

GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, July 2, 2014
GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA
Approved 07.09.2014

Present: Margaret Betts (MB); Maryelen Calderwood (MC); Donna Gleason (DG); William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Francia Wisnewski (FW). **Absent:** none. **Also present:** Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); Elizabeth Gilman, GPS Business Administrator; Tom Bevacqua, GEA chair; Paul DeMarco, Mass. Teachers Association; other school staff and citizens.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (MB, MC, DG, WM, AN, FW), Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

II. Business Topics

A. Reorganization

Senior member MC chaired election of GSC officers for the coming year.

MB nominated Maryelen Calderwood for Chair. FW 2nd. Motion passed 5-1.

MB nominated Francia Wisnewski for Vice-chair. DG 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

FW nominated Margaret Betts for Secretary. DG 2nd. Motion passed 5-0-1.

B. Superintendent Jordana Harper's statement

JH reported that yesterday was her first day; thanked committee and staff for welcome; has scheduled visits to all schools.

C. Registered Nurse Appointment

MB moved to re-appoint Marilyn Erickson as registered nurse for GPS. MB 2nd. Discussion: DESE's requirements for school RN? Does School RN have administrative/supervisory duties? What are GEA's concerns? **FW moved to table until next meeting and to provide more information. AN 2nd. Motion to table passed unanimously.**

D. GHS Update

WM reported that Phase I is on schedule; Phase I building to be transferred to School Cte. July 31. Rear of building to be demolished soon, to begin Phase II. Need for school rental policy and attendance plan to deal with September return of students.

E. Education Evaluation Agreement

MB moved to ratify the amended Massachusetts Model System for Educator Evaluation Part IV. DG 2nd. Motion passed 5-0-1 (AN abstain).

F. Education Evaluation Implementation Agreement

MB moved to ratify Educator Evaluation Implementation Agreement. AN 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

G. Article XIII, Sick Leave Bank

MB moved to ratify the new Sick Leave language negotiated between GEA and School Cte members. FW 2nd. MB reviewed the article. Max. Potential cost: hiring long-term sub for up to 2 teachers for full school year. **Motion passed unanimously.**

H. Vacant seat application interview and selection

Two candidates applied to complete term of member John Lunt, who resigned in May: Jason Burns. Jeffrey Comenitz. Each candidate gave a brief statement. **MB moved to nominate Jeff Comenitz to fill vacancy left by John Lunt for Greenfield School Cte. FW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

FW moved to amend agenda to add Public Comment. WM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

- Kimberly Walker-Gonçalves, parent of GHS student, explained need for math courses for advanced students (former accelerated Math-Science Academy students). GCC not an option (conflicts with GHS schedule). She learned last week that virtual academy courses are not currently open to GPS students.
- Paul DeMarco requested determination on grievance submitted last November during executive session. MC: School Cte cannot decide without Atty Peter Smith present.

MB moved to direct Supt to investigate [issue raised by Walker-Gonçalves] and prepare a list of choices for School Cte to consider at next School Cte meeting. FW 2nd. Discussion: Some students were taking world language courses via virtual school and seem not able to continue. **Motion passed unanimously.**

IV. Other Business

A. Fingerprinting Requirement

DG raised question from staff: If person has fingerprints on record (e.g., gun license), must they pay for additional fingerprinting to meet school requirement? DeMarco: Yes; it's a separate system. Fingerprinting Policy still being developed by Policy Cte.

B. Twitter

JH sharing school news via Twitter: supergps

V. Executive Session

MB made a motion to go into executive session to address contracts and collective bargaining. Yes: MB, MC, DE, DG, WM, AN, FW. Motion passed unanimously. Moved to executive session at 6:50 p.m.

DG moved to return to public session. 2nd WM. Yes: MB, MC, DE, DG, WM, AN, FW. Public session resumed at 7:36 p.m.

VI. Adjournment

DG made a motion to adjourn. 2nd WM. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary