

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, April 12, 2017**
GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA
(approved 05.10.17)

Present: Don Alexander (DA); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); Susan Hollins (SH); William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Nathaniel Tripp (NT); Cameron Ward (CW)

Absent: Timothy Farrell (TF)

Also present: Howard Barber, GPS Business Manager; Carole Collins, Greenfield Sustainability & Energy Manager; Rachel Cummings, teacher, GMS; GHS Student Representatives Amy and Sarah O’Sullivan; Jacki Pinger, teacher, Four Corners; Jake Toomey, principal, Four Corners; other school staff and citizens.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (DA, SH, WM, AN, NT, CW), Chair Martin opened the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

III. Public Comment

none

IV. Reports

A. Student Representatives

Amy and Sarah O’Sullivan reported on activities at GHS including student council and club activities, 7th grade step-up day, and sports.

B. Chair’s Report

WM testified at public hearing on school funding issues: Chap. 70, out-of-district costs, Chap. 76 DCF placement of children. Hopes for “an avalanche of concern and attention” by legislature.

CW moved to amend the agenda to next consider V(A). DA 2nd. Motion carried.

V. Business

A. Recognition of Grinspoon Award Winners

Supt. introduced Jacki Pinger and Rachel Cummings, honored as Grinspoon Award Winners for excellence in teaching. (Not present: Stacey Quinn, who was running “Spring Celebration of the Arts” at Newton)

IV. Reports (continued)

C. Superintendent’s Report

Supt. Harper highlighted events and documents in packet:

- West African Drumming cultural performance, GMS/MSA
- School newsletters, focus on parent communication
- MSA Transition Team report at May School Cte. meeting
- Response to water quality concerns: replacing fixtures, implementing flushing protocol, testing repeated week of April 20
- Working to reduce budget by \$500K, will bring recommended cuts to School Cte. All non-essential funds frozen.

Discussion: Film Festival line does not yet include \$700 donation to allow Festival to continue

II. Approval of Minutes

DA moved to approve minutes of March 8 and March 13, 2017. AN 2nd. Approved unanimously.

V. Business (continued)

B. Discovery School at Four Corners Innovation Final Plan

Principal Jake Toomey and teacher Jacki Pinger described plan, collaborative work by staff.

JH strongly endorsed Innovation Plan.

Discussion:

Plan follows state's guidelines, includes measurable goals, describes unique features of program.

SH: 2010 minutes show \$25K for Four Corners innovation to be partly funded by choice money: innovation schools attract choice-in students.

Toomey praised all elementary schools as having unique strengths; willing to speak with principals interested in innovation status.

AN moved to accept Discovery School at Four Corners Innovation Plan for July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2021. SH 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Energy Report of School Buildings

WM introduced Carole Collins, town's Energy and Sustainability Manager, praised her success with grants, decreasing energy use/costs. Collins reviewed data showing improvements FY2008-FY2016 for school buildings, summarized past projects, described current efforts for additional projected \$26,485 savings. Can expect 50% reduction in energy costs at Green River by revamping heating system. JH noted moving Central Office from Davis Street to Federal Street building resulted in additional savings. Collins' annual report to DOER and forthcoming dashboard to be shared with School Cte. Also noted: Greenfield one of few communities successful in 20% reduction/5 years program (actual 26%).

IV. Reports (continued)

D. Subcommittee Reports

1. Budget & Finance

AN reported Subcte met with Mayor re: strategies for reducing FY18 budget by \$500K to meet Mayor's adjusted budget. Utilize \$100K pothole grant. Move facilities manager position to town budget; request for Personnel Subcte to discuss this proposal. School Cte will vote on revised budget. Town Council to vote end of May.

Members reviewed JH's data on "Revolving & Special Revenue Accounts: Multi-Year Projections."

WM noted School Cte's \$125K prior request is on Town Council's May agenda.

2. Personnel & Collective Bargaining

NT reported that work continues on negotiations, superintendent evaluation rubric.

3. Policy & Program

SH reported that Subcte is continuing work on policies re: food allergies; board governance; entrance age for school admission; facility use. Considering new policy on funds (e.g., revolving funds balance).

Discussion:

Entrance age/Kindergarten: Consider creating 2-year K program for 5-yr-olds not developmentally ready for academic-focused K. Allow Supt discretion to admit students who miss birthday deadline by only a few days.

Facility use: When GHS is connected to allow GCTV live broadcast, what fees for local gov't meetings? JH to provide list of people involved to meet with Policy Subcte.

VII. New Business

A. Greenfield Community Energy Technology (GCET) / Green Light

WM requested School Cte approve GCET's pole-to-building conduit and box installed on outside of AEL building, conditional on final site schematic approval by Supt.

Discussion:

WM: No cost to school dept. All school buildings to be connected by end of May; AEL only building requiring conduit/box.

JH: Requests more information re: utilities cost, maintenance, responsibility of school technology dept.

Special School Cte. meeting for GCET/AEL discussion and approval: Tuesday, April 18, 5:30 p.m., Central. Request GCET representative attend.

V. Business (continued)

D. Policy BGF Suspension of Policies: First reading and vote

BGF reviewed by Policy Subcte, no change, need vote to affirm. **SH moved to accept Policy BGF, with no change. AN 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

E. Attorneys Smith and Quinn contracts

Review/discussion of Smith's Client Fee Agreement

- Delete Sections 4, 5 (amend from 3 years to 1 year)
- 1: replace "includes" with "may include"
- 1(b): Will Sullivan, Hayes, Quinn handle student discipline?
- 1(c): replace "all" with "as requested"
- Mention that attorney must know GPS policies
- \$70/hr for secretarial time seems high. Are we billed for routine calls – e.g., to schedule meeting
- Travel costs: billed for mileage and attorney hourly rate for driving? JH: Yes, both
- 8: concern re: "good cause"
- 12: concern re: arbitration
- 15: include more than Supt
- JH: Allow flexibility, accessibility to appropriate legal counsel.

Add to April 18 special meeting agenda.

HB noted contracts are dissimilar, suggests NT, as chair of Personnel Subcte, create RFP for attorney services to allow clear comparison and comply with Chapter 30B. East Longmeadow employs both Smith and Sullivan, Hayes & Quinn. HB, JH to request info from counterparts at East Longmeadow. WM to contact attorneys.

VI. Old Business

A. FY2018 Budget Update

Discussion:

Supt, Budget Subcte working to adjust budget.

ELT: School Cte must vote in May; need application before May mtg. Will have state funding info by May.

School Cte members can pick up print copy of draft town budget from Town Clerk

VII. New Business (continued)

DA is preparing calendar of School Cte deadlines/topics, will request information from Subcte chairs.

VIII. Adjournment

CW moved to adjourn. 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents

1. Agenda: April 12, 2017
2. Draft Minutes: March 3 & March 13, 2017
3. Superintendent's Report
 - a. *Recorder* article "West African beats energize middle schoolers in Greenfield"
 - b. Sample newsletters from AEL, Federal Street, Four Corners, Newton, MSA, GMS
 - c. Financial Forecasting with April 7 Budget Reports and Summary of Revolving, Gift & Scholarship Accounts (Howard Barber)
4. Discovery School at Four Corners Innovation Plan, July 1, 2016—June 30, 2021
5. Policy BGF, Suspension of Policies
6. Two draft contracts for legal services: Atty. Peter Smith; Sullivan, Hayes & Quinn
7. Budget & Finance Subcommittee minutes (April 4, 2017) with April 3 memo from Mayor Martin
8. Greenfield School Energy Usage FY 2008-2016 (Carole Collins)
9. Revolving & Special Revenue Accounts: Multi-Year Projections (Supt. Harper)