

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, May 11, 2016**
GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA
Approved 06.08.16

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; Adam Garand, Director of Student Services & Special Education. GHS Leadership Team representatives: Siobhan Fitzgerald, Ariana Lal, Karin Patenaude, Donna Woodcock. Safe Schools Safe Streets representatives: Maureen Donovan, Kara Younger, Mamou Samake. Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching award winners: Patrick Garland, Bharati Winston, Jami Witherell; other school staff, citizens, and the press.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Draft Minutes:

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

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Reports

A. Superintendent's Report

JH recognized Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching award-winners: Jami Witherell, Newton; Bharati Winston, Four Corners; Patrick Garland, GHS; Janice Fuller, AEL (not present).

In addition to her written report, JH announced:

- Composting program started at GHS
- All elementary schools getting a Buddy Bench, thanks to fundraising organized by Jackson Caron, 4th grader at Four Corners
- Four Corners principal interviews underway
- Adam Garand, Director of Student Services & Special Education, has resigned effective July 1
- Recognition for school nurses

B. Subcommittees

1. Health, Safety & Facilities

FW summarized recent discussions: reviewing draft MOU with police department.

2. Budget, Finance & Negotiations

AN summarized recent work on FY17 budget reductions; nursing, secretary workdays; school choice; transportation; paraprofessional and preschool staffing; special education. Seeking additional information on enrollment and nearby school districts' staffing. Increasing revenue streams. Unit A contract re: block schedule. Community nursing program. To be considered at future meetings: Cost centers; Unit B, Unit A contracts.

V. Business

A. Maureen Donovan, Safe Schools Safe Streets Coordinator, Youth to Youth Summer Conference to Rhode Island

Maureen Donovan, Safe Schools Safe Streets Coordinator, Kara Younger, Youth Prevention Coordinator, and GHS student Mamou Samake reported on recent conference and work of Youth for Change at GHS. Requesting permission for students to attend Youth to Youth conference at Bryant University, RI, in July. Safe Schools Safe Streets grant pays all expenses. 3 students/1 adult or up to 6 students/2 adults will attend.

FW moved to support Safe Schools Safe Streets to attend the Youth to Youth Conference on July 28-31. CW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Special School Committee Meeting Date of May 24, 2016 for Assistant Superintendent Interviews

- Personnel Subcte reviewed documents, process. Assistant supt. position has been posted. Desire to move quickly to attract best candidates.
- WM: Should Cte have approved posting prior to release? JH: Personnel Subcte. made no changes to job description, salary, posting, all previously approved by Cte.
- At Cte's request, JH will organize interview questions; members to submit questions to her ASAP.
- Re: resignation of Adam Garand, Director of Student Services & Special Education. Personnel Subcte. to review position, bring recommendation to May 24 mtg. on posting position.
- JH acknowledged work of former Assistant Supt. McCusick with curriculum alignment.
- Assistant supt. position requires both curriculum and administrative skills.
- Personnel Subcte will review assistant supt. contract, bring to Cte. for approval.
- Can School Cte members look at applications?

SH made motion to give Chair immediate authority to seek legal advice for questions regarding process of bringing forth candidates. FW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

C. GHS Schedule Change for 2016-2017

Speaking for adoption of modified block schedule were GHS Leadership Team representatives Siobhan Fitzgerald, Guidance Counselor; Ariana Lal, English teacher; Karin Patenaude, Associate Principal; Donna Woodcock, Principal.

MOU re: teachers' planning time discussed yesterday at GHS faculty mtg, passed 31-9. MOU must also be approved by GEA. Sequence of approval by GEA, School Cte. not clear.

SH made a motion to accept the proposal, as voted 31-9 by the high school education association members, from the high school education representatives for the clarification of planning time under the modified block schedule proposal for the FY17-18-19 three-year contract in Article V, Section B (1) (a). WM 2nd. Discussion: Some GEA leaders including president attended faculty meeting. Supt designated to discuss with GEA. TF as chair is authorized to sign MOU. No other unit agreements affected. Motion passed unanimously.

D. School Choice

TF presented "Proposed Maximum School Choice Seats for 2016-2017."

Discussion: Large number of seats available at high school. Moving grade 4 to elementary schools resulted in fewer elementary choice seats. Principal Woodcock requests high school choice lottery (if needed) occur in June, to allow AP students time to complete summer assignments.

WM made a motion to accept Proposed Maximum School Choice Seats as written, for total of 53 seats, for school year 2016-2017, with lottery, if necessary, to take place by June 15. AN 2nd. Discussion: Choice numbers anticipate requests for some elementary students to attend school other than neighborhood school. Strong Kindergarten registration. Choice seats, once approved, are fixed: cannot add more if unanticipated availability. **Motion passed unanimously.**

E. Policies for Vote and Adoption

SH presented policies:

Section B: Governance

First reading: BEDB, BAA, BDG

Section D: Fiscal Management

First reading: DA, DB, DBD, DD, DGA, DH, DI

Under review by Policy Subcte: DBG, DBJ, DIE, DJ

Discussion:

- Revise BDG School Attorney to clarify that requests for legal services go through chair; members do not contact attorney directly.
- Revise DH Bonded Employees and Officers: "~~When requested,~~ **When the city treasurer or mayor requests**, the Superintendent will advise the city which positions...."
- Submit comments to SH

VI. Other Business

A. Davis Street Move Committee

JH reported that the Move Cte has reviewed draft budget and timeline. Waiting for subcontractor bids. Discussing how to address indirect costs. Davis Street offices may move after school opens.

B. Financial Forecast

Howie Barber, Business Manager, presented current financial reports.

Discussion:

- Members grateful for format of reports, clear, transparent information.
- Deficit accounts: school rentals, Greenfield Education Foundation
- \$104K for software: additional software costs included in capital improvement
- Membership fee to Collaborative for Educational Services?
- Step increases
- Decisions to use long-term substitutes are not financial
- McKinney-Vento costs hard to predict. WM noted increase over years from \$40K to \$120K, request to bring concerns to legislature.
- Concerns re: charter school transportation

C. Funding for testing water

WM met with Commissioner of Dept. of Environmental Protection. Recommends GPS apply for funding for water tests. JH: Water in schools consistently tests safe.

D. Superintendent's Report (continued)

JH highlighted:

- Equestrian program at Stoneleigh-Burnham for GMS students
- "Shout out" to Newton School: Recognized at State House ceremony for successful breakfast-in-classroom program; \$960 grant from Link to Libraries for Chromebook/bicycle; \$1,000 grant for Kid Fit furniture.

E. Schools in the media

Responding to front-page article in today's *Recorder*, TF explained that school officials and School Cte members cannot share information that is protected by law to guard students' right to privacy. Discussion: Praise for Supt. on clarity of statements to press. Positive preparation: Supt. contacted School Cte members; emergency protocols; restorative justice program; support for students, families, community. Letter from Principal Woodcock to GHS families.

VIII. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary