

### **IV. Reports**

#### **A. Chairperson – AP**

Budget Subcommittee meeting will be rescheduled for later this week.

At next School Committee meeting, will announce additional appointment to new subcommittee on racial justice.

#### **B. Student Representatives**

GHS students DL and ST reported on GHS activities, including Best Buddies, Drive-Through Halloween, school spirit competitions, Turkey Trot, TV class, fall sports; and students' experience of remote learning.

#### **C. Redrawing of the District Map – JW**

- Excellent presentation by Supt. on GPS school buildings in the past
- Parents commenting
- Request to be designated as Advisory Committee to allow community members to participate

#### **D. City Planning & Construction**

SH & JW reported on school-related topics:

- Green River School ready by February
- Concern re: increased energy costs due to increased air flow; informal suggestion to open some schools, not all, while fewer students are attending in early phase.
- Will meet this week to begin discussion of City's capital improvements. Look to Supt. to write capital improvement requests, present to School Committee for endorsement.

#### **E. Superintendent – JH**

- Introduced Ben Cenedella, Nexus Consulting, who prepared HVAC assessment & report.
- Proud of remote instruction but eager for in-person instruction to begin.

- Last Friday, Dept of Public Health, DESE, released updated metrics & guidance, which change many GPS preparations and negotiations. Challenging to adapt.
- Remote Learning Specialist position posted; interviewing; teachers truly need support from this position.
- Hired Central Office Receptionist, will start next week.
- Schools closed Nov. 11 in observance of Veterans Day. Reminder that schools are apolitical and support civic involvement of all.
- Slide show from AEL of learning by youngest learners.

## V. New Business

### A. Phase 2 Implementation Update HV/AC Update

Ben Cenedella, Nexus Consulting, summarized study of HVAC systems in all schools. Found all equipment running properly except some exhaust fans, which were quickly repaired (one fan at Newton awaiting repair or workaround). Strategy to bring in fresh air, fully exhaust inside air. Noted what doesn't work (extra filters that stress & burn out equipment; UV lights). Air exchange rates needed depend on size & use of room. Some GHS rooms benefit from make-up air units. Fewer students, all wearing masks, HVAC systems operating: "You're running as healthy as you can."

JH: HVAC study evaluated rooms to be used in Phase 2; in good shape to start Phase 2. Using air purifiers, which were ordered in advance, anticipating supply shortages. GPS staff responsive, helpful. Report informs, empowers families. Have taken all reasonable precautions, shared data publicly, exceeded what we have to do; are committed to health of students & staff.

**SE moved to proceed fully with Phase 2 implementation, based on the updated information provided on HVAC this evening. GJ 2nd. Roll call vote: YES – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW. Motion passed unanimously.**

To begin Phase 2:

- Need union agreement
- Complete contacting families of all Phase 2 students, to opt in or out
- Set up bus routes

Transportation update from Ed Voudren, Jake Waldsmith:

- All GPS vehicles & drivers already in use to transport 24 out-of-district students.
- Currently planning for 28 special education students requesting Phase 2 in-district transportation.
- Will need additional Kuzmeskus vehicles, drivers.
- Will need to stagger start times at different schools.
- State guidance on social distancing on busses not consistent: 6' apart, 3' apart, or one to a seat. Looking for clear protocols for vans, busses.
- Will follow: windows open, masks on, continuous cleaning.
- Would benefit from cleaning station for vans & busses for quick turnaround.

Discussion:

- It's allowed for parents to offer to transport their special education students; reimbursement payments available. But if parents' circumstances change, will affect carefully crafted bus system. Acknowledge that some families are unable to provide transportation.
- Develop transportation protocol, with input from lead nurse and public health officials.
- Accept that returning to in-person instruction will result in increased proximity.

## **B. District Walkability Discussion**

AP raised issue of students' safety walking to school. Asked District Map Redrawing Committee to include walkability in their deliberations.

Discussion:

- Crossing guards previously overseen by police department, now by GPS. Position has high turnover.
- Walkability & bike-ability already included in District Map Redrawing Committee's charge; see Sept. 14 School Committee minutes.
- Safe Routes to School (Mass DOT) has worked with GPS and Healthy, Safety & Facilities Subcommittee: sponsored bike rodeos, provided bikes & helmets in partnership with Rec. Dept.; collected data; walked all routes to identify problems. Safe Streets grant.

## **C. Name school negotiator for Administrative Assistant contract**

AP appointed School Committee members Susan Hollins and Jean Wall to serve as negotiators.

**SH moved to endorse appointment of Member Wall and Member Hollins as negotiators for the Administrative Assistant contract. SE 2nd. Roll call vote: YES – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **D. Proposed schedule of semi-monthly school committee meetings**

Schedule of regular 2nd-Wednesday meetings continues, plus one additional meeting/month.

Agreement to dates for November and December additional meetings:

Tuesday, November 24 – 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 9 (Regular Meeting) – 6:00 pm

Wednesday, Dec. 30 – 6:00 pm

Arrangement of next set of meetings to be done through email. KC, AP not available Thursdays.

**VI. Executive Session - 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.

GJ moved to open executive session. JW 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW. Motion passed unanimously.

SH moved to adjourn the public session of the meeting. JW 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW. Motion passed unanimously.

Entered Executive Session and adjourned public session at 7:56.

Executive Session adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Farber  
Recording Secretary

## **Meeting Documents**

1. Notice of Meeting, Agenda, November 9, 2020
2. Draft Minutes: Oct. 27, 2020
3. "Proposed schedule of semi-monthly meetings," email from Glenn Johnson-Mussad to School Committee, Oct, 28, 2020
4. Budget Reports as of Nov. 5, 2020
5. School Newsletters
6. Food Service Updates
7. IAQ Charts, Nexus Consulting, Nov. 5, 2020 (indoor air quality)