

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING**  
**MINUTES: Wednesday, February 24, 2016**  
GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA  
Approved 03.09.16

**Present:** Timothy Farrell (TF); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Nathaniel Tripp (NT); Cameron Ward (CW); Francia Wisnewski (FW).

**Absent:** Susan Hollins (SH).

**Also present:** The press, school staff, and citizens.

### **I. Call to Order**

With a quorum present (TF, WM, AN, NT, CW, FW), Chair Farrell opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

### **II. Public Comment**

None

### **III. Business Topics**

#### **A. Preliminary FY17 Budget Overview**

AN, chair of Negotiations and Finance Subcte, thanked all who worked to create the budget, provided overview of draft FY17 budget materials, including:

- overview of process
- prioritized requests from principals/department heads
- requests included in draft budget (Feb. 11)
- increases due to fixed costs and contractual obligations
- guiding principles
- consensus to support superintendent's FY17 budget (Feb. 11) reflecting increase of \$762,140 maximum over FY16 budget; update: draft request reduced by \$165K.
- statement from Susan Hollins (unable to attend tonight's mtg), re: further areas of study for subcte; enrollment goals; support for reading/literacy

Supt. Harper reviewed key features of draft budget:

- original requests exceeded \$3 million; requests reduced by half. 3.39% increase, primarily to meet obligations of special education, transportation. Fixed costs increasing.
- budget presentation reflects site-based management (costs shown where they are incurred)
- offsets: transparent budget includes grants, school choice, revolving accounts
- thanks to all who worked on budget

TF noted a lot of work done in only 2 months; need to balance school needs with other town departments'.

Discussion: Formal, complete presentation of budget at March 9 School Cte mtg. Clarifying request for evidence of effect of past budget increases. Praise for site-based budgeting, inclusion of offsets. School Choice offset. ELT: district doesn't yet have \$ amount from state for this year. Request for per-student cost for each site. All nurses working toward DESE certification, have 3 years. Long-term planning. Positive choice-in numbers. Request for consultant review of special education with goal to save \$. Some staff increases keep special education students in-district, saving out-of-district placement costs. Increase to full-time principal for AEL. Additional position of curriculum coordinator. PTO revenue. Support for moving secretaries to full-time. Middle school librarians. Accuracy of last year's predictions of need.

#### **IV. Executive Session**

TF presented reason for executive session (emergency situation): MGL c 30A, §21, (5), to investigate charges of criminal misconduct or to consider the filing of criminal complaints.

**FW moved to go into executive session. AN 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes, TF, WM, AN, NT, CW, FW. Motion passed unanimously.** Moved into executive session at 7:22 p.m.

**WM made a motion to leave executive session. SH 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes, TF, WM, AN, NT, CW, FW. Motion passed unanimously.** Returned to public session at 7:49 p.m.

#### **V. Adjournment**

WM moved to adjourn. AN 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Farber  
Recording Secretary