

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, August 10, 2016**
GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA
(Approved 09.14.2016)

Present: Timothy Farrell (TF); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Nathaniel Tripp (NT).

Absent: Cameron Ward (CW).

Also present: Bob Cooley, Molly Chambers, Momodou Sarr, Rachel Silverman, Greenfield Human Rights Commission's Education Committee; Dianne Ellis, Director of Student Services; Robert Haigh, Chief of Police; Beth Pratt, Assistant Supt.; Alan Schmidt, Facilities Manager; David Sullivan, MA Northwestern District Attorney; other school staff, citizens, and the press.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Draft Minutes

WM moved to approve draft minutes of July 13, 2016. 2nd SH. Motion passed.

III. Public Comment

Cooley, Chambers, Sarr, Silverman spoke on behalf of Greenfield Human Rights Commission's Education Committee. Seeks partnership with GPS, liaison/representative from GPS, mayor's office, police dept. Concerns re: draft MOU School Resource Officer, asked to postpone ratification to allow more discussion. Add accountability measures (data collection on students' contact with criminal justice system); stronger language on arrests as last resort; clearer delineation of responsibility (e.g., who decides to arrest student). Support for GPS's restorative justice program.

Chair Farrell moved agenda to discussion of MOU.

V. Business

A. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Greenfield Public Schools and Greenfield Police Department

David Sullivan, MA Northwestern District Attorney, spoke in support of restorative justice, SRO as proactive approach to safe schools; commended GPS SRO Brook, Human Rights Commission. GPS "pioneers with restorative justice." Shared sample MOUs from other towns. Introduced Yvonne Pesce, Juvenile Justice Unit Chief, Jan Healy, Deputy District Attorney.

WM moved to table and recommend that the MOU go to Health, Safety, and Facility Subcommittee to work with chair, the Human Rights Commission, as well as other major entities involved. Motion passed.

IV. Reports

A. Superintendent

JH provided highlights of written reports:

- change to school website with tab for School Committee
- staffing report of summer hires, including Valerie Miller as part-time AEL principal and part-time personnel assistant; new transportation coordinator
- Events: MCAS/PARCC data release; start of school year Aug. 31 for most schools

C. Subcommittees

1. Budget, Finance & Negotiations

AN reported that Subcte reviewed past budget season, is preparing for new budget season. Continue mtgs with principals. Desire for solution to special education budgeting, line to support study/research. Impact of charter schools, choice; interest in marketing schools? Looks to Aug. 24 working session to set goals, calendar. Early conversations with Town Council, Mayor's office. Contract stabilization account. Sustainability under rising costs.

AN announced MASC budget workshop for School Cte members Sept. 26. Public welcome.

JH shared recent marketing efforts, ad in *Valley Kids*.

2. Health, Safety & Facilities

AN made a motion for Member Ward to become chair of Health, Safety & Facilities Subcte. WM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Policy & Curriculum

SH reported that Subcte is finishing policies on financial management, will bring before Cte in September.

4. Personnel

NT reported that Supt's evaluation will begin this fall.

V. Business

B. Federal Street Project Update

JH thanked Alan Schmidt, Facilities Manager: GMS, Federal Street, summer maintenance. Schmidt described work on Federal Street boilers and Link roof. Goal to complete roof before start-of-school; if not, work will be done outside of school hours.

JH: Late start not due to anyone in GPS.

WM thanked town's Planning and Construction Committee, Finance Director Lane Kelly. \$3.8 million project, 75-79% reimbursement from MSBA.

SH: Boiler room door to stay closed, for students' safety.

C. FY17 Budget Update & Revisions

WM moved to amend the FY17 School Cte budget from \$17,930,000 to \$17,912,000. AN 2nd. Discussion: \$18K reduction, inadvertently used wrong figure at last meeting's vote. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Open School Committee Seat & Vice-Chair Vote

TF received two applications, from Scott Smith, Don Alexander. Will discuss selection process at Aug. 24 mtg, vote in September.

NT nominated AN for position of Vice-Chair. SH 2nd. Discussion: New school cte member term until Jan. 2018. Vice-Chair term for 6 months, until annual reorganization mtg. **Motion passed** (AN abstain).

Discussion: AN has been serving as secretary; that position is now vacant. Importance of records. WM announced town archival records mtg. on Aug. 15.

AN nominated SH to become the new Secretary of the School Cte. WM 2nd. Motion passed.

VI. Other Business

A. Working Meeting

Aug. 24, 6:00 p.m., at Davis Street. Planning for whole year, with focus on next 6 months.

B. Update on Davis Street move

Work schedule is “close to on time.” Electrical/computer work. Weekly construction meetings.

Target move date: early October. Parking plan: new agreement with [Blessed Sacrament] Catholic Church to share their parking area.

C. Human Rights Commission

SH: Impressed by strong backgrounds of Human Rights Commission members. New law (Chapter 286) has different guidelines for SROs, mandatory reporting to police.

VII. Executive Session – MGL c 30A, §21, (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

TF announced purposes for executive session, to discuss contract negotiations for union personnel and litigation. SH made a motion to go into executive session for purposes stated. WM 2nd. Roll call vote – Yes: TF, SH, WM, AN, NT. Moved into executive session at 7:45 p.m.

AN moved to return to public session. WM 2nd. Roll call vote – Yes: SH, WM, AN, NT, FW. Public session resumed at 9:46 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

AN moved to adjourn. 2nd WM. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary