

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES: Wednesday, March 9, 2016**  
GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA  
Approved 04.13.2016

**Present:** Timothy Farrell (TF); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Nathaniel Tripp (NT); Cameron Ward (CW); Francina Wisnewski (FW) (left 8:26).

**Absent:** William Martin (WM).

**Also present:** Lea Appel (parent); Howie Barber, GPS Business Manager; Adam Garand, Director of Student Services & Special Education; Verne Sund (resident); other school staff, citizens, and the press.

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

With a quorum present (TF, SH, AN, NT, CW, FW), Chair Farrell opened the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

### **II. Public Public Hearing on FY17 Budget**

No comment

### **III. Approval of Draft Minutes:**

**AN moved to approve draft minutes of Feb. 10 and Feb. 24, 2016. NT 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **IV. Public Comment**

Lea Appel, parent, shared concerns about Math & Science Academy's move to GMS; need for curriculum bridge; request for continued meetings with parents.

Adelle Ferreria, parent, (in statement read by Appel) requested clearer communication re: 4th grade at MSA; requests regular superintendent's forums.

### **V. Reports**

#### **A. Student Representatives**

Amy O'Sullivan and Sarah O'Sullivan reported on multi-cultural celebration; Student Council state conference and activities; French Club coffeehouse; Spanish Club's upcoming trip to Spain; NHS "Make March Matter"; start of spring sports; 10th grade MCAS; successful prom dress drive.

#### **B. Chairperson**

At 6:41 Chair Farrell closed public hearing on budget.

#### **C. Superintendent**

JH presenting Grinspoon Awards for Educator Excellence: Jami Witherell at Newton, Bharati Winston at 4 Corners; 2 more awards to be announced tomorrow.

#### **D. Subcommittees**

##### **1. Budget, Finance & Negotiations**

Subcommittee's report to be included in budget presentation.

##### **2. Health, Safety & Facilities**

FW summarized recent discussions:

- Subcte recommends School Cte endorse proposal to name GHS track after Peter Conway.
- Draft of Wellness Policy for School Cte review. Adam Garand spoke to positive, inclusive process.

- Request to JH for information re: school physician's contract, funding for Subcte review

### **3. Policy & Curriculum**

SH provided first reading of four policies:

- BBA, School Committee Power and Duties
- BBBA, School Committee Qualification for Office
- BBBC, School Committee Member Resignation
- BDB, School Committee Officers

## **VI. Old Business**

### **A. Policies for Vote and Adoption**

SH reviewed changes to eight revised policies presented for adoption:

1. FF, Naming Facilities
2. BG, School Committee Policy Development
3. BGB, Policy Adoption
4. BGC, Policy Revision and Review
5. BA, School Committee Strategic Objectives
6. BIA, New School Committee Member Orientation
7. BBBE, Unexpired Term Fulfillment
8. FD, Recycling, Composting, and Conservation

Discussion:

- How to note changes (what and why) to revised policies for future readers.
- BBBE – Would position be filled with fewer than 90 days to election? City Charter's policy on vacancies does not govern School Cte vacancies. Policy Subcte to continue further discussion, revision of BBBE.

**CW moved to accept these 8 policies. 2nd AN. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **B. Vote to name the new track after Peter Conway**

TF reviewed history of proposal to name track for Peter Conway, GHS track coach for 40+ years. Clarification that school district, not town, is responsible for naming school facilities. Councilor Verne Sund gathered petitions. **FW moved to name the high school track after Peter Conway. CW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **C. Vote on District Governance Program Participation**

MASC first training session for School Cte members held March 1. Five more modules available, no additional cost. **AN moved to continue with District Governance Program for duration of the program. FW 2nd. Motion passed.**

### **D. Appointment of Davis Street Move Committee**

TF announced ad hoc committee to meet regularly with project manager, respond immediately to concerns: Supt. Harper, Mayor Martin, Tim Farrell, Cameron Ward, Alan Schmidt (director of facilities, GPS); George VanDelinder (head of central maintenance, Greenfield), Lane Kelly (finance director, Greenfield). Discussion: Need to keep parents, community informed.

**FW moved to support chair's appointment of members to Administrative Buildout and Davis Street Move Committee. AN 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **E. Budget Presentation and Vote**

AN summarized recent discussions of Budget, Finance & Negotiations Subcommittee, including: support for GHS elective program; need for vehicle replacement; professional development funding; programs are stable (none removed), 2 positions eliminated; unanimous support for reading/literacy services at GHS; preschool staffing; School Cte's budget; heavy use of offsets in this budget year: Is this sustainable?; PTO funding \$1K-\$8K per school.

- Subcte's recommendation to School Committee to add to the Superintendent's FY17 budget \$15,000 for part-time volunteer coordinator and \$45,000 for reading support at GHS.

JH thanked Subcte for "arduous task." Budget is lean: about half of principals' priorities included. If additional funding, preference to prioritize principals' requests. Volunteers currently coordinated by school staff. JH gave formal budget presentation covering enrollment and demographics (58% students economically disadvantaged); school choice trends; new budget process – new School Cte budget subcte, All Funds Accounting, MUNIS, site-based management; long-range strategic planning; budget priorities; timetable; funding sources (90% local); increased costs – special education, transportation, salary/contract obligations; positions (additions and cuts); local, state funding figures and trends.

**SH moved to adopt a budget for FY17 in amount of \$18,180,157.32, which includes the \$60,000 addition the Budget Subcommittee recommends. NT 2nd.**

Discussion: Need for volunteer coordinator, reading support. Supt. presented administrators' priorities not included in budget: increasing administrative assistants to full-year; custodial staffing; professional memberships; athletic supplies; teacher-leader positions; special education reserve; technology. Realistic budget reflects town's economy. Mayor requested level-funded budgets from town departments. Desire for stability in choice environment. Budget absorbs "intractable" expenses (2% for teacher salary increases; 1% transportation). Motion's intent is flexible: Supt. would propose to School Cte how to use \$60K to reach volunteer/reading goals.  
**Motion withdrawn.**

**NT moved to accept Superintendent's proposed budget plus an additional \$60,000 to bring total to \$18,180,157.32. AN 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

Request to Budget, Finance & Negotiations Subcte to discuss, critique GPS's new budgeting format with mayor, town officials.

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Approval of 2016-2017 School Year Calendar**

JH presented draft calendar. **AN moved to approve 2016-2017 calendar. NT 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **VIII. Other Business**

### **A. Math & Science Academy**

At SH's request, JH clarified plans for one grade 4 section at MSA. No room at Green River for more sections. Announcement to come after budget approval.

### **B. Support for schools**

Budget, Finance & Negotiations Subcte noted support of PTOs. Thanks also to Greenfield Education Foundation, booster clubs and businesses that support schools. Tax-deductible donations can be made through Foundation.

## **VII. Adjournment**

SH moved to adjourn. CW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Farber  
Recording Secretary