

GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Thursday, May 28, 2015
GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield M
Approved 06.10.15

Present: Margaret Betts (MB); Maryelen Calderwood (MC); Jeff Comenitz (JC); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Francina Wisnewski (FW).

Absent: Donna Gleason.

Also present: Carol Holzberg, Technology Director, citizens, and the press.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Interviews for Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development

A. Melodie Goodwin, Principal, Newton School, Greenfield MA

B. Jen McCusick, Principal, Oak Grove Elementary School, Brattleboro VT

C. Christine Shea, Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative, West Springfield MA

Questions asked of each candidate:

FW: How would you go about developing an effective system for monitoring and reporting continuous improvement in our district?

JC: What is your experience with integrating technology and use of data into instruction, and how have you integrated and used data on the operations side?

WM: With the near avalanche of guidelines and regulations passed onto school districts by the state and such a focus on student measurement, outcomes, and testing, how would you choose which aspect of professional development and student learning and performance to give your first attention?

MB: What is the best professional development you've ever taken or taught?

AN: Describe your interpersonal style specifically related to working with other principals, teachers, and parents. What strengths do you bring to the team?

MC: Other than funding, describe two issues facing public education that may impact teachers' ability to teach and students' ability to learn.

FW: Regarding teacher education, what do you see as the main challenges we face here in Greenfield to implement the teacher evaluation system and within that, how would you develop and sustain a comprehensive professional development program for teachers?

JC: Greenfield schools have moved toward having each school be unique or innovative. How would you approach unique curriculum ownership issues in your goal to align curriculum in all schools?

WM: What are the first few tasks you would need to do to create continuity between teaching plans and district goals?

AN: What guidelines and principles shape your approach to curriculum development and coordination for grades preK-12?

MC: Describe how you have or how you would respond to a parent of a child in crisis.

JH summarized references.

III. Executive Session

MB made a motion to go into executive session for purposes of contracting with non-union personnel. JC 2nd. Roll call: Yes: MB, MC, JC, WM, AN, FW. Moved into executive session at 8:58 p.m.

MB moved to return to public session. 2nd WM. Yes: MB, MC, JC, WM, AN, FW. Motion passed unanimously. Public session resumed at 10:20 p.m.

IV. Hiring Assistant Superintendent

MB moved to hire Jen McCusick as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development. WM 2nd. Discussion: Each member expressed reasons for supporting McCusick. **Motion passed unanimously.**

V. Adjournment

MB moved to adjourn. 2nd FW. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary