

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING**  
**MINUTES: Wednesday, March 25, 2015**  
Greenfield Town Hall, 14 Court Square, 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); Francia Wisnewski (FW). **Absent:** None.

**Also present:** Heather Evans, principal, Math & Science Academy; Maria Scotera, GMS teacher; Suzanne Schropfer, GMS teacher; Gary Tashjian, principal, GMS; other school staff, citizens and the press.

### **I. Call to Order**

With a quorum present (MB, MC, JC, DG, WM, AN), Chair Calderwood called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. She noted the passing of John Merrigan, former Greenfield teacher and School Committee member.

FW moved to amend the agenda to include Public Comment. MB 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

### **II. Public Comment**

Maria Scotera, GMS music teacher and parent, and Suzanne Schropfer, GMS 4th grade teacher, spoke in favor of 4th grade remaining on the elementary floor at GMS.

Melody Goodwin, Newton School principal, shared concerns from parents and teachers of the plan to continue Newton as K-3 school.

Jennifer Perreault, parent, spoke of her positive experience with 4th grade at GMS and desire to keep all elementary school configurations consistent.

### **II. Elementary Configuration**

**MB moved that the School Cte adopt Scenario 2 of the Superintendent's two outcome suggestions. That scenario moves 4th grade back to Four Corners and Federal Street, continues 4th grade enrollment for the Math-Science Academy, and moves Newton's 4th grade to the middle school because of current building limitations. JC 2nd.**

Discussion:

- MB explained that Scenario 2 was choice of ad hoc cte, before knowing building limitations at Newton. Additional requests:
  - Supt to request town to make improvements to Newton School
  - Support Supt in meeting parents' placement requests for their 4th graders
  - Create long-term planning subcte to study district configuration as a whole, including K-5 model, moving of Math-Science Academy to GMS, central office moving to GMS building.

- Gratitude to ad hoc cte, teachers, community
- Concern for Newton School, possibility of roof repair, modulares replaced by Sept.?
- Desire to have same grade configuration at all schools
- Financial implications of options (WM: both revenue-neutral)
- Desire to honor parents' wishes (survey)
- Moving central office to GMS building (\$100K savings)
- Effect on choice-in student capacity/income
- Survey results, including strong support for K-5
- Developmental readiness, MCAS scores of 4th graders
- Academic, arts, social-emotional learning
- Desire for stronger curriculum coordination
- Bussing
- Can all 4th graders stay at elementary schools? No – can't guarantee Newton repairs; some must go to Math & Science Academy, not enough room in elementary schools.
- ELT grant

WM offered friendly amendment, accepted. Amended motion:

**MB moved that the School Cte adopt Scenario 2 of the Superintendent's two outcome suggestions. That scenario moves 4th grade back to Four Corners and Federal Street, continues 4th grade enrollment for the Math-Science Academy, and moves Newton's 4th grade to the middle school only in the event that no classrooms are available at Newton.**

MB called the question. WM 2nd. Motion to end debate passed unanimously.

**Roll call vote: Yes: DG, JC, WM, MB. No: FW, MC, AN. Motion passed 4-3.**

### **III. Adjournment**

MB moved to adjourn. 2nd DG. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Farber  
Recording Secretary