

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

GCTV Studios, Greenfield MA

Approved 02.12.14

Present: Margaret Betts (MB); Maryelen Calderwood (MC); Daryl Essensa (DE); Donna Gleason (DG); William Martin (WM); Franca Wisnewski (FW). **Absent:** John Lunt (JL);.

Also present: Susan Hollins, Superintendent (SH); Pat Correia, Field Director, Mass. Association of School Committees; Elizabeth Gilman (EG), GPS Business Administrator; other school staff, citizens, and the press.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (MB, MC, DE, DG, WM, FW), Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Chris Shores (*Recorder*) is audiorecording.

II. Approval of Draft Minutes

MC moved, DG 2nd, to approve the draft minutes of Dec. 11, 2013. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

none

DE made a motion to move agenda to next consider V.F. Supt. Screening Cte. Update. DG 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Business Topics

F. Superintendent Screening Committee Update

Pat Correia, MASC, reported on focus groups; is scheduling afternoon mtgs for faculty; survey; Search Cte. swearing-in mtg.; Jan. 17 deadline for advertising. DE announced Search Cte will meet in President's Conference Room at GCC. Mtgs are open to public at this time.

IV. Reports

Chair's Report (WM)

- Announced School Cte special mtg with exec. session on Wed., Jan. 29, 6:30, at GCTV, re: contract, budget, finance; exec. session to include contract negotiations, transportation bids.
- Intent to direct Supt and Business Mgr to discuss transportation bid and details of contract, report back to Cte.
- Para. contract to be reviewed by subcte.
- Need for Statement of Intent for MSBA to renovate schools under roof-boiler-window program. Chair and Supt to prioritize schools; Town's Finance Cte. determines matching funds; Town Council to authorize. Feb. 14 is due date.

MC moved to have Supt pre-populate the 2014 statement of interest with MSBA and update and submit 2014 statement of interest. 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report (SH)

- District review completed
- Enrollment stabilized at 1,781

- Transportation bid (single bid: Kuzmeskus); increasing cost; 3-5 yr contract. Discussion: detailed study of transportation routes and cost; McKinney-Vento homeless transportation; GPS purchasing additional large bus?
- Para contract ready for review at 1/29 mtg
- GHS construction, technology planning; considering language study lab
- Safety/security work continues; MOU with police; meeting with new police chief
- PD topics: technology, literacy and data
- Reviewing ELL services
- Budget for 2014-15 to be finalized in March
- MSBA funds for energy conservation repairs/upgrades

Discussion:

out-of-district tuition, how to reduce

Does police MOU consider medical marijuana? Connected to GPS health policies.

Subcommittees

MC made a motion to move item VI. Old Business (distribution of safety manuals) into subcte reports. MB 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

MC moved to table 5C Snack Program until subcte can review. MB 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Health, Safety, Security & Facilities Subcte

MC reported that Health, Safety, Security & Facilities Subcte did not meet in Dec. Upcoming issues: snack program; nurses, partnership with Community Health Initiative (substance abuse); next mtg 1/14.

WM recommended review of GPS policy on community use of space, creation of new policy on school rental income. Add to February agenda.

Policy, HR & Planning Subcte

FW reported on school attorney policy; lice; nurses; MASC Policy 21 program.

Innovation & Curriculum Subcte

DE reported continuing work on school councils; composting.

MB moved to table composting discussion until February mtg. MC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Business Topics

A. Greenfield Commonwealth Virtual School

MOU and termination letter to be reviewed at Jan. 29 mtg.

B. Massachusetts Virtual Academy

Finances not yet closed. EG reported \$200K outstanding invoices waiting for K12 back-up (GPS owes K12).

C. GHS Program of Studies

SH reviewed changes done in 2009-2010 revision, including students not grade-locked; English curriculum; flexibility for half-year courses (2.5 credits); expansion opportunities.

MB made a motion that Curriculum Cte. explore idea of creating civics course as an elective. MC 2nd. Motion withdrawn.

MB moved that Curriculum Subcte evaluate the history electives for GPS with respect to civics and local history. MC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: Clarify year-long/half-year courses as credits. How many students take dual-enrollment courses (GCC, UMass)?

MC moved to refer Program of Studies to Curriculum Subcommittee. MB 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Report back at Feb. mtg.

VIII. Adjournment

MB moved to adjourn. MC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary