

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES: Wednesday, December 9, 2015  
GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA  
Approved 01.13.16**

**Present:** Margaret Betts (MB); Maryelen Calderwood (MC); Donna Gleason (DG); Douglas Mayo (DM); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Franca Wisnewski (FW). Student representatives Sarah O’Sullivan and Amy O’Sullivan.  
**Absent:** William Martin (WM)

**Also present:** Howie Barber, Business Manager; Atty. Peter Smith, school staff, citizens and the press.

**I. Call to Order**

With a quorum present (MB, MC, DG, DM, AN, FW), Chair Calderwood called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**II. Approval of Draft Minutes**

AN moved to approve draft minutes of November 12, 2015. 2nd DM. Motion passed 4-0-2 (FW, DG abstain).

**III. Public Comment**

None

**IV. Reports**

**A. Student Representative Student Representatives Report**

Sarah O’Sullivan and Amy O’Sullivan, GHS Student Council members, reported on winter sports, drama club’s play, Student Council fundraising, NEASC accreditation team’s visit, and GHS lip dub “No Place I’d Rather Be.”

**B. Chairperson**

MC yielded floor to MB. MB praised leadership and hard work of outgoing chair Calderwood.

**C. Superintendent’s Report**

JH summarized her written report, including:

- Events including GMS “Taste of World Culture,” holiday music concerts, author visits, Spirit Week
- Thanked AN and FW for meeting with NEASC visitation team. NEASC noted “safe, secure, positive environment” at high school. Report in 4 months.
- Superintendent’s Award to Eugenia Cojocar
- “My Turn” in *Recorder* (William Diehl and Supt. Harper)
- Grant funding approved for “from scratch” food service equipment

**D. Subcommittees**

**1. Policy**

FW reported on continuing discussion of facilities use policies; Franklin Regional Council of Governments. Reflected on year’s work and thanked members.

**2. Health, Safety & Facilities**

AN reported on continued study of moving Davis Street office to GMS. Concerns: parking, security, logistics. Mayor assured on-going costs will not be taken from GPS budget; will create joint

building/moving cte. Town Council allotted \$40K toward moving costs. Rehabbing Davis Street “prohibitively expensive.”

### **3. Finance Committee**

DG moved: **Due to a deficit between the Greenfield Public Schools School Committee’s FY16 Budget and operating costs and the Budget voted by Town Council, and in consideration of the unanticipated \$151,040 transfer to free cash regarding the issuance of FY14 Circuit Breaker reimbursement carryover, in addition to shortfalls of \$310,000 in Special Education Out-of-District Tuition and Transportation, the School Committee urges the Mayor to endorse and expeditiously place before the Town Council this supplemental request totaling \$451,040 in order to meet current expenses in the Greenfield School Department’s FY16 operating budget.** MG 2nd.

Discussion: Special education budget is unpredictable. Howie Barber reviewed details of request, which is close to School Cte’s original budget request. To be presented next week to Town Council. Desire for Town Council presence at School Budget Subcte planning meetings. Central Office staff now planning FY17, including projecting special ed. out-of-district costs.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

### **4. Review of School Committee’s year**

FW listed achievements of School Committee, including hiring supt., pupil services director, assistant supt., food service director; opening new high school; smooth collective bargaining process; grade reconfiguration; community engagement; transparency. “A legacy for student achievement.” Acknowledged outgoing members.

JH presented the Greenfield Business Association’s annual ornament of Greenfield landmark: new Greenfield High School. Thanked members for their “steadfast support” of students and teachers.

### **VI. Executive Session**

MB made a motion to move into executive session to discuss a contractual issues with non-union and union personnel and pending litigation. DG 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes: MB, MC, DG, DM, AN, FW. Motion passed unanimously. Moved into executive session at 7:11 p.m.

MB moved to return to public session. AN 2nd. Yes: MB, MC, DG, DM, AN, FW. Motion passed unanimously. Public session resumed at 8:39 p.m.

### **VII. Adjournment**

MB moved to adjourn. 2nd AN. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Farber  
Recording Secretary