

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES: Wednesday, March 11, 2015**
GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA
Approved 04.08.15

Present: Margaret Betts (MB); Maryelen Calderwood (MC); Jeff Comenitz (JC); Donna Gleason (DG); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); William Martin (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Francina Wisnewski (FW).

Also present: William Bazyk, Director of Student Services and Special Education; Andy Paquette, Management Solutions; Peter Smith, School Attorney; Safe Schools, Safe Streets team (Maureen Donovan, SS/SS coordinator, Kendra Kuhn, GHS nurse, Siobhan Fitzgerald, SS/SS project director, GHS guidance counselor, Marisa Hebble, Opioid Task Force); other school staff, parents, citizens and the press.

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present (MB, MC, JC, DG, WM, AN, FW), Chair Calderwood called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

FW made a motion to move the Chairperson's Report next on the agenda. AN 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson's Report

MC explained that the ad hoc subcommittee on elementary grades reconfiguration unintentionally violated open mtg law on March 9. MC has self-reported violation to AG office. New "do over" mtg to be scheduled.

FW made a motion to rescind all actions taken at the 3/9/2015 mtg of the ad hoc cte on elementary grades reconfiguration. DG 2nd. Ad hoc chair Betts presented formal apology. **Motion passed 6-0-1 (WM abstain).** MC announced special school cte mtg to discuss March 25.

MC explained need for emergency meeting Feb. 24 re: ELT at Math & Science Academy, GMS.

II. Approval of Draft Minutes

WM moved to approve the minutes of February 11 and February 24, 2015. DG 2nd. Motion passed 6-0-1 (FW abstain).

III. Public Comment

Speaking in support of keeping 4th grade at GMS:

Maria Scotera, GMS teacher and parent

Karen Murphy-Davis, GMS teacher (statement read by Scotera)

Diana Hastings, GMS grade teacher

Jennifer Perreault, parent, spoke to need for improved communication to overcome "fear" of 4th grade transition.

IV. Reports

A. Superintendent

JH reported:

- Thanked community for involvement in proposed 4th grade reconfiguration. Summarized results of 400+ survey responses.
- Clarified that DESE has not found district in non-compliance re: ELT grant. Site visits, evaluation to continue. No changes to school schedules.

- School Business Manager: interviews scheduled for next week. Introduced Management Solutions on-site consultant Andy Paquette.
- Retirement in April: Bernie Novak, food services manager
- Building update: several roof leaks
- Recent/upcoming events in schools

B. Subcommittees

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Elementary School Reconfiguration

MB reported on information-gathering meetings with 4th grade teachers, principals, parents. Two additional subcte. mtgs scheduled and special School Cte mtg.

MB moved to eliminate Grade 4 Configuration from Business Topics agenda. JC 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Policy

FW reported on continued work on Community Use of School Facilities Policy (KF, KF-R) and KG-RC2 (fees). First reading at next School Cte mtg. Presented new form for use of school facilities; 3 fee scales.

3. Health & Safety

AN shared packet of materials for members to review, summarized recent work:

- Composting grant proposal not successful; reapplying this year.
- Discussion of SBIRT health screening with Safe Schools, Safe Streets team. Subcte recommends screening.
- Student health mtg well attended by school nurses, parents, community members. Regional health data. Discussion, research continues on community nursing program.

Next mtg April 13: Farm to School with Just Roots.

V. Business Topics

A. SBIRT (Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment)

Discussion with Safe Schools, Safe Streets team members: Maureen Donovan, SS/SS coordinator; Kendra Kuhn, GHS nurse; Siobhan Fitzgerald, SS/SS project director, GHS guidance counselor; Marisa Hebble, Opioid Task Force.

Begin in 9th grade. 3-step process: 6-question routine screening; intervention at school level; referral to treatment. Parents can opt-out their children. Staff already trained. Goal: begin screening Sept. 2015. Community and financial support for children at risk. Forward-thinking, proactive approach. Need to keep data secure. Need for credentialed person to refer? Costs (e.g., substitute nurse) likely supported by grant.

AN made a motion to grant permission for SBIRT (Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment) screenings to begin to be implemented in the High School Health Screening Program in the 2015-2016 school year. DG 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

JC moved to table V.C. , Presentation by Jeff Comenitz to April 11 mtg. FW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

B. MASC Self Evaluation

WM moved to withdraw the agenda item completely for the year. FW 2nd. Motion passed 6-0-1 (JC abstain).

C. FY2016 Budget

JH led presentation of preliminary FY16 budget, including educational and budget priorities; enrollment data; current initiatives; changes in state, federal funding; cuts and increased costs. Presentation included Andy Paquette, Management Solutions on-site consultant.

Budget Priorities:

- student safety & security
- curriculum alignment & instruction
- educator development & recruitment
- integrated arts

Refer members' questions to subcte. Vote at April mtg.

VI. Executive Session

DG made a motion to go into executive session for purposes of litigation.

AN 2nd. Roll call vote: Yes: MB, MC, JC, DG, WM, AN, FW. Motion passed unanimously. Moved into executive session at 9:35 p.m.

MB moved to return to public session. 2nd FW. Yes: MB, MC, JC, DG, WM, AN, FW. Motion passed unanimously. Public session resumed at 10:52 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

MB moved to adjourn. 2nd AN. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary