

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES: Wednesday, May 14, 2014
GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA
Approved 06.11.2014**

Present: Margaret Betts (MB); Maryelen Calderwood (MC); Donna Gleason (DG); William Martin (WM) Francia Wisnewski (FW) (arrived 7:12). Student Representative Lily Richards. **Absent:** Daryl Essensa; John Lunt; Vicki Balis. **Also present:** Donna Woodcock, GHS Principal; Siobhan Fitzgerald, GHS Guidance Counselor, and Jessica Pollock, GHS Librarian, co-chairs of NEASC Accreditation Process for GHS; Susan Hollins, Superintendent (SH); Elizabeth Gilman (EG), GPS Business Administrator; school staff, citizens, and the press.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (MB, MC, DG, WM), Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m. Chris Shores of *Recorder* is audio-recording.

II. Approval of Minutes

DG moved to approve the minutes of April 9, April 15, April 29, and May 30, 2014. MC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Martin noted John Lunt's resignation, thanked him for his many years of dedicated service.

III. Public Comment

none

IV. Reports

A. Student Representative

Lily Richards reported on testing (AP, MCAS); fundraisers (Walk for Hunger, Minute Challenge, Taco Night); community service (replacing cemetery flags); looking ahead to prom and graduation.

DG moved to consider VI.A. next. MC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. New Business

A. High School Accreditation

Donna Woodcock, Siobhan Fitzgerald and Jessica Pollock reviewed accreditation progress and process of creating "Core Values, Beliefs, and Learning Expectations." **MB moved to accept "Core Values, Beliefs, and Learning Expectations." DG 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

B. Chairperson

Mayor Martin reported that contract discussions are underway with new supt. Likely School Cte meeting in late May to approve contract.

C. Superintendent

Superintendent Hollins reported on current work:

- busy time for personnel office
- preparing for new evaluation process, PD plans
- new policies re: service animals in school, fingerprinting
- enrollment
- grants
- summer programs
- 3 union contracts end in June (teachers; custodians; cafeteria workers)
- facilities (summer cleaning, packing/moving high school; 5 new classrooms)

SH presented memo of May 13 re: Tuition Prepayment FY14 Data.

SH noted priorities for new supt. to include 4 new comprehensive laws to be implemented July 1. Administrators requesting ½ day PD in August to review laws.

Concern re: dropout rate inflated by failing seniors from other schools asked leave that school and register in Greenfield. Discussion: Need for MOU with Boards of Trustees of other schools to discourage this practice? Request to SH for documentation.

Safety trainings completed in every school.

WM to send to School Cte members DESE document of new education laws; also DESE report (what supt. has to do by which date).

Request for fiscal impact of unemployment insurance.

WM noted negotiations with GEA continuing to progress, including long-term disability. JL chaired that subcte; request for School Cte member to take that role.

Discussion: Tuition Prepayment FY14 Data. Clarifying \$2.2-\$2.4 million cost. Vermont's system \$55K maximum, state pays rest. Previously paid from State Boards Account (ended 1998-99). Need to change guidelines for assignment to school district. WM: June mtg of Town Council to consider \$250K from stabilization to School Dept. to prepay special education tuition.

D. Subcommittees

1. MB reported on Collaborative for Educational Services:

6 months advance notice before leaving collaborative. Desire to involve new supt in decision. By-laws vote needed end of June. Move to June agenda.

2. Health, Safety, Security & Facilities Subcte.

MC moved to provide [school] nurses with training in administering and the usage of narcan kit, with all proper authorization, as soon as possible. FW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Policy, HR & Planning Subcte.

FW and SH presented draft fingerprinting policy. Discussion to continue in Policy Subcte and report at June School Cte mtg. WM provided first reading of Policy of Service Animals in School.

V. Old Business

A. Budget Report FY14

SH presented "Budget Status 2014-2014" (May 14 memo).

Request to SH for information on 2-year kindergarten program at Four Corners, to be sent to School Cte members.

Discussion of exceptions to birthday cutoff for enrollment in kindergarten. Policy Cte to review.

Discussion of 5/14 budget report, including principals, library, tutors; difference btwn. FY15 budget request, mayor's budget, and what Town Council will approve. Timing of state aid, choice payments. Carrying forward circuit breaker funds.

E. Greenfield Innovation Virtual School, Final Report

MC requested list of virtual school teachers with credentials (Mass. certification). SH will submit request.

EG distributed "Summary of GPS Virtual Innovation School Activity FY 2011-2013." \$816,687.70 Deficit Credit fully forgiven. Mayor requested EG to provide budget report to city. Final audit to be completed next month.

MC moved to table VI. B. School Facilities and Use Policy to June meeting. MB 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. New Business

C. School Choice

MB made a motion that for 2014-15 school year, GPS allocate zero new school-choice seats, and to allow siblings of current choice-in children to enroll and allow students currently enrolled in the district to stay as choice-in students if they move out of the district. MC 2nd. Motion passed 4-1 (Yes: MB, MC, WM, FW. No: DG).

Discussion: Desire to be "good neighbors" to area schools facing declining enrollment. Does revenue we receive offset our costs? Motion is not retroactive. Choice-in allows flexibility, can result in reduced class size. Any current choice-in students current can stay; grandfather in siblings. District has never accepted child if created need to increase staff. \$607K choice-in line item; approx. \$340K income gone w/out choice-in. Unusual situations could be appealed to School Cte.

D. Summer Programs

SH reported on planned summer programs: Century 21 at Federal St; Title I program for grades 1-2 readers at Newton; special ed PreK program at AEL; special ed at Middle School; autism program continues at Green River. No credit-recovery program this year at GHS.

VII. Adjournment

MC moved to adjourn. MB 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary