

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

Thursday, February 12, 2014

GCTV Studios, Greenfield MA

Approved 03.20.14

Present: Margaret Betts (MB); Maryelen Calderwood (MC); Daryl Essensa (DE); Donna Gleason (DG); John Lunt (JL); William Martin (WM); student representatives Lily Richards and Vicki Balis.

Absent: Francia Wisnewski (FW). **Also present:** Susan Hollins, Superintendent (SH); Tara Cloutier, GHS Spanish teacher; Robert Haigh, Greenfield Chief of Police; Bernie Novak, GPS Food Service Director; Atty. Peter Smith; Carol Letson, Becca King, Greening Greenfield; Amy Donovan, Franklin Cty Solid Waste Management District; other school staff, citizens, and the press.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (MB, MC, DE, DG, JL, WM), Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 6:48 p.m. Chris Shores (*Recorder*) is audiorecording.

II. Approval of Draft Minutes

MC moved, JL 2nd, to approve the draft minutes of Jan. 8 and Jan. 29, 2014. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

none

DE moved to consider V. A., B., C., and VI. B. before section IV. MC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

MC moved to consider Student Rep. IV, A., Student Representatives next. MB 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Reports

A. Student Representatives Lily Richards and Vicki Balis reported on GHS events and fundraisers including Student Council's Polar Plunge for Special Olympics; Winter Carnival; spring sports sign-ups.

V. Old Business

A. MOU with Police Department and District Attorney

MC moved to approve the MOU between Greenfield Public Schools, Greenfield Police Dept. and the Northwestern District Attorney's Office. DG 2nd.

Discussion: Health, Safety, Security & Facilities Subcte recommends passage. SH reviewed changes from prior MOU (2007), including allowing searches with narcotics detector dogs, designation of truant officer = School Resource Officer (SRO). Chief Haigh described his prior experience as SRO; ideal role of Greenfield SRO. How to fund (\$30K in budget for truant officer; other grants; costs shared by GPS and police). Mandated reporting clarified. SRO to be involved off-campus (social media, school events). Atty. Smith recommends Supt., police, SRO reach clear understanding of differing roles of school officials and SRO/police.

Error I.A., para. 1: "zero tolerance" should be deleted. Motion withdrawn.

MC moved to accept MOU between Greenfield Public Schools, Greenfield Police Dept. and the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, deleting I.A. "~~zero tolerance~~" for. DG 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Chief Haigh reported on traffic concerns at high school (drop-off): officers monitored crosswalks, situation seems under control.

B. Composting

Carol Letson and Becca King of Greening Greenfield described potential school composting program. Have been discussing for 3 yrs. with SH; working with Amy Donovan (Franklin Cty Solid Waste). Greenfield only Franklin Cty school district without program. Grant available \$10K/year for 3 yrs. JL moved to send composting issue to Health and Safety Subcte for study and recommendation to full committee. MC 2nd. Discussion: need to clarify costs, savings, staffing. Grant proposal due June. Desire to move ahead now. Aligns with Greenfield master plan. Motion withdrawn.

MC moved GSC support the composting program proposal pending cost/savings analysis by SH by March SC mtg. MB 2nd. JL requested SH provide estimate before March mtg for insertion into draft budget. **Motion passed unanimously.**

C. Snack Program

MC outlined Health, Safety Subcte's desire to provide healthier snack choices. Discussion: federal rules, funding limitations. 900 snacks/day, limit of 36- to 38-cents each. Need policy to define "healthy"? Schools use disposable foam trays; no dishwashers. **MC moved to direct Supt. to work with Bernie Novak to offer an initial proposal of a list of healthier items from the snack list, and provide to Health, Safety subcte for next subcte mtg. (March). JL 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

VI. New Business

B. GHS trip to Spain

Tara Cloutier, GHS Spanish Teacher, reviewed the proposed trip to Spain during April vacation. 8 students enrolled. SH concerns: trips should have minimum of 2 chaperones; chaperones' costs should not be borne by students; how to make trips less expensive, thus open to more students. **MC moved to approve April vacation GHS Spain trip and to have GPS absorb \$1,711 cost for one additional chaperone. MB 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

GHS language teachers Tara Cloutier and Tamara Grogan to work with Safety Subcte to draw up draft guidelines for trips.

MC moved to table VI, C, E, F., until March SC mtg. MB 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Reports (continued)

B. Chairperson

Need for MSBA vote at tonight's mtg.

MC made a motion to move V. E., "Form of Vote for Application to MSBA" before Supt report. MB 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business

E. Form of Vote for Application to MSBA

Statement of Interest re: Green River School to repair/place roof, replace windows, replace old inefficient boiler. **JL moved the form be adopted. MC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

C. Superintendent's Report

SH reported on recent work:

- Statement of Interest: Green River energy repairs

- School Resource Officer, working with new police chief, staff training by police
- Capital borrowing priorities
- Continuing to align curriculum to Common Core
- Transition plans for new supt., including Transportation, Personnel
- Budget preparations, enrollment projections
- Planning for next yr.'s Kindergarten
- Budget report: how grants contribute to budget; revenue information
- Successful program for autistic students
- Rename middle school? Greenfield Intermediate School
- Changes in data-office staff has delayed reporting
- Virtual School proposal
- School snow cancellations
- Focus on health, exercise/activity

D. Subcommittees

1. Contract, Finance & Budget Subcte

JL reported on Subcte's work:

- Para contract: Request to clarify contract language re: \$1/hr. additional pay for those regularly involved with K-through-high-school students "requiring extraordinary personal toileting assistance" to be replaced with "requiring diapering, catheterization, or toileting assistance." **JL moved to accept this change. MC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Considering first-draft budget on Friday, will have budget recommendations at March SC mtg.
- Starting work on ELT funding for next year
- MOU with virtual school

2. Innovation & Curriculum Subcte

DE reported on Subcte's work on GHS program of studies; policies re: curriculum; School Councils. Recommendations:

- SH meet with staff to align curriculum with CC, including civics, ethics
- Develop School Councils in every school for 2014-15 academic year

3. Health, Safety, Security & Facilities Subcte

MC reported Subcte's work on healthy snacks; safety manuals printed, distributed; expanding Newton Street's mobile farmers market; looking into reinstating health teacher (substance abuse).

4. Young Teachers of GPS (1st, 2nd, 3rd-year teachers): WM appointed DG to meet with group to discuss concerns, begin dialogue.

5. Negotiations

Atty. Smith reported on negotiations work: agreements on ELT and Teachers of Special Classes coming to SC, MTA, GEA; supt. successor contract; sick leave bank.

6. Supt Search

DE provided update on Supt. Search: confirming timeline, resumes/applications (confidential) available for review at central office; interview questions for semi-finalists; survey results; brochure complete. Public comment must be included in all subcte mtgs. If new supt. not selected, need "option B"; MB will distribute, to be discussed at March SC mtg.

VII. Executive Session

Executive session not needed.

VIII. Other

MC suggested audit begin sooner than normally done. Every 3 years? JL will check on timing.

Next meeting: Thursday, Feb 20 – 4:30 p.m., GCTV. Single-item mtg: Virtual School MOU.

IX. Adjournment

MB moved to adjourn. JL 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary