

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, September 10, 2014
GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA
Approved 10.08.14**

Present: Margaret Betts (MB); Maryelen Calderwood (MC); Jeff Comenitz (JC); Donna Gleason (DG); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); William Martin (WM) (arrived 6:41); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Francina Wisnewski (FW). Student representatives Sam Kennedy, Lily Richards.

Absent: none.

Also present: William Bazyk, Director of Student Services & Special Education; Kevin Courtney, New Superintendents Induction Program; Elizabeth Gilman, School Business Administrator; Donna Woodcock, GHS principal; Peter Smith, School Attorney; other school staff, citizens and the press.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (MB, MC, JC, DG, AN, FW), Chair Calderwood called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

FW moved to accept minutes of 8/13/2014. AN 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

None

AN made a motion to amend agenda to move Farm to Schools from business topics to subcte report. FW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Reports

A. Student Representative

Kennedy and Richards reported on new GHS building; child cancer awareness month; Friday advisories.

B. Chair

MC noted long agenda, need to keep discussion focused.

C. Superintendent

JH reported on good start of school.

D. Subcommittees

1. Negotiations

DG reported that negotiations are going well; starting with custodial/maintenance staff.

2. Policy

FW reported on subcte work on fingerprinting policy, including hardship reimbursement; allowing substitutes to submit for reimbursement; considering additional personnel.

FW moved to accept "Policy Governing Fingerprint-Based Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Checks Made for Non-Criminal Justice Purposes." DG 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Health & Safety

AN summarized subcte's work:

- Reviewed lunch, recess schedules.
- Farm to School Program, local sourcing of healthy foods w/ educational component. Working with parent Katherine Golub, Just Roots. Interest in adding agriculture to curriculum.
- Facilities: Davis St/admin building in need of repairs, \$90K-100K.

AN made a motion to formally support the Town of Greenfield's efforts in exploring the feasibility of relocating the offices of GPS currently located at 141 Davis Street; this exploration will be conducted in cooperation w/ Supt of Schools, any other key personnel, and the School Cte. MB 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Bazyk spoke to need to update lice policy (last updated 1999); new preference for infested child to stay in school. Schools to proceed with new guidelines.

V. Business Topics

A. Superintendent Induction Program (MASS/MASC)

Kevin Courtney provided overview of program in which Supt Harper is participating.

B. PARCC/MCAS Vote

MC reviewed issue: Oct. 1 deadline to vote to trial PARCC (opens possibility, not certainty); option to not vote (continue with MCAS); state not yet decided to implement PARCC.

MB moved that 3rd-through-8th graders in GPS take new PARCC test. WM 2nd.

Discussion:

- JH: Focus is on learning, not testing. JH talked w/ principals, teachers. Preference not to use PARCC in GHS; students must take MCAS for graduation. Hybrid solution. Partial pilot of technology. We have cost for training test administrators, supplies for MCAS or PARCC. No penalty to students this year. Educator evaluation valuable. Parents' opinions split.
- FW: Other distinguished districts staying with MCAS. District's tech limitations. Parent, community concerns at public hearing. Special needs, ILL children. Children's anxiety at testing. Families cannot opt out. Desire to know cost of transition to PARCC.
- JC: Keep Common Core and PARCC separate. Test's use to evaluate schools, administrators. Opportunity to start new (supt, teacher evaluation, testing). Potential change to level 3 status? Paper version of test always available for special needs students. Digital tests: get results more quickly. Test data useful, shows improvement of students' performance.
- WM: PARCC is opportunity to try without penalty. Try technology, plan to upgrade.
- DG: PARCC is inevitable. Concern for overtesting, esp. computer. Desire to trial test under "held harmless" outcome.
- MC: Concerns re: corporate profit from testing, use of data. Scores don't necessarily reflect child's ability. Harm to students. Community concerns. Preference to not vote at all. District priority: educator evaluation. Cf. Pioneer Valley's preparation, including technology.

Motion passed: 4 Yes (WM, DG, MB, JC) – 2 No (MC, FW) – 1 abstain (AN).

Supt. to submit preference to state.

C. Policies

1. Community Use of School Facilities

- Need to define categories of organizations using facilities.
- Are schools open for renting while issue is being studied? Yes.

- Continue discussion at next mtg.

VI. Executive Session

MB made a motion to go into executive session for purposes of collective bargaining and grievances. JC 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes: MB, MC, JC, DG, WM, AN, FW. Motion passed unanimously. Moved into executive session at 8:43 p.m.

WM moved to return to public session. 2nd DG. Yes: MB, MC, JC, DG, WM, AN, FW. Motion passed unanimously. Public session resumed at 10:53 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

WM moved to adjourn. 2nd MB. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary