

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
POLICY & PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, October 23, 2018, 12:30 p.m.
Central Office Conference Room
195 Federal Street, Greenfield, MA, 01301

Members Present: Katie Caron (KC); Adrienne Nunez (AN)

Member(s) Absent: Don Alexander (DA), Chair

Other School Staff: Jordana Harper, Superintendent

Citizens: None

I. Call to Order

With the prior consent of DA, AN chaired the meeting, opening it at 12:32 p.m.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Policy Review Program

AN sent out a poll to find a date for the first Policy Review Program meeting. She will follow up with meeting details, including clarifying which documents will need to be reviewed by members in advance of the meeting.

Superintendent Harper expressed her concerns with the timing of a comprehensive policy review in the midst of the budget cycle. Members agreed that it may be challenging to navigate the current process with new or updated policies coming into play (especially prescriptive policies).

A consensus was reached by members that a related agenda item be added to the next Full School Committee meeting during which MASC is present, so that the following questions can be asked: How should we proceed with policies that are prescriptive, specifically those which refer to budget development, and do we consider our policies to be in draft form? How do we manage this process?

IV. BDG: School Attorney Policy

Members reviewed the policy, noting a few non-substantive changes which will need to be made to match MASC model language.

AN expressed her concern with the language in Paragraph III of the policy, as it prevents the chairperson from seeking timely legal advice, due to the need to first have a vote of the Full School Committee (which takes a *minimum* of 48 hours because of posting requirements). Superintendent Harper expressed her support for the need of a supporting guideline and/or revision to this policy so that the intent of the School Committee can be met (in that it seeks to move matters swiftly along, as appropriate). Members agreed that the vague language is prohibitive, especially when urgent matters arise.

A consensus was reached by members to request an opinion from the attorney on the appropriate level of access the chairperson should have to School Committee counsel.

A consensus was reached by members to ask the Budget & Finance Subcommittee to consider adding a line item to the budget for non-routine legal services (to include negotiations and/or School Committee legal counsel).

V. Adjournment

AN moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:03 p.m. KC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.