



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

School Committee Education Sub-Committee Minutes

Date: July 23, 2020

Start: 3:02 PM

Adjourn: 4:13 PM

Location:

Zoom

In Attendance:

Committee Members:	Also Present:
Steve Miller, Chair Christina Conry, Vice Chair Ali Carter, Secretary	Robert Putnam, Interim Superintendent Jake Schutz, MGRHS Principal Colin Shebar, MGRHS Assistant Principal Nolan Pratt, LES Principal Kristen Thompson, WES Principal Joelle Brookner, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Patrick Priester, Acting Director of Pupil Services Amie Hane Anna Mello Anne Sulzmann Jude Higdon-Topaz Luana Maroja Marty Walter Mary MacDonald Matthew Hane Maureen Andersen Rob Mathews Sharon Thompson Stephen Dravis Susan Langman

Item	Comments	Motion	Second	Vote
Call to order	Meeting called to order by Steve at 3:02 PM Superintendent search: Emailed community re: submitting interview questions; getting wonderful questions from our wonderful and heartfelt community. Still time to email questions to Christina.			
Public comment	None			



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Approval of minutes	July 14 meeting	Conry	Carter	3-0-0
Reports from working groups	<p><u>Technology</u> Mary and Rob Putnam: Making Chromebooks w/ sturdy case available for all students. Making use of hotspots. Used Kajeets in spring, looking for something with better access for fall. Going to Canvas for fall. Pat Blackman has offered training for all 7-12 teachers throughout the year. Collaborative push where teachers can support each other.</p> <p><u>Parents Advisory Group</u> Rob Mathews: Suggesting Hyflex model. Goal to reduce Covid risk. Guiding principle that regardless of which of three models is used, students, staff, and faculty can be accommodated. May be required to go remote at any given moment on any day.</p> <p><u>Facilities</u> Rob P: Conducting feasibility study with administrative team to determine whether we can get all students back in the buildings. Feasibility study has to be submitted on July 31. We have the room at both elementary schools to bring all students back to the classroom with 6’ distance from centers of desks. Comfortable fitting 16 students in each classroom in the elementary schools. LES class sizes largely under 16. Fire department has confirmed necessary access to egress. Photos of classroom setups shared. Maps for every option. A few classes need modification – at LES, 17-18 students in 4th grade classes; at WES, 5th grade at 17, 6th grade at 19-20-20. Might need to add a fourth 6th grade class at WES to maintain distancing. Challenges at MG are different.</p> <p>Jake: More doable for middle school based on schedule and cohort model. Movement of HS students would severely restrict ability to fit everyone in. Can fit about 16 in a class but hard to distance when they move around. Will be difficult to fit all students back into building. Instructional group has not made a recommendation yet. Meeting tomorrow to consolidate thoughts.</p> <p>Rob P: Shared ‘Considerations for Working Groups’ Google Doc. Contains procedural considerations; groups can address questions, insert recommendations and observations in one place. Based on concept that reopening is a balance of information. Models take account of best available information.</p> <p><u>Website</u> Reopening information on district website (https://www.wlschools.org/page.cfm?p=1167). Includes MA state guidance, including new guidance on transportation and facilities from 7/23. Includes studies sent by Amie. Reopening group reports will be available here. Should be up and running tomorrow.</p>			



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Discussion of back to school plans

6' vs 3' of social distancing in classrooms

Dr. Luana Maroja, parent and Williams College biology professor, gave an overview of the back-to-school literature

Luana: Top priority is health and safety of students and teachers. Recommends back to school in person with masks and as much distance as possible. Risk is low. Low infection rate in our community plus a compliant community. Kids have lower risk of infection and transmission, esp elementary ages. Masks and distance decrease risk significantly. Data from world show that with 1 meter distance no outbreaks reported (sometimes with no masks). Costs of online learning outweigh benefits. Study showed setback from remote learning of 7-11 mo., with greater impact on minorities and students at risk. Hybrid system will increase social bubbles of children as parents hire tutors and nannies; could lead to increased infection rates.

Kristen: While possible to get all students into schools, still need to consider staffing, delivery of instruction to those with higher needs.

Amie: Challenges around hybrid model and learning coaches. A good portion of our students go home to college professors. Equity issues in learning coach idea. New York undertested children; children in FL make up 30% of positive cases. Rate of transmission on par with adult rates. Would like to see us use outdoor learning spaces as much as possible. Not comfortable with science on transmissibility and that it has been adequately monitored in pediatric population.

Luana: Latest study on household transmission rate shows that kids under 10 don't even transit to their parents. Kids 10-19 do in household, but not outside household - so wouldn't be heavy transmitters in schools.

Parent Survey Results

High response rate of 84-92% per school. 7-10% would not send their children back.

Amie asked for clarification around learning coach question, need a plan for students with high needs that is not dependent on others choosing to stay home. Rob: Students who need to be in school will be in school regardless of how someone answered this item. Joelle: Also wanted to get a sense of whether the Hyflex model depended on some choosing to stay home. Steve: Just trying to get a sense of the numbers and where people are at as we design plans for fall.

Rob: Met with town offices, including on busing and contact tracing. Meeting with police next week; considering entry at multiple doors in each building so getting recs on school security.

Steve: Trying to design something that works for all students.

Business not anticipated

None



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Upcoming Meetings	<p>July 28 at 12pm and 7:30pm: Fireside chat for parents with superintendent. July 29, 6pm: SC meeting to present feasibility study and thinking on models Week of August 3: Edu subcommittee mtg Detailed plans due to the state on August 10 SC will need to vote on the plan</p> <p>Steve: Wonderful that we live in a community where we can have these difficult discussions. Please reach out with additional questions and comments.</p>			
Adjourn	MOTION to adjourn at 4:13 PM	Conry	Carter	3-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,
 Alison Carter
 Education Sub-Committee Secretary

Approved 8.4.20