

DRAFT MINUTES

Greenfield Public Schools Budget, Finance, Negotiations

Date: 1/24/17

Time: 5-7 pm

Location: Central Office

Attendees:

Chair Nunez

Member Tripp

Member Hollins (via phone)

Member Farrell

Mayor Martin

Bus. Director Howie Barber

Superintendent Jordana Harper

Principals of all schools

Supporting Documents Received:

Principal Request Summary Packet

Call to order:

5:04 pm

Agenda Items:

1. **Public Comment—NA**
2. **FY18 Budget Requests from Principals** Subcommittee reviews site-based requests for FY18 budget. These requests have had prior approval by Superintendent. Suggested reductions are also included. Noted that class size is being reviewed throughout the district. In most instances, suggested increases are due to increased enrollment.
 - a. Four Corners—Jake Toomey: Focus on intervention support and tiered support; Library & literacy intervention. Possible new fourth grade class. Noted that shared art instruction is too much for one educator. Decrease in band in am to support literacy effort at 4th grade. Need for more custodial support services due to increased enrollment. (Safety and hygiene concern.) Additionally notes the days when time off is needed for custodians, become difficult to fill in. Anticipates 15 teachers—three each section. Discussion on band reduction—not all students participate in band. Toomey believes need to support literacy is higher than band for fourth graders. Possibility to have a band club or other way to include band as option for those interested. There is more of a need in literacy support than can be funded by T1. Supplement amount .55 entirely from general fund.

- b. Federal St. School—Nancy Putnam: T1 intervention to 1.0 Fte; Support for adjusting art position beyond one shared instructor. Teachers: 14 total 3 in each grade + one grade 3/4 split.
- c. Newton School—Melodie Goodwin: Speech has been shared over last years. This was previously not accurately reported in budget. Intensive speech services are needed and should be reviewed by SPED Dir. Data indicates need for more math interventions—request to increase to full time (T1 position via budget.) Mel gives options for new configuration of school/class size consideration. Notes one classroom that is very physically small (max fifteen desks). Two options outlined: One considers adding Essential Skills classroom—requires hiring behaviorist. Fear of more OOD if larger classes. Small class important for success of high trauma/transient kids. Notes research on children of trauma—class size makes a difference. Discussion on need for policy for kindergarten potty training. (If not potty trained, we need paras to help.) Safety on bus/school is briefly noted. Kindergartener not picked up get returned to school if no parent is home to receive them. Suggested need for policy to dictate where child goes if parent is not home: suggest police station. This may mean cost savings in secretary or other pay overtime. Discussion on truant officer and attendance concerns. Officer to knock on doors to ensure students attend schools. Go to houses if not in class to converse with parents, and notify them of law and possible fines for not attending. All being impacted by absence. 5 ish students per year missing approx. 18 + days per year. Other principals agree with this problem. Total of 14 teachers.
- d. Discussion on total integrated art teachers for elementary. Estimated: 3 music + ael; 3fte pe + ael (msa also wellness/movement); 2 Art; 2 tech. Approx five units a day some elt + band + chorus. Some sharing, some splits.
- e. Greenfield Middle School—Gary Tadjian: No need for 7th grade science due to Msa move, absorb science teacher. Only increase: custodian. Mayor notes 30,000 sq ft is custodial standard and should be considered for staffing. May not be 1fte for custodian due to msa move and use of GRS. This is conservative budgeting. SPED reductions noted that these are positions that are not needed as of today. JH—SPED conversation best had holistically. MSA Transition team looking closely at the move of program including factors like class size and discussion will come to full committee. About 400 students next year, with about 20 core teachers + others to total approx. 37 fte teachers at GMS.
- f. 8th Grade Academy + GHS—Karen Patenaud: 88 currently enrolled at 8 grade 4 core teachers. FY18 anticipated to have 126 incoming 8th grade. Increase ELA to accommodate increase in enrollment + 11 new 8th grade enrollments. There is a need to focus on core content areas to close growth gaps!

GHS schedule sheet handed out. Quarters for electives. Next year will need additional .2 film production and manufacturing. Support expressed for new building; electives to keep kids in district and engaged. T1 school this year. Reading interventionist new this year. Utilizing elective period in 8th grade to help

close gaps in ela/math. Mayor requests cost of Electives to see the total cost grouped together.

43 staff. 475 students projected. Up from 448. (Includes Transitions.) Approx. space for about 100 more kids indicating some room to grow. Less and less choice out and some new choice in. Some discussion on social service programs and homeless, etc.

- g. Academy of Early Learning—Valerie Miller: 122 students this year. Biggest in ten years. 6 classroom teachers, one sped. 3 choice students. .5 nurse position request—hard for kids to articulate medical needs. Social worker takes this now. Safety concern if students have injury. Concern about servicing students with medical needs. Costs are incurred for these via overtimes and subs, etc. currently. When there is a gap in nurse coverage, there would be flex nurse to go there. Really district wide position. Sub nurse. Custodian. Is currently .75. Extended day sees no custodian services. Staff does clean up. Snow removal, too. Cost neutral to add .25.

Will be discussion on raising tuition rate. Last increase of rate was about 8 years ago. Increase is suggested to be approx. 1.50 per day. Desire to keep accessible including sliding scale based on need. Increase will help keep financially solvent. Two docs re tuition passed out. February 15th is date needed to adjust the rate. (open house date) doesn't affect wrap around.

Discussion on nursing: Mayor advocates for LPN. Suggests assessing population to review the nurse need. Jake notes need that .5 position is difficult to attract and retain qualified candidates.

202k current revenue + wrap=230k approx. Noted that if students are coming from other community (choice in), recommendation is to consider after all gfd residents take all seat and that they do not have access to sliding scale. JH— Advises this to add to policy (currently no clear policy.) Discussion on choice-in and possibility to have higher fee for choice in? And noted that choice-in entry at AEL does not guarantee choice-in spot for students in k-12.

Noted that some 504 and IEPs/other SPED needs can appear at pre-k level. Early intervention can help to keep students on track. Request for info on GPS IEP lengths, etc. Noted that speech and language needs that often change.

- h. Brief discussion on health services and update on lead nurse stipend—not yet fully negotiated. GPS Physician to be in budget.
- i. Mayor asks principals for direct input to/requests from the city:
 - i. Gary-msa move may call in other needs we have not known. Expresses support for three admin at gms. 1 principal, 2 assoc. Principals.
 - ii. Jake—growth and capacity, need for room in the building. Parking and traffic support. Safety issues with movement of traffic, ems—feels we are

at capacity with this. Jake wants to plan more long term. What does configuration look like in 5-10 years.

- iii. Choice is a problem. Neighborhood only schools can alleviate this.
 - iv. Mel—economic efficiencies: build one big elem school. Bussing alone is issue. Etc. Redo basketball court. PTO is willing to help. + mural. Currently raising more for this. Facade and stairs and curbs are need repair. Support for safer bussing, including monitoring of behavior on buses. Suggests that contract with busses should include monitors at bus business expense. Public health nurse to work with nursing students to help learn about hygiene. Possible collab with UMASS health depart.
 - v. Mayor notes swamp at 4c difficult to build new driveway.
 - vi. Nancy—Franklin St. pick up drop off, etc. parents take up parking and in other businesses. Sometimes calls police for more monitoring.
 - vii. Karen—district bus to help defray cost of field trips. JH notes difficulty finding drivers. Mayor notes working with FRTA.
 - viii. Val—programming. 66% are going to k here in town. Ael needs to add some classes and support for programming to support these children.
3. Member Hollins New Business: Notes doc sent to committee showing policies/obligations/law that have budget impact. Notes that we are requested to provide materials for all the students, instructional resources in our libraries; nondiscrimination materials, etc. Desire to discuss further at later time. Has questions regarding law and policy.

Field trip chaperones—supports field trips at lower cost and more than one chaperone. Support to pay the cost of chaperones so not deferred to students. Planning to bring up for future policy conversation. Wants to be a budget item.

Discussion on other info needed for Grogen/Montreal —JH to address. Any policy changes will not affect current upcoming trips.

Adjournment time:

6:54 pm

Submitted by AN