

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, February 10, 2016
GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA
Approved 03.09.16**

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: Howie Barber, GPS Business Manager; Angela Mass, GHS Teacher; Dan Pallotta, P³; Karen Patenaude, GHS associate principal; Atty. Peter Smith; 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 6:30 p.m.

II. Approval of Draft Minutes:

AN moved to approve draft minutes of Jan. 13, 2016. FW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Reports

A. Student Representatives

Amy O'Sullivan and Sarah O'Sullivan reported on winter sports; Student Council fundraisers; class ID-lanyard competition; Spanish Club's trip to Spain; community service projects.

A. Chairperson

No report

B. Superintendent

JH highlighted her written report, including:

- Kindergarten registration, elementary schools tour day, open house events at GMS, MSA, AEL
- *Recorder* articles
- GHS graduation rates: Karen Patenaude, GHS Associate Principal, summarized efforts that helped improve graduation rate by 14% from 2014 to 2015.
- State testing: Students in all elementary schools, GMS, MSA will take on-line PARCC; GHS students will take paper PARCC; 10th graders will take MCAS.
- Recent snow days. June 20 still stands as last day of school.

Discussion: Steps to support diversity, multiculturalism among staff, students.

D. Subcommittees

1. Negotiations & Finance

AN reported subcte is meeting frequently under tight schedule to create FY17 budget; met with administrators, principals, dept. heads; discussing School Cte priorities; presentation of budget at special School Cte meeting in February (date not yet set).

2. Health, Safety & Facilities

FW reviewed subcommittee work including wellness policy, facilities, naming of sites; next will consider transportation.

3. Policy & Curriculum

TF explained process of first reading for discussion; second reading and vote.

SH provided:

- First reading of Policy FD "Recycling and Conservation." New policy.
- First reading of Policy FF "Naming Facilities." (revised)
- Policy BG "School Committee Policy Development." No change.
- Policy BGB "Policy Adoption." No change.
- First reading of Policy BGC "Policy Revision and Review." (revised)
- First reading of BA "School Committee Strategic Objectives." (revised)
- First reading of BIA "New School Committee Member Orientation." (revised)
- First reading of BBBE "Unexpired Term Fulfillment" (revised)

Members may email SH with suggestions for revisions.

IV. Business Topics

D. Davis Street Move Update

Dan Pallotta of P³ presented floor plan, reviewed schedule.

TF clarified this is town-funded not school-funded project.

JH: Key staff have reviewed plans. Need for adequate parking, school security. Recommends formal committee to guide project. Plan is prudent, not luxury. Payback in 5 yrs. compared to rental.

Discussion: Student capacity of GMS adequate for MSA, future growth: 4th grade moved to elementary schools. Seen as permanent, not temporary move, given scarcity, expense of downtown building space. Parking concerns. Expect positive response from parents, community. Renovation includes ventilation, summer cooling. Safety of students/faculty and parking are priority during construction and beyond.

WM moved to formally approve the relocation of Davis Street [offices] to Greenfield Middle School. CW 2nd. Discussion: High school can accommodate more students. Town funding not to exceed \$800,000; actual cost is less. Permanent move. Positive to use public money for investment in public property rather than private, temporary rental. Need for communication with neighborhood, school families. Members to let chair know if they want to serve on building/move committee. Parking: hope for continued discussion with church, hospital. Thanks to staff, mayor.
Motion passed.

A. Angela Mass, GHS Teacher – Annual Trip to Hyannis for Student Council

Angela Mass, GHS teacher, Student Council advisor, requested permission to bring 12 students to Massachusetts Association of Student Councils conference March 9-11. \$350pp cost supported by fundraising, balance paid by students. Described conference program, student eligibility to attend. Discussion: Desire for students to attend regardless of family's ability to pay. Request for Policy Cte to review: Supt can approve in-state trips. **WM moved to have School Committee approve trip to Hyannis. AN 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

B. Appointment of Representative for Collaborative for Educational Services

WM moved to appoint Cameron Ward representative to Collaborative for Educational Services. AN 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

C. FY16 Budget Update

Howie Barber provided overview of budget report.

Discussion: Encumbrances decline as money is spent. Request for balance sheet of revenues (circuit breaker, choice-in, etc.). Transportation deficit. Subcontracting out-of-district transportation has saved \$. Suggestion that School Cte request legislature to subsidize transportation costs. Large bus not being used. Health, Safety & Facilities Subcte. to discuss transportation. Funding for after-school program.

VI. Executive Session

TF presented reasons for executive session: MGL c 30A, §21, (2), to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

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 8:18 p.m.

WM made a motion to leave executive session. SH 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes, TF, SH, WM, AN, NT, CW, FW. Motion passed unanimously. Returned to public session at 9:37 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

WM moved to adjourn. CW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary