

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, October 8, 2014**
GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA
Approved 11.12.2014

Present: Margaret Betts (MB); Maryelen Calderwood (MC); Jeff Comenitz (JC); Donna Gleason (DG); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); William Martin (WM) (arrived 6:32); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Francia Wisnewski (FW) (arrived 7:19). Student representative Lily Richards.

Absent: none.

Also present: William Bazyk, Director of Student Services & Special Education; Richard Brook, Student Resource Officer; Tara Cloutier, GHS Spanish Teacher; Rob Curtin and John Roper, DESE; Elizabeth Gilman, GPS Business Manager; Melody Goodwin, Newton School principal; Lane Kelly, Greenfield Finance Director; Peter Smith, School Attorney; Rachel Stoler, Communities that Care Coalition; Mark Williams, Deputy Chief of Police, other school staff, citizens and the press.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (MB, MC, JC, DG, AN), Chair Calderwood called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

MB moved to accept minutes of Sept. 10, 2014. AN 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

None

MB made a motion to move Item V.B. Field Trip after student representative report. WM 2nd. Passed unanimously.

IV. Reports

A. Student Representative

Richards reported on activities at GHS.

V. B. GHS 2015 Field Trip Request

Tara Cloutier, GHS Spanish teacher, presented details of proposed class trip to Puerto Rico with Vamonos Tours over April vacation 2015. MB moved to authorize Tara Cloutier to go forward in planning the trip to Puerto Rico for April vacation 2015. Motion failed for lack of 2nd. **WM moved that School Committee authorize in concept the trip in April to Puerto Rico as legitimate field trip with the qualifications of 1 chaperone per 8 students and that the cost is shared equally. DG 2nd. Motion passed 5-1.**

B. Chair

MC reported on work with evaluations and settling into school year; weekly mtgs w/ Supt continue.

C. Superintendent

JH provided an overview of her report, including:

- Highlighted article on Newton School and teacher Cathy Clifton for exemplary teacher collaboration
- NEASC accreditation process at GHS
- Free & Reduced Lunch eligibility increasing: 64% students qualify
- MCAS parent reports sent this week

- New hires
- Teacher mentoring
- Transportation, including addition of bus 5, Math-Science Academy shuttle
- Safe Schools Task Force, School Resource Officer
- Continued construction at GHS, including effect on winter sports
- Central Office: seeking different location

Discussion:

- Clarification that AEL, Newton, Federal have community eligibility for universal free lunch (63.5% threshold); whole district does not qualify. All students have free breakfast.
- School buses: Whom do parents contact? Consistency of routes. Late bus.
- Staffing: Enough staff to support personnel, payroll? JH plans analysis of needs. Cf. other districts: GPS lacks human resources, curriculum, assistant supt., Title I director, ELL director, truant officer. Follow Budget Cte. process.

DG made a motion that IV. D. Subcommittee Reports be moved below V(C). JC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Business Topics

A. Life Skills

Rachel Stoler, Communities that Care Coalition, described SEL/substance-abuse prevention program, for 6-7-8 grades. Some Greenfield staff trained. Detailed curriculum, including pre/post-evaluation.

MB moved to amend agenda to allow for police officers to speak. WM 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

School Resource Officer

Richard Brook, School Resource Officer, described role, duties. Has access to student records.

Atty Smith clarified distinction in access between law enforcement and school employee. Recommends reviewing MOU between police dept and school district to clarify specific functions of School Resource Officer. JC, JL to review, send to Policy Cte to discuss with police dept.

C. District Review Report (DESE)

Rob Curtin explained report based on visit last December under different supt. Some issues may have changed since then. John Roper provided summary of District Review Report:

- Purpose of Report: support district improvement under 6 standards
- Process of gathering data (including interviews, observation of classes, focus groups)
- Findings and Recommendations: GPS is Level 2 district, so compliance with recommendations is voluntary.

Discussion:

- Support available to Level 2 districts
- Melody Goodwin, Newton School principal, described new initiative Walk to Read; differentiated instruction and support based on MAP, other data. Title I PD. Every 1st grade student make benchmark last year.
- Praise for staff capable of “pulling off magnificent improvements”
- Does Report reflect impact of community circumstances?
- Desire to separate data for GMS / Math-Science Academy

- Priority: what's good for children
- Steady increase in graduation rates 2006-2012
- Accountability based on student performance not teacher evaluation

D. Superintendent's Entry Plan

JH described purpose, input, process, and phases of her Entry Plan. Invitation to staff, parents, public: survey link on district website.

E. Superintendent's Self-Assessment

Self-Assessment within 4 standards. Supt goals on agenda for November mtg. What is deadline for submitting goals to state? Atty Smith will research.

F. Budget Report

Elizabeth Gilman, Business Manager, presented Supplemental Budget Request:

- Special Education Stabilization Account \$271,000
Discussion: DESE District Review Report recommends including full amount in regular budget. A stabilization account not part of budget; to access \$ requires 2/3 vote of Council. Currently using carryover from circuit breaker funds. Special Education stabilization accounts used by other districts. Other options for funding: School Choice, Special Education Tuition-In. Prior use of virtual school funds. City has other stabilization accounts (e.g., building). Special Ed out-of-district expenses difficult to predict; much is state required, not in district control. Unreliability of circuit breaker %. Request for Bazyk to bring details to Budget Subcte mtg. Revolving account not possible, by law. Special education budget \$2.2 – 2.4 million in recent years. Out-of-district placements for 30-40 children. 2007 crisis created by unanticipated student needs. State reimburses % of expense over \$41K. Preference to have Budget Subcte study, make recommendations.

MB moved to request Town Council to create Special Education Stabilization Account in the amount of \$250,000. MC 2nd. Motion passed 5-2 (Yes: AN, DG, MC, FW, MB; No: WM, JC).

- McKinney-Vento \$112,601
School Cte has already voted to create MOU between city and school district. Mayor and Supt. to discuss.
- One-Time Costs associated with new high school \$22,600
Gilman to forward cost details to Mayor and School Cte.
- PARCC technology costs
JH reviewed memo from Carol Holzberg, Technology Coordinator, "Cost Considerations for Implementation of PARCC Testing in Spring 2015." Cost of headphones, privacy carrels to implement on-line test at one grade level.

D. Subcommittees

1. Health & Safety

no report

2. Negotiations

DG reported on 2nd negotiation mtg with custodians. Discussion to continue.

3. Budget

DG reported that Subcte reviewed 2015-16 draft timeline from EG. Budget to come before School Cte. in Jan.

4. Policy

FW reported on Subcte's work including:

- Student Absence Policy
- Community Use of Facilities – comparing other districts, likely coming November agenda.
- Police Officers
- Consensus to include Learning Standards from NEASC on Report Cards.
- Obsolete policies (procedures for families) being reviewed.

VI. Executive Session

MB made a motion to go into executive session for purposes of collective bargaining for non-union personnel. FW 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes: MB, MC, JC, DG, WM, AN, FW. Motion passed unanimously. Moved into executive session at 10:38 p.m.

MB moved to return to public session. 2nd WM. Yes: MB, MC, JC, DG, WM, AN, FW. Motion passed unanimously. Public session resumed at 10:58 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

MB moved to adjourn. 2nd AN. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary