

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

Thursday, March 20, 2014

GCTV Studio, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA

Approved 04.09.14

Present: Margaret Betts (MB); Maryelen Calderwood (MC); Daryl Essensa (DE); Donna Gleason (DG); William Martin (WM) (arrived 6:38); Francia Wisnewski (FW) (left 9:14); Student Representatives Lily Richards and Vicki Balis. **Absent:** John Lunt (JL).

Also present: Susan Hollins (SH), Supt.; 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, FW), Vice-Chair Calderwood called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. Approval of Draft Minutes

- MB moved, DG 2nd, to approve draft minutes of Feb. 12, 2014, with the addition of including the full contents of the MSBA motion. Motion passed 4-0-1 (FW abstain).
- DE moved, MB 2nd, to approve draft minutes of Feb. 20, 2014. Motion passed 4-0-1 (FW abstain).
- FW moved, DE 2nd, to approve draft minutes of Feb. 28, 2014. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Reports:

A. Student Representatives Lily Richards and Vicki Balis reported on GHS events including international culture celebration, Polar Plunge fundraiser, state student council awards and elections, opening of spring sports, and MCAS testing.

B. Chair

Negotiations Cte continues to meet. Para contract signed. School construction moving along on time and on budget. Save bricks for patio?

C. Superintendent

SH reported on:

- Student Film Festival April 11
- Plans to expand Walk to School Program weekly in spring
- New Kindergarten grant requirement: NEAYC accreditation
- New Mass. Kindergarten Entry Assessment (requires 12-hour staff training)
- Elementary school program of studies for April agenda
- Plan to appraise, perhaps insure artwork at schools
- SH requests Policy Cte add name-calling to student harassment policy.

D. Subcommittees

1. Innovation & Curriculum Subcte.

DE reported on curriculum alignment discussion, with principals: accommodating accelerated students; diagnostic skill screening for differentiated instruction; math and literacy programs. Continuing discussion: Does district need curriculum coordinator?

2. Policy, HR & Planning Subcte.

FW provided first reading of School Attorney Policy. Discussion:

- WM moved to insert: "Any School Cte member who wishes to speak to school attorney must receive authorization through the School Cte chair." DG 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.
- Supt can contact attorney for routine work. No desire to limit Supt's work. Clarify "routine." SH: Calls to attorney are not about routine management.
- Add: Attorney will attend School Cte mtg. upon request of the Chair or designee.
- Option to have attending mtgs included in contract/retainer
- Some needs for attorney are not School Cte related – e.g., special educ. administrator uses attorney services.

Discussion of new state fingerprinting law. Applies to new teachers this year, all staff to be phased in. Volunteers must have CORI, fingerprinting optional. Law says employees pay (licensed \$55/ unlicensed \$35), allows hardship waivers. Will fee discourage applicants for areas of shortage (bus drivers, substitutes, etc.)? Teachers must now go to Springfield: can local police fingerprint?

MB moved that the School Cte shall require all current and future employees to bear the cost of state-mandated fingerprinting requirements. This will not bar the superintendent from providing waivers for non-contract, hourly employees (earning \$17/hr or less). FW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. MB moved to implement background check decision as of today, March 20, 2014. DG 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Subcte studying Lexington model: school nurse/medical needs served by town dept of health; includes CNAs, LPNs.

Health, Safety, Security & Facilities Subcte.

MC reported on:

- Discussion with food service staff re: snack program. Trial program of offering whole-food snacks. Request to Policy Subcte to write snack program policy (eliminate processed foods, serve whole foods from approved list). Budget implications.
- Narcotics overdose kits envisioned for middle, high schools. Available from school nurse, first responders, school resource officer. Mayor's Opiate Task Force working on this issue.
- School safety training update: High school staff trained. Request to SH for summary of training at other schools.
- Applying for composting grant, will be on April agenda.

V. Old Business

A. Budget Planning 2014-2015

SH reviewed 2014-2015 Draft Superintendent's Budget, including estimated grant support, "2014-2015 Budget Overview" narrative, and supporting attachments. Special concern for Line 317, Out of District Tuition. Cf. FY14 budget: FY15 budget 4.7% increase (\$777,358). New positions \$449,600 (Attachment #6).

Discussion:

- April 9 public hearing and vote on budget
- Health insurance \$2.99 million, not reflected in this budget
- Increase in transportation: increase of McKinney-Vento, new Kuzmeskus contract; some not actual increase but moving transportation staff from special educ. cost center to transportation.
- Increase in Green River costs, staffing
- High school electives \$30K increase (line 143): Was Civics course a mandate from School Cte? Desire to limit elective increases.
- Cost center 332: all special educ. paras, regardless of school assignment
- Curriculum coordinator position (line 270)
- SH likely request: 2.2% increase
- Sick time buyback amount decreasing
- Choice-in: on May's agenda
- Budget format – prefer cost centers or separate out to individual schools?

FW moved to table until next mtg. VI. New Business: A. Special Education Parent Advisory; B. Administrator Evaluation; C. Student Performance. DE 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Update on Supt. Search

Search Cte very active, interviewing candidates, will bring finalists before School Cte. Considering how to bring candidates to community.

DE moved to present finalists to School Cte on April 2 if School Cte cannot meet March 26 (original timeline). WM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Academy of Early Learning

SH provided background: staff time designed as 4½ days a week with children, ½ day for home visits. Discussion: Home visits have not been happening. Last yr, staff ran only 4 days with children; this yr 4½ days with children. AEL staff requesting ½ day be designated for planning. Need clarification. **MC moved to table but to place first on next mtg's agenda. MB 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

VII. Adjournment

MB moved to adjourn. WM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary