

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

Wednesday, November 6, 2013

GCTV Studios, Greenfield MA

Approved 12.4.2013

Present: Margaret Betts (MB) (arrived 6:45); Maryelen Calderwood (MC); Daryl Essensa (DE); Donna Gleason (DG); William Martin (WM); Franca Wisnewski (FW) (left 8:43 p.m.).

Absent: John Lunt (JL).

Also present: Susan Hollins, Superintendent (SH); Peter Smith, school attorney; Lane Kelly, Greenfield Finance Director; Ed Berlin, Chris Joseph, trustees, Massachusetts Virtual Academy at Greenfield Commonwealth Virtual School; other school staff, citizens, and the press.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (MC, DE, DG, WM, FW), Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Chris Shores, *Greenfield Recorder*, is audiorecording meeting.

II. Public comment

None

III. Topics

A. Superintendent Search

MC moved, DG 2nd, to initiate a superintendent search. Discussion: Many MA districts seeking new supt. MASC/Glenn Koocher has offered to assist with search. **Motion passed unanimously.**

MC moved to direct chair to investigate other options for assistance in supt search. MB 2nd. WM will provide options for search firms and search cte process. **Motion passed unanimously.**

VI. Executive Session

MC made a motion, 2nd MB, to move to item "VI. Executive Session" next on agenda. YES: MB, MC, DE, DG, WM, FW. Motion passed unanimously.

MC moved, MB 2nd, to enter executive session to discuss urgent matters affecting school security matters. Yes: MB, MC, DE, DG, WM, FW. Motion passed unanimously. Moved into executive session at 7:05 p.m.

Returned to public session at 7:35 p.m.

(WM left meeting at 7:40. Vice-chair MC presided over mtg.)

DE made a motion to move the agenda to consider "III. D. Virtual School Transition" next. 2nd DG. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Virtual School Transition

SH reported that the process of transition, the virtual school creating itself as an independent school, is slower than anticipated. Many legal/technical uncertainties as first-in-state virtual school. 497 students currently enrolled, 15 are full-time Greenfield students. K-12. Free/reduced lunch issue still in process. Contracted services with GPS likely not to continue next yr. Evaluation considers passing rates, course progress, attendance. Payment to GPS begins after Jan. 1 for admin.

services (approx. \$25,000/month beginning July 1). Potential competition from new virtual schools opening next yr. Board meets at Davis St.

E. Extended Learning Time MOU

SH reviewed the tentative MOU. GPS' 7th year of extended learning time grant. New in this MOU: 2-yr agreement; reading teachers included; Math/Science Academy specifically included; teachers' pay for additional 90 minutes no longer tiered but flat percent. **MB moved, DG 2nd, to ratify the "Agreement: GEA and GSC Memorandum of Understanding for 2013-2015." Motion passed unanimously.**

DE moved, DG 2nd, to consider "Homeless Report" next on agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Homeless Report

SH reviewed "Homeless Student Report" (Nov. 5, 2103). Enrollment numbers fluctuate. Discussion: additions to staff at Newton; sensitivity to labels, language; decision to have all homeless students at Newton, not bussed to other Greenfield elementary schools;

MB moved, FW 2nd, to continue agenda and move onto Old Business. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Old Business

A. Tax Levy

Lane Kelly has submitted revised figures. Finance Subcte to review revised information.

(FW left mtg. 8:43 p.m.)

MB moved to take 5-minute break. DE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

(WM returned to mtg. at 8:50 p.m.)

VI. Executive Session, continued

MC moved, MB 2nd, to enter executive session to discuss urgent matters affecting school security matters. Yes: MB, MC, DE, DG, WM. Motion passed unanimously. Moved into executive session at 8:51 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

DE moved to adjourn. MC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary