

GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, January 13, 2016
GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA
Approved 02.10.2016

Present: Timothy Farrell (TF); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Nathaniel Tripp (NT); Cameron Ward (CW); Francia Wisnewski (FW). **Absent:** none.

Also present: Tom Bevacqua, GEA president; Dan Pallotta, P3; Atty. Peter Smith; Donna Woodcock, GHS principal; other school staff and citizens.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (TF, SH, WM, AN, NT, CW, FW), Chair Farrell opened the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

II. Approval of Draft Minutes:

FW moved to approve draft minutes of Dec. 9 and Dec. 30, 2015. AN 2nd. Motion passed.

AN moved to approve draft minutes of Jan. 6, 2016. FW 2nd. Correct spelling of Francia [Wisnewski] in Subcte Appointments list. **Motion passed.**

III. Public Comment

Tom Bevacqua, GEA president, welcomed new School Cte. Contract ratification by GEA likely Friday or early next wk.

IV. Reports

A. Student Representatives Amy O'Sullivan and Sarah O'Sullivan reported on winter sports (basketball team loves new gym); midterm exams next week; club activities; 2nd annual formal dress drive.

A. Chairperson

No report

B. Superintendent

JH highlighted her written report, including:

- Grants (\$30,000 composting; \$39,000 technology for Newton)
- Collaboration with Amherst College
- Tech Ed conference
- Special Education Parent Advisory Council
- PD Day Jan. 15
- District-Wide Tech Team
- Leadership training in Washington DC: 3 GHS students will attend
- Computer lab dedication in memory of Jeff Comenitz (likely March 2016)

Provided documents to orient new members (strategic plan, etc.); budget update; attendance report.

Discussion: In-depth review of budget at future mtg. State will continue ELT grant, no \$ amount yet. Desire to align town's master plan, school goals. Supt's role on United Way Board of Directors.

D. Subcommittees

1. Policy & Curriculum

SH reported on Subcte's progress: Reviewed policy coding system. Will begin with review of B section (how boards govern school systems) and current topics needing policies (e.g., remote participation, composting). Next mtg. Feb. 3.

Health, Safety & Facilities

Subcte has not met yet. FW announced upcoming topics: Wellness Policy; moving Davis St offices.

Negotiations & Finance

AN announced meetings: Jan 19 (overview of budget process), 21, 26, 28.

Health, Safety & Facilities (from 2015)

AN provided summary of 2015 subcte work, including:

- Facilities: summary of building repair/projects; moving Davis St office.
- Transportation: outsourcing out-of-district transport; new software to manage fleet.
- Health: nursing (lead contact appointed, handbook); Wellness Cte established; grant for oral health and nutrition at Newton
- Food Service: breakfast in classroom (Newton, GMS); new kitchen at GHS; Farm to School "Harvest of the Month" program.

GHS Building Cte.

TF reported Cte is close to finishing and closing project; final audit soon.

IV. Business Topics

A. Venue Change for Class of 2016 Graduation

JH and Donna Woodcock, GHS principal, presented request to move graduation from Greenfield Community College back to GHS. Discussion: parking; encouragement for School Cte members to attend.

WM moved to change graduation site back to GHS and to leave date up to principal but recommend Friday date. AN 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Appointment of Representative for Collaborative for Educational Services

JH provided overview of CES services. TF will check dates, seek volunteer.

C. District Governance Program

JH introduced MASC's District Governance Program, orientation for School Cte members. Free to MASC members. First mtg March 1. Five-module course. Discussion: Consider different types of training. e.g., master planning; diversity. Pros of MASC training.

CW moved that School Cte members attend MASC training on March 1. AN 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Davis Street Move Update – Dan Pallotta of P³

Dan Pallotta of P³ reviewed schedule to move central offices to GMS building by July 7. Design close to finish; cost-out soon. Will involve a lot of work from staff.

Discussion: School Cte has not yet voted to approve move. \$40,000 from Town Council towards move. Challenge of construction project at school with students in building. Thanks to leadership team, support of town. Pros of renovation over rental. Design considers student safety, parking. Valuable antiques at Davis St.

School Cte to vote at February mtg. TF will work with Mayor, Supt., P³ to create info packet to orient new members. Members to submit questions to Chair within 2 weeks; team will prepare answers, send to members before mtg. Two types of questions: design/move details; impact on district's system.

WM delivered to TF petition to name track and field in honor of Peter and Patricia Conway, for future discussion. Decision by Town Council, not School Cte.

VI. Executive Session

TF presented reasons for executive session:

MGL c 30A, §21, (1): To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. (3): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

WM moved to go into executive session. AN 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes, TF, SH, WM, AN, NT, CW, FW. Motion passed unanimously. Moved into executive session at 8:06 p.m.

WM made a motion to move out of executive session. SH 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes, TF, SH, WM, AN, NT, CW, FW. Motion passed unanimously. Returned to public session at 9:31 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

WM moved to adjourn. SH 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary