

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, May 15, 2015**

GCTV Studios, 393 Main Street, Greenfield MA
(Approved 09.09.15)

Present: Margaret Betts (arrived 6:40) (MB); Maryelen Calderwood (MC); Jeff Comenitz (JC); Donna Gleason (DG); Jordana Harper, Superintendent (JH); William Martin (arrived) (WM); Adrienne Nunez (AN); Francia Wisnewski (FW). **Absent:** none

Also present: Willam Bazyk, Director of Student Services and Special Education; Heather Evans, M&S principal; Melody Goodwin, Newton principal; Andy Paquette, Management Solutions; Peter Smith, School Attorney; Gary Tashjian, GMS principal; other school staff, parents, citizens and the press.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Draft Minutes

AN moved to approve minutes of April 8, 2015. FW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Maria Burge, Youth Commission Chair, requested description of process for public to be heard on issues.

V. Reports

A. Chairperson

MC reported:

- Opportunities for public comment, need for updated facilities policy
- First-grade graduation held today at GCC. Congratulations to high school graduates.
- Initial interviews for assistant supt. continuing.

B. Superintendent

JH reported:

- Federal Street graduation at GCC (Walk to College)
- US News & World Report named GHS in top 50 Massachusetts high schools
- All summer school programs (except AEL) to be held at Four Corners due to construction at other sites; July 6-30
- Assistant Supt. for Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development: attracting excellent candidates, currently checking references.
- Food Service Director position close to being filled
- Registration strong; AEL has waitlist.
- Refining emergency preparedness with police/fire
- GPS website being updated
- District is going Google; transition May 26-28

D. Subcommittees

1. Health & Safety

AN, as School Cte representative to NEASC accreditation process, reported that GHS self-study in final stages. Presentation to NEASC in Dec. GHS vote to adopt final report in May.

Health & Safety Subcte:

- Farm to School initiative. Just Roots runs Snack Market at Four Corners. Just Roots/GPS applying for \$100K+ grant money to expand Farm to School throughout district.
- Met with Alan Schmidt, facilities manager, reviewed pest management practices. Request to Policy Subcte take up pest management policy, last revised in 2005.

2. Policy

FW reported delay in first reading of use of facilities policy, pending review by school attorney. Subcte in agreement on fee schedule.

Discussion: Public comments invited. Policy is not new: current process is to update. Concern that current policy not always followed. Non-school users need insurance; town should not be liable. Concern about public comment 3-minute limit.

3. Negotiations

DG reported that negotiations with secretaries are complete. Agreement with custodians is close.

4. GHS School Building

DG reported for School Building Cte. Excellent progress, some projects ahead of schedule, good coordination among work teams.

V. Business Topics

A. Presentation by Jeff Comenitz

JC showed data analysis tools available on Mass. DESE website. DART (District Analysis, Review & Assistance Tools) on English Language Learners; Success After High School; Staffing & Finance.

MB made a motion to move ELT Grant Re-application next. FW 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

D. ELT Grant Re-application

MB moved to authorize and endorse district's FY16 application for the ELT grant. FW 2nd.

Application due June 5. Reapplication for Newton, GMS (including M&S Academy)

Discussion: Support for families' needs, arts. Collective bargaining: new MOU needed for 2015-2016. Current review by DESE of ELT program. Expenses: transportation, fringe benefits. Desire for grant overview, report to Cte on grant, results. Newton: moved from Level 4 to Level 1-2 with ELT.

MB called question. DG. 2nd. Motion to end debate passed 6-1. **Motion passed 6-1** (no: WM).

FW made a motion that if ELT grant is approved by DESE, the School Cte will have the opportunity to either accept or reject the grant. JC 2nd.

MB called the question. MB. AN 2nd. Motion to end debate passed unanimously. **Motion failed 1-5-1.**

B. Kuzmeskus Bus Contract Amendment

JH explained amendment's purpose to recoup costs when fuel costs dropped below our original contract.

MB moved that the School Committee authorize the Amendment to Contract for Transportation Services dated April 1, 2014 with F.M. Kuzmeskus, Inc. DG 2nd.

Motion passed unanimously.

C. Approval of 2015-2016 School Year Calendar

MB moved to adopt draft 2015-2016 Calendar with removal of the line that starts with ‘Early Release Times.’ FW 2nd. FW called question. DG 2nd. Motion to end debate passed unanimously. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Central Office Relocation

MC reviewed options. TD Bank building no longer available. Architect studied feasibility of GMS. Concerns: security, parking. Move to GMS would not be temporary. Conflicts with suggestion to bring Math & Science Academy back to GMS.

MB to fully explore feasibility to move central school offices to GMS. JC 2nd. Town Council supports. Motion passed unanimously.

F. School Choice

Discussion: District must report available seats to DESE by June 1. If no seats available, we would not accept siblings of current choice-in students. No choice-in child accepted if triggers additional classroom. Practice for handling intra-district requests.

MB moved that the School Choice Available Seats 2015-2016 School Year Projected table be accepted as presented. AN 2nd.

Grade	Federal	Four Corners	Newton	MSA	GMS	GHS	
K	2	0	0				
1	0	2	6				
2	2	3	4				
3	0	4	0				
4		0	0	2	0		
5				2	8		
6				1	5		
7					8		
8						5	
9						5	
10						5	
11						5	
12						5	
TOTAL	4	9	10	5	21	25	74

Motion passed unanimously.

I. Executive Session

MB made a motion to go into executive session for purposes of potential litigation of non-union personnel. AN 2nd. Roll call: Yes: MB, MC, JC, DG, WM, AN, FW. Moved into executive session at 10:05 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 10:36 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

WM moved to adjourn. 2nd DG . Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Farber
Recording Secretary