

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, August 12, 2015**
GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA
(Approved 09.09.15)

Present: Margaret Betts (MB); Donna Gleason (DG); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Francia Wisnewski (FW).

Absent: Maryelen Calderwood (MC)

Also present: Jen McKusick, Assistant Supt. (JM); citizens, and the press.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Draft Minutes

AN moved to approve draft minutes of June 10, 2015. 2nd DG. Motion passed unanimously.

AN moved to approve draft minutes of June 20, 2015. 2nd MB. Motion passed unanimously.

DG moved to approve draft minutes of June 25, 2015. 2nd MB. Motion passed (FW abstain).

III. Public Comment

none

The Committee welcomed Jen McKusick, new Assistant Superintendent; noted camera operator is 7th grade student; wished Superintendent Harper a happy birthday.

The Committee observed a moment of silence in memory of School Committee member Jeff Comenitz.

IV. Reports

A. Superintendent's Report

JH reported that district staff made scholarship gift in memory of Jeff Comenitz and is considering naming the new GHS technology area in his memory.

JH's summarized her written report of Aug. 10:

- Construction at multiple schools, including "photo finish" at GHS
- Website update continues
- Budget information to be presented at next mtg
- News received yesterday that district received \$870K ELT grant
- Staffing report: fewer new teachers than last year = better teacher retention; all-new central office team complete
- PD schedule for executive team and principals; teacher mentors
- Breakfast in the classroom initiative
- Food Service applying for grant to increase "scratch cooking" at Newton, GMS

C. Subcommittees

1. Health & Safety

AN reported:

- Transportation: cost savings using GPS vehicles for field trips; planning to outsource out-of-district special transportation.

- Moving Davis St. offices: Davis St. heating system to be replaced. Plan to move permanently to GMS in 2016.
- Met with Madison Walker, new food service director: summer food program going well; breakfast-in-the classroom pilot at Newton, GMS.
- Mayor's community nursing program has changed: will not include school health services.

2. Negotiations Subcommittee

DG reported that all contracts are complete.

3. Building Committee

DG reported that final stages of GHS construction proceeding well.

4. STAR (Strategic Task Force for Alignment and Reorganization)

AN moved to appoint Margaret Betts as chair of the ad hoc STAR cte (replacing DG). DG 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

MB reported that STAR is gathering information: families' concerns, sites, curriculum. Final recommendations to be presented at October School Cte. mtg.

V. Business Topics

A. Proposed Vision, Mission, and Strategic Objectives

JH presented draft "Vision, Mission & Strategic Goals." Strategic objectives: curriculum/instruction; educator effectiveness; resources; collaboration with families and community.

B. Preparation for Superintendent's Evaluation

FW explained Chair will appoint committee to evaluate superintendent, to report in October.

AN moved to appoint subcommittee to oversee supt's evaluation. MB 2nd.

Discussion: Focus on priorities, rather than respond to all parts of lengthy rubric. Document benchmarks and key action. Tight time frame. JH will present evidence for her priority areas; committee can request additional. Use MASC as resource. Seek input from staff, parents, community. **Motion passed unanimously.** By consensus, evaluation subcommittee members are MC, FW, DG.

MB moved to schedule additional School Cte meeting in October for supt evaluation. AN 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Members commented on Supt's outstanding job, including leadership team, strategy and vision, reports to School Cte.; role model for leadership and work style.

C. Process for Filling School Committee Seat Vacancy

Vacancy for seat continuing through December (due to Jeff Comenitz's death): Chair Calderwood seeking nominations; interested residents should contact her. Appointment likely next month.

V. Adjournment

MB moved to adjourn. 2nd AN. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary