



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

School Committee Open Session Minutes

Date: July 9th, 2020

Start: 6:03 PM

Adjourn: 8:27 PM

Location:

Remote via Zoom

*Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, the public will not be allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting.

In Attendance:

Committee Members:	Also Present:
C. Conry, Chair J. Art R. DiLego C. Greene S. Miller A. Terranova A. Carter <u>Absent:</u>	Andrea Wadsworth, Former Acting Superintendent Joe Bergeron, Business Administrator Robert Putnam, New Interim Superintendent

Item	Comments	Motion	Second	Vote
I. Call to Order	Meeting called to order by C. Conry at (>) PM			
II. Mission	Mission: At Mount Greylock Regional School District, our mission is to create a community of learners working together in a safe and challenging learning environment that encourages restorative based processes, respect, inclusive diversity, courtesy, integrity and responsibility through high expectations and cooperation resulting in life-long learning and personal growth.			
III. Public Comment	<p>The community was allowed up to three minutes for public comment via Zoom.</p> <p>Comment #1 - from Amie Hane of Williamstown. Amie spoke of concerns about reopening our schools for in-person learning, health measures, and special education students.</p> <p>Comment #2 - from Amy Perry Mercier of Lanesborough. Amy shared thoughts on special education students and their continued inclusion in reopening plans and to safely provide education to all children.</p>			



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	<p>Comment #3 - from Stephen Narey of Williamstown. Stephen wanted to speak on special education and some misinformation that has been shared.</p> <p>Comment #4 - from Matthew Hane of Williamstown. He spoke on point 8C regarding safe return of students to our schools.</p> <p>Comment #5 - from Luana Maroja of Williamstown, read by C. Conry. Luana wrote to urge the School Committee to please follow the Massachusetts recommendations on reopening schools.</p> <p>Comment #6 - from Derel and Kelly Paul of Williamstown, read by C. Conry. The Kellys wrote to encourage full, in-person learning to resume in the fall.</p> <p>Comment #7 - from Robert Mathews of Williamstown, read by C. Conry. Robert encouraged the district to adapt to a HyFlex model of remote and in-person learning.</p> <p>Comment #8 - from Julia Bowen of Williamstown. Julia urged that health and safety be paramount in discussions of reopening.</p>			
<p>VIII. Subcommittee / Liaison Reports - 1/2</p>	<p>C. Conry exercised her right as Chair to take agenda items out of order to move up item VIII. C. on the proposed agenda.</p> <p>C. Education</p> <p>1. Letter from Parent Advisory Council (PAC) - C. Conry read the PAC letter to the School Committee and invited discussion. C. Greene stated that our special education communities’ needs will be met, but it’s not part of the School Committee conversation. R. DiLego reiterated C. Greene’s comments. S. Miller encouraged community input to the School Committee and corrected a misquoted statement of his. A. Carter agreed with C. Greene and R. DiLego and explained the topic at hand wasn’t discussed by the School Committee. J. Art seconded A. Carter’s comment and thanked the community for their involvement. He spoke of the rapidly changing science of the virus. A. Terranova noted that what matters is the final decision.</p>			
<p>IV. Approval of Minutes (VOTE)</p>	<p>Submitted in the meeting packet for review and approval by the School Committee are meeting minutes from June 11, 2020.</p> <p>MOTION to approve minutes by S. Miller seconded by A. Terranova.</p> <p>C. Greene noted a few misspellings as well as an inaccurate statement, which</p>	<p>Miller</p>	<p>Terranova</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>



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	would be addressed and corrected after the vote to approve.			
V. Chair Report	<p>A. Update on School Committee elections for November - C. Conry advised the community how to run for the MGRSD School Committee, which has available positions for the election. The deadline to submit everything is Tuesday, July 21st at 5:00 PM. C. Greene asked about suggestions on getting signatures with social distancing in place. The signatures cannot be electronic. Stephen Dravis wondered via message if candidates can get signatures from both towns, which is allowed, but they must be certified in the town of origin. A. Terranova thought the number of 45 signatures may be incorrect and advised double-checking with the town clerks what the correct number is.</p> <p>B. Update - Interim Superintendent - Welcome Dr. Robert Putnam - Dr. Putnam is contracted for a short period of time for the MGRSD. He's worked in neighboring districts, and is ready and willing to work diligently in order to open schools.</p> <p>C. Welcome - Business Administrator - Welcome Joe Bergeron - Joe was a former Chair of the MGRSD School Committee and is returning to the district with his new position as Business Administrator.</p>			
	<p>D. Resolution - COVID-19 state funding - C. Conry summarized the Resolution presented by the state. S. Miller supported the letter.</p> <p>MOTION to approve the Resolution letter with signatures by S. Miller, seconded by C. Greene</p>	Miller	Greene	7-0-0
	<p>E. MASC President Elect nomination - A. Wadsworth asked for an endorsement for a nomination for the MASC President Elect. No one was nominated or put forth papers this year, so there is an open seat. The delegation can vote from the assembly floor, but one needs the endorsement of at least 5 school committees.</p> <p>MOTION to endorse Andrea Wadsworth for MASC President Elect by A. Terranova, seconded by J. Art</p>	Terranova	Art	7-0-0
VI. Principal Updates	<p>A. Lanesborough Elementary - Principal Nolan Pratt stated that rooms are ready for in-person learning in the fall. Safety measures were addressed for the fall. Mr. Pratt also commented on the multiple non-Kindergarten registrations that have come in. R. DiLego</p>			



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	<p>asked how Kindergarten was looking. N. Pratt noted an increase too in the Kindergarten numbers, perhaps attributed to students from private or catholic schools enrolling.</p> <p>B. Mt. Greylock Region School - Principal Jake Schutz spoke of a book study initiative related to diversity. He updated the committee on how hiring is going with some positions still needing to be filled. Mr. Schutz announced Colin Shebar as the new Assistant Principal for Mt. Greylock. J. Schutz spoke also about the work happening in the building as well as preparations being made.</p> <p>C. Williamstown Elementary School - Kristen Thompson, new Principal at the Williamstown Elementary School, spoke about her first few days in the district and how she was becoming acclimated as well as the preparations being made over the summer for the upcoming school year.</p>			
<p>VII. Superintendent Updates (VOTE)</p>	<p>A. FY 21 Staffing</p> <p>1. Personnel Report - Dr. Putnam addressed the Personnel Report and asked if there were any questions before moving on.</p>			
	<p>2. Independent contracts (VOTE) - A. Wadsworth jumped in and explained what the contracts are. R. DiLego wasn't familiar with some of these new contracts. A. Wadsworth explained them in a little more detail and the HR changes to the contracts. C. Greene had questions about the numbers and A. Wadsworth said they were in line with the union contracts.</p> <p>MOTION to accept the independent contracts presented as written by J. Art, seconded by S. Miller</p>	<p>Art</p>	<p>Miller</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>
	<p>3. Remote Learning Coordinator (VOTE) - A. Wadsworth asked this be tabled and pulled completely. Dr. Putnam clarified that there may be updates to the position and job description.</p> <p>MOTION to table the Remote Learning Coordinator position by R. DiLego, seconded by C. Greene.</p>	<p>DiLego</p>	<p>Greene</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>
	<p>4. Records Access Officer assignment (VOTE) - The district asked that Jonathan Nopper be assigned as the FY 21 Access Officer. R. DiLego wondered why this is</p>	<p>Greene</p>	<p>Miller</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>



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	<p>no longer being handled by the Administrative Assistant. A. Wadsworth said she and Jonathan met and agreed this would be beneficial for the time being. A. Terranova asked if there was a salary adjustment for the position, which there is not.</p> <p>MOTION to assign Records Access Officer to Jonathan Nopper by C. Greene, seconded by S. Miller</p>											
	<p>B. COVID-19</p> <p>1. Summer Guidance - Patrick Priester report - Mr. Priester gave updates on the summer program including set-up, requirements, staffing, and what was offered.</p> <p>2. Re-opening Roadmap - Dr. Putnam report - Dr. Putnam shared a presentation explaining where the district is at in regards to re-opening. Some topics addressed were a safety and health concerns first approach, three different plans of learning, cleaning of facilities, and next steps. C. Greene asked if plans would be uniform for all three schools. Dr. Putnam says all the state is aiming for currently is in-person learning plans, but if not, to aim for a hybrid model.</p> <p>3. Required Safety Supplies for Re-opening - Tim Sears report - due to technical difficulties, J. Bergeron took the reins and spoke on PPE, modifications to the facilities, and ordering supplies.</p>											
<p>VIII. Subcommittee / Liaison Reports (VOTE)</p>	<p>A. Finance -</p> <p>1. Warrant report - Accounts Payable/Payroll - J. Art spoke about reviewing the warrants but there was nothing out of the ordinary.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="430 1312 1524 1711"> <tr> <td data-bbox="430 1312 963 1711"> <p>2. Restructure of Subcommittee (VOTE) - after a fellow member has asked to step off of the subcommittee, so the School Committee was asking for a nomination for A. Terranova to take the spot.</p> <p>MOTION to accept to nominate Al Terranova to the Finance Subcommittee by S. Miller, seconded by J. Art</p> </td> <td data-bbox="963 1312 1206 1711"> <p>Miller</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1206 1312 1385 1711"> <p>Art</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1385 1312 1524 1711"> <p>7-0-0</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p>3. ESSER Grant - adoption (VOTE) - A. Wadsworth spoke of the grant related to the CARES act with money for the district totalling \$116,000.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="430 1711 1524 1848"> <tr> <td data-bbox="430 1711 963 1848"></td> <td data-bbox="963 1711 1206 1848"> <p>Art</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1206 1711 1385 1848"> <p>DiLego</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1385 1711 1524 1848"> <p>7-0-0</p> </td> </tr> </table>				<p>2. Restructure of Subcommittee (VOTE) - after a fellow member has asked to step off of the subcommittee, so the School Committee was asking for a nomination for A. Terranova to take the spot.</p> <p>MOTION to accept to nominate Al Terranova to the Finance Subcommittee by S. Miller, seconded by J. Art</p>	<p>Miller</p>	<p>Art</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>		<p>Art</p>	<p>DiLego</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>
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	<p>MOTION to accept and endorse MGRSD’s participation in the ESSER Grant by J. Art, seconded by R. DiLego</p>			
	<p>4. Annual borrowing vote (VOTE) - J. Art presented the annual vote to the committee.</p> <p>MOTION to hereby authorize the District Treasurer, under the provisions of general laws Chapter 71, Section 16(g), as amended by Chapter 134 of the Acts of 1972, and with the approval of the Chair of the District Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2020, and issue a note or notes therefore payable within one year, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year, in accordance with general laws Chapter 34, section 17 by J. Art, seconded by A. Terranova</p>	Art	Terranova	7-0-0
	<p>B. Policy -</p> <p>1. Remote Learning - SECOND READ (VOTE) -</p> <p>MOTION to accept the Remote Learning Policy, second read by C. Greene, seconded by J. Art</p>	Greene	Art	7-0-0
	<p>1.1 Remote Learning Addendum - SECOND READ (VOTE) -</p> <p>MOTION to accept the Remote Learning Policy Addendum, second read by C. Greene, seconded by J. Art</p>	Greene	Art	7-0-0
	<p>2. Remote Public Comment - FIRST READ - C. Greene read the BEDH-R Guidelines for Remote Meeting Public Comment, available in the Packet. Items 8 and 9 were discussed at length by the committee.</p>			
	<p>3. Anti-discrimination / Anti-harassment policy - FIRST READ - The lengthy policy is available for</p>	Miller	Art	7-0-0



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	<p>perusal in the Packet. C. Greene had a concern about the amount of responsibility falling on the district for investigations, and counsel stated that the option of hiring out for a conflict of interest is always available and recommended. J. Art spoke of the new Title IX guidelines and the foreseen lack of discretion now at play. C. Greene wanted to follow up with counsel to see if there was any feedback about this.</p> <p>MOTION to accept the First Read of the Anti-discrimination / Anti-harassment policy as written, with the understanding that members read the policy in its entirety, by S. Miller, seconded by J. Art</p>			
<p>IX. Upcoming Meetings</p>	<p>A. Education Subcommittee - July 14th - the meeting time was set for 2:30 PM.</p>			
	<p>B. Finance Subcommittee - July 16 - the meeting time was set for 11:00 AM.</p>			
<p>X. Other business not anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of meeting</p>	<p>There was a discussion if there would be a meeting on July 23, but it was revealed to just be a potential placeholder. The School Committee decided to hold a Special Session meeting for District planning updates on July 30, 2020, at 6:00 PM.</p>			
<p>XI. Executive Session</p>	<p>MOTION to move into Executive Session with no intent to return to open session per MGL Chapter 30A Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation as an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the District and the Chair so declares by R. DiLego, seconded by C. Greene</p> <p>The committee moved to Executive Session at 8:27 PM.</p>	<p>DiLego</p>	<p>Greene</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>

Respectfully Submitted,
 Eli Phillips
 Mount Greylock Minutes Recorder