

## DRAFT MINUTES

# Greenfield Public Schools Budget, Finance, Negotiations

**Date:** 3/1/17

**Time:** 3 pm

**Location:** Central Office

### **Attendees:**

Adrienne Nunez

Susan Hollins (remote)

Mayor Martin

Jordana Harper (Super.)

Howie Barber (Bus. Dir.)

Beth Pratt (Ast. Super.)

Tim Farrell

Also:

Josh Solomon from the Recorder, recording.

### **Supporting Documents Received:**

Sub-schedule of ELT

Revised budget doc.

Summary from Howie related to SPED budgeting shift.

### **Call to order:**

3:06 pm

### **Agenda Items:**

#### **1. Public Comment—NA**

#### **2. Deliberation on budget:**

- Intro: Goal to come to recommendation for full committee. Need to establish new regular meeting times.
- JH—requests clear direction on budget.
- Notes that initial request was to prepare level services budget. This was done, then decreased by \$1 million through internal efficiencies and reductions. This is a more responsible budget than level service.
- To create level budget:
  - Could chop SPED from the budget, in last many years sped hasn't been fully budgeted. This is source of spike. Change in practice of accounting.
  - Is this the year to change that practice? Or hybrid? Prepayment, etc?
  - Notes possible grant funds for GRS school. If grant comes through, money for grs would come off of the top of the budget.
  - MSA move. Some room to consolidate staffing, if directed.

- Looking for clear direction from the committee.
  - Repeat/clarify that ELT will not affect transportation. The same number of routes would still be needed.
  - Jordana: Asst. Super. Is of vital importance to the district. But, important pd and curriculum have been implemented. Now we are in a better position for teachers to continue the work and support teacher team. 30k grant funded teacher stipend available for continuation of this pd and work. Focus on preserving positions at the classroom level is driving consideration for removal of Asst. Super position.
- SH supports that ECS (AEL) has coordinator stipend in their site budget. Best for comparison to other programs and more transparent.
- Consensus, to move stipend to site.
- Clarifying level-funded
- Noted best effort forecast of 137k for all “to be negotiated” contracts .
- Discussion on IDEA grant/offsets. HB notes use of all federal grants for fringes are based on the agreement with lane and liz (city finance team.) 5k health care, 1% medicare, 1% other, etc
- Super—choice students bringing revenue in. Ghs has seen some recent increase to choice-in. District only take in more choice when there is room. Still accurate to say we do not have costs due to choice.
- Choice seats subject to sc vote every year. All accepted into choice remains a GPS obligation until graduation. Larger 8th grade class is likely due to new ghs building, and more students are choosing this. There is an enrollment increase vs. last year. Other increases in enrollment are minor.
- Noted that 3 of highest paid admin positions have been eliminated.
- HB asks for recommendation from mayor about accounting (based on suggestions Mayor offers regarding choice allocation.)
- Super—core classes should be secure through gen fund. Support for arts is funded through choice, these classes are part of reason why people choice in. Question about elt integrated curriculum and art and funding. Noted that some additional arts funded through elt, but base salary is not funded through elt grant.
- Mayor asks about revenue report with budget and cash flow projection over next 12 months. JH will send out to everyone.
- SH—Preschool costs not a required k12 program, are different ways to provide. Requests total cost for contractual increases/step increases district wide. JH to provide in presentation.
- Mayor suggests support for:
  - 250 for ghs electives (already done)
  - Adding in Asst super/curriculum dir.
  - Transportation with current policy subject to affirmation
  - All contracts on conditioned on tc approval.
- Deliberation on these suggestions.

- Jh- reduces trans budget, walks closer to policy, considers safety, really solid proposal—80-% compliant with policy. Support for making in sync with all policy to budget to.
- Change in asst super position is not due to change of heart. Just a tough choice and attempt to keep cuts away from classroom. Super's budget is not a wish-list.
- Beth speaks to need. Says thinks some places where we could find the money. Best way to support the classrooms is to support this position. Jh speaks to work that has been done over past year.
- HB Notes:
- Prepayment process / past practice. Stopping this has impact. Suggest prepay for 125k to reduce fy 18. To help scale back overall cost. Must happen before July in this fiscal year. Only way to make work is to prepay in time. Timing is important. Before 6/30.
- NECC program—program will pay for itself. Savings can be put toward elsewhere.
- GRS budget may be different. Msba conversation needed and may allow for/ need to/ be able to table for whole fiscal year.
- JH notes stabilization acct for sped. This is available. We could utilize this. We are looking at all cash reserves.
- SH-support for propositions. Asks about supplies for students. -- wants to make sure students have what they need particularly at k-3.
- Proposes 3 items proposed for studies for next year. ECS; civics education; alternative and unique programs notes subcommittee and supports. Support to draw students in.
- Jh notes that ECS/AEL has been in review. Proud of research that has been done.
- Mayor—Over next year look for tech and business services collab. Will have to work out design plan for prepay.
- **Final consensus support for Superintendent's budget with the following recommendation:**
  - Ensuring 250k for GHS electives (this is already in the budget)
  - Maintaining Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Professional Development
  - Support for transportation modifications that are reflected in the budget and refer to committee for review in order to ensure compliance with policy.
  - Support for review of process and procedure for approval of new labor contracts, with legal input.
  - Support for continued review of Early Childhood Services; exploration of programming desired by students; and study of civics education, broadly defined to include the areas of rights and responsibilities, new advisories from DESE in civil rights areas, including new advisories and information regarding meeting the needs of LGBTQ students, having an inclusive culture, embracing diversity, and beyond.

- No monday budget meeting. AN to email about scheduling.

**Adjournment time:**

**5:13 pm**

Submitted by AN