

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 13, 2021
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); Susan Hollins (SH); Glenn Johnson-Mussad; (GJ); Amy Proietti (AP); Jean Wall (JW); Roxann Wedegartner (RW)

Absent: Jordana Harper (JH)

Also present: Janet Dickinson, Director of Pupil Services; Mike Kuchieski, GPS Athletic Director; Pam Owen, GPS Lead Nurse; Andy Paquette, TMS; other school staff, members of the public, and the press.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW, RW), Chair Proietti called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

JW moved to approve draft minutes of Dec. 4, Dec. 9, Dec. 15, Dec. 17, Dec. 29, 2020, and January 6, 2021. GJ 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Ann Valentine, Hatfield, representing GEA, requested following past practice of including union representative(s) and teacher(s) in superintendent search committee.

Susan Worgaftik, Greenfield, encouraged superintendent search committee to include parents of special needs children, parents of children at each school level, parents of students of color.

IV. Reports

A. Chairperson – AP

Looking forward to working with newly elected City Council President Penny Ricketts and Vice-President Sheila Gilmour

Noted 6 School Committee meetings in past 4 weeks, expressed gratitude for all involved, including Committee members, teachers & staff. Acknowledged stressful circumstances for students and families.

B. Student Representatives

Students DL and ST reported on GHS activities and service projects by Student Council, Key Club, and other groups. Expanded schedule for mid-terms Jan. 6-22 allows students to better prepare for exams. School supply bags available for GHS students to pick up. National Honor Society members offer online tutoring.

C. Anti-Racism – GJ

Getting started. Members: GJ, KC, SH.

D. Redrawing the District Map – JW

Meeting schedule: 2nd Thursdays at 9am, 4th Thursdays at 6pm

V. Business

A. Budget Review FY21 & FY22

Andy Paquette, TMS, presented budget documents. He and SH met to set up report formats including for revolving accounts, and reviewed history of revolving accounts.

Draft FY22 budget in process, a baseline “roll-over” from FY21 budget. Will need input from school administrators for need-based budget process.

Federal CARES funds: GPS used last spring to buy Chromebooks. Anticipate larger CARES grant in next funding release.

Discussion:

- Reminder of GPS practice to set aside cost of summer tuition \$180-200K
- \$ is available in current budget to fill critical needs positions – e.g., assistant director of special education
- Anticipate additional need for academic support services when students return to in-person classes
- Concern that \$ in budget for technology is low

B. Athletics Update

Mike Kuchieski, GPS Athletic Director, reported that start of winter sports practices delayed until Jan. 18 (hockey) and Jan. 19 (basketball). Game dates also pushed later.

KC moved to approve winter sports participation in skills and drills beginning January 18 for hockey and January 19 for basketball, with competitions beginning based on state guidelines. SE 2nd.

Roll call vote: YES – KC, SE, SH, GJ, AP, JW. Abstain – RW. Motion passed 6-0-1.

C. Phase 2 Update

KC reported on today’s meeting of Joint Labor Management Safety Committee. Concern: enough staff for Phase 2 re-opening?

Pam Owen, GPS Lead Nurse, summarized data on increase of infections among young people (20-29-year-olds and 10-19-year-olds). City Board of Health has best data. Potential weekly testing of students and staff would be game-changing.

Mayor to pursue adjusting Board of Health meeting schedule to come before School Committee meetings, to provide most recent data for school decisions.

Current plan, by School Committee decision: bring Phase 2 students back on Jan. 19. Desire for more time to confirm enough staff and to get most recent data.

RW moved that we resume Phase 2 in-person learning on January 21, with the understanding that a further extension may be needed. SE 2nd.

Roll call vote: Yes – KC, SH, GJ, JW, RW. Abstain – SE, AP. Motion passed 5-0-2.

C. Subcommittee Assignments for 2021

Subcommittees

- Superintendent Search: Jean Wall
- Budget: Susan Eckstrom, Susan Hollins, Jean Wall
- Policy & Program: Glenn Johnson-Mussad, Katie Caron, Roxann Wedegartner
- Health & Safety: Katie Caron, Amy Proietti, Glenn Johnson-Mussad
- Negotiations, Personnel & Contracts: Susan Eckstrom, Katie Caron, Jean Wall

Representatives & special committees:

- Collaborative for Educational Services – Susan Hollins
- City Planning & Construction – Susan Hollins
- Library Building Committee: Jean Wall
- Sick Bank: Katie Caron, Glenn Johnson-Mussad
- Anti-Racism: Glenn Johnson-Mussad, Katie Caron, Susan Hollins
- Redrawing District Map: Jean Wall; Susan Hollins; Glenn Johnson-Mussad

SE moved to approve 2021 School Committee Assignments. SH 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Superintendent Search Process

Jean Wall to chair. Goal to be open, transparent, efficient. Will review proposals from search firms; select search committee members; guide transition planning; report at regular monthly School Committee meetings.

Community members interested in serving to email JW.

SH and RW have experience in superintendent search.

E. Policies: EBCD Emergency Closing and BEDH Public Participation

SE moved to assign review and updating of both policies to Policy Subcommittee. RW 2nd.

EBCD discussion:

- Update policy to consider situations when School Cte should decide or if Supt. not available

BEDH discussion:

- Limiting comments only to agenda items is standard practice for Greenfield boards, commissions.
- Chair has discretion.
- Public advocacy, community input are important. Not the same as sending an email.
- Need clear process to respond to emails; don't let them drop.
- Offer listening sessions.
- Consider review of additional policy on communicating with the public.

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Executive Session - MGL c 30A, §21, (2) and (3): (2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; (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.

RW moved to open executive session. GJ 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

No intent to return to public session afterwards.

JW moved to adjourn the public session of the meeting. GJ 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Entered Executive Session and adjourned public session at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Farber

Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

1. Agenda, January 13, 2021
2. Minutes: Dec 4, Dec. 9, Dec. 15, Dec. 17, Dec. 29, 2020; January 6, 2021
3. Financial Reports (Jan. 6, 2021)
4. Memos (2) from Mike Kuchieski, re: Winter sports season
5. School Committee Subcommittee Assignments
6. Policy BEDH Public Participation at School Committee Meetings
7. Policy EBCD Emergency Closings
8. School newsletters
9. Welcome to Sierra Rother, School Registrar