

GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, August 13, 2014
GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA
Approved 09.10.2014

Present: Maryelen Calderwood (MC); Donna Gleason (DG); William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Francia Wisnewski (FW). **Absent:** Margaret Betts, Jeff Comenitz.

Also present: Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); Bill Bazyk, Director of Student Services & Special Education; Bernie Novak, Director of Food & Nutrition Services; other school staff and citizens.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (MC, DG, WM, AN, FW), Chair Calderwood called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- DG moved to accept minutes of 6/11/2014. FW 2nd. Motion passed 4-0-1 (AN abstain).
- DG moved to accept minutes of 7/9/2014 with addition of Public Comment by Tim Scott. FW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.
- DG moved to accept minutes of 7/30/2014. FW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Reports

A. Chair

MC and Supt. have weekly check-in. Plans for training for Supt and School Cte members. Regular administrative mtg w/ Mayor and others. Some staff training for educator evaluations.

B. Superintendent

JH provided overview of summer PD plans. Accelerated schedule for educator evaluations. Completing summer facilities work. Meeting regularly with school/town officials. Hired new director of grants. Beginning 3-yr superintendent induction program.

C. Subcommittees

1. Health & Safety

AN previewed topics for coming year, including nurse appointments, lunch/snack, walk-to-school program, composting, facilities.

2. Policy

FW requested "Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee" be re-named "Policy Subcommittee." Subcte working on policies re: fingerprinting; school attorney (revised draft policy on November agenda); student absences; community use of facilities.

3. Negotiations

DG reported that subcte has begun work on teacher and custodian contracts.

V. Business Topics

A. Progress Report on Schools

JH reported that work continues to fill staff vacancies and prepare schools for opening.

- GMS: 13 new teachers; focus on summary writing, best practices; revising staff handbook; collaboration schedule; one-school one-book *Wonder*; attendance: “every child, every seat, every day”; ELT; summer cleaning & painting.
- Newton: ELT (focus on art, music, movement, literacy) includes partnerships with YMCA, Art Space; successful summer Title I reading program; work on playground; new reading/math curricula; staff PD; 100-year anniversary celebration being planned.
- Four Corners: Gardening program integrates academics.
- Math & Science Academy is beginning 5th year. Started with 14 students grades 6-7; has expanded to 120 students grades 4-7.
- GHS – Construction Phase I completed; staff moving in; focus on staff and school culture; DDM (district-determined measures); special opening day for new building; few teacher openings remain.
- Academy of Early Learning: Focus on social-emotional and academic learning.

Discussion:

- MC requested innovation school report (Four Corners)
- MC noted School Cte request to include health, civics; desire to introduce world languages earlier than high school.
- No preschool at Four Corners this year.
- Name “Math and Science Academy” referred to Policy Subcte.

B. Principal Staffing Report

JH presented Principal/Associate Principal Staffing report.

C. Special Education Report

Bill Bazyk, Director of Student Services and Special Education, presented DESE’s Special Education Program Plan. Discussion: Possible future meeting with Policy Subcte.; district has federal obligation to charter and private school students; last year, 7 choice-in students with IEPs; Parent Advisory group to tour GHS 8/27.

D. Lunchtime Schedules

JH presented GMS, GHS lunch schedules. Elementary school schedules set by principals. Discussion: parent concerns for adequate time for lunch; systems in place for “slow eaters” at elementary schools.

E. Administrative Support Staff Updates/Needs

JH praised staff for work “above and beyond.” MC invited JH to request additional staff if needed. Administrative assistant/secretary pay to be reviewed.

F. Opening Day

JH reported on preparations for opening day. PD for new teachers Aug 25; all teachers return Aug 27-28. Sept. 2 first day for students. School Cte members invited to attend Opening Day at schools.

G. Policies

1. Community Use of School Facilities

WM requested review, updating of Community Use of School Facilities (Policy KF), Application for Use of Facilities.

2. Student Absences and Excuses

WM introduced grant opportunity to fund school resource officer, truant officer. Officer Brook assigned to GHS. Desire to expand time in other schools. Police/fire dept. officers also involved in schools.

VI. Other Business

WM previewed School Cte self-evaluation (Oct.-Feb.)

VII. Adjournment

WM moved to adjourn. 2nd FW. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary