

Mount Greylock Regional School District School Committee

Location: Remote Zoom Meeting

Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Time: 6:00 pm

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

Committee Members: Jamie Art, Ali Carter, Christina Conry, Regina DiLego, Carrie Greene, Steve Miller, Al Terranova

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:02
- II. Public Comment -- none
- III. Superintendent Presentation of Reopening Plans
  - a. Dr. Rob Putnam presents preliminary opening plan, step one of a two-step process overview:
    - i. Recommended looking at reopening with a balanced view of risk, including risks from COVID-19, and other risks, including food insecurity, loss of learning, loss of essential services, and reduced detection of abuse and neglect, and social & emotional impact. Balancing risks from bringing students into school with risks of not bringing students into school.
    - ii. Described reopening teams: wellness, instruction, parent/community, facilities, technology, extra & co-curricular, operations, and governance.
    - iii. Described concerns raised by some teachers, who have expressed preference for starting with remote structure. He will be working with MGEA, and expects will need to set timetable with benchmarks to allay concerns.
    - iv. Feasibility study findings:
      1. Square footage to accommodate students w/ social distancing exists
      2. Family survey shows willingness to send students
      3. Transportation is a challenge
    - v. District leaning to hybrid for k-6 & 7-9, needs committee guidance for 10-12;
    - vi. Discussion of in-person, hybrid, and remote models;
    - vii. Supporting high needs students – ensuring all students receive instruction consistent with needs;
  - b. Review and Discussion of Preliminary School Reopening Plans, starting with key findings:
    - i. Parental willingness to send students to schools,
    - ii. Transportation is a challenge given bus occupancy limits;
    - iii. Administration recommends reopening with hybrid model;
    - iv. School Committee discussion:
      1. Steve Miller, appreciates hard work that has been done, and the space allows for 6' distancing, asks about benchmarks for returning to full in-person

2. Superintendent recommends developing and setting benchmarks:
  - a. Behavioral compliance with protective measures;
  - b. Incidence of COVID+ prevalence (##/100,000);
  - c. Local assessment of academic performance;
  - d. Need agreed upon criteria for reopening.
  - e. Wellness group diving into safety of transportation
  - f. Perhaps 1 meeting a month of the school committee could be used to monitor the progress on a regular basis, will take some time
  - g. On closure, local schools trying to develop consistent protocols for all towns in
3. Ali Carter: need to be really clear about reasons for not fully reopening now; may help in the identification of criteria;
4. Also question of 1-2-2 hybrid model; the one-day would be a remote instruction/learning day, not a 3-day weekend; on the other days, the details of remote participation have not been worked out.
5. E. Kaatz: trying to keep cohort or pod together, works best, and is more manageable at elementary school;
6. At 10-12 – curtailment of lab sciences, arts, and physical education, may be a requirement to lead to the smaller cohort groupings for hybrid & in-person models; program of study may not be as broad; remote may offer more breadth;
7. Phys. Ed will be modified to different activities; recess by class.
8. Summary of Three Reopening Models
  - a. In-person model not feasible as schools transition to new paradigm and requirements;
  - b. Hybrid – consistent cohorts in school, alternating with remote learning days.
  - c. Hybrid & remote need to be bargained
  - d. Discussion of remote models.
9. School committee Questions:
  - a. What additional resources are needed?
    - i. Dr. Putnam: do not know whether any staff members may not be able to provide in-person instructions; some IEP's may require hiring additional staff; do have ESSER funds, and other COVID relief funds, totaling approximately, \$360k;
  - b. How do we assess whether students are learning?
    - i. Dr. Putnam: we will need a locally based assessment to assess whether students are making progress, not to evaluate the students, but to monitor core academic disciplines, and assess instruction. Are some tools available?

- ii. Joelle Brookner, this is in the forefront of instruction committee.
- c. Question about faculty staff opinions on remote for 10-12;
  - i. Mary MacDonald mentioned surveys for faculty and students for remote;
- d. Ali Carter asks for more information on Remote learning:
  - i. Rob Putnam – spending first 10 days of school year to discuss how to best use platforms; Williams College assisting with online pedagogy, and how to transition curriculum into online platform;
- e. Hybrid – if go hybrid with 7-9, not enough space in academic wing for 10 -12 to be in person; Could have some academic support for 10-12 outside the academic wing;
- f. Hybrid model for 10-12 – remote heavy, “really is remote, unless they need to come in to school for individualized support.”
- g. Carrie Greene – could they come in for labs? Rob: could be a weekly Wednesday.
- h. From instruction perspective – remote be preferable, but from wellness perspective in person would be perspective;
- i. Question about health and symptom monitoring:
  - i. Wellness group recommends symptoms checklist;
- j. Playgrounds offline;
- k. Steve Miller asks about athletics and extra-curriculars;
  - i. Tbd
- l. Steve Miller also asks about possibility of 10-12 in to bring to take classes remotely from the building?
  - i. Jake Schutz – possible, but perhaps not feasible, can try to flesh this out;
  - ii.
- m. Dr. Putnam shares that he would like to offer the depth of the academic experience offered for remote, with opportunities for social interactions for the classes;
- n. Consensus approval for submission of preliminary plans

IV. Presentation of Superintendent Finalists

- a. Liz Lafond and Glenn Koocher present 3 finalists:
  - i. Dr. Portia Bonner – 26 yr. experience
  - ii. Dr. Jason McCandless – also deeply experienced, including 15 years as Superintendent in Berkshire County
  - iii. Mary Jane Rickson – also deeply experienced as a Superintendent
- b. Glenn Koocher adds that they have vetted these candidates in the past, all 3 have highly credible references from reliable sources, no thought about impediments or embarrassments;
- c. They will distribute application packets; resume is the only public document;
- d. Liz Lafond has also spoken to the candidates, all excited;
- e. Schedule:
  - i. Tomorrow – 3 pm start Rickson Meet & Greet followed by interview

- ii. Tomorrow – 5 pm start McCandless Meet & Greet followed by interview
  - iii. Friday – 10 am start Bonner Meet & Greet followed by interview
  - iv. Friday – 2:30 meeting for deliberation;
- f. Candidate pool: 22 completed application packets, with candidates from all over the country;
  
- V. Review Final Draft of Interview Questions for Superintendent Finalists
  - a. Review of spreadsheet of final slate of questions;
  - b. Jamie Art moves the approval of the final slate of questions. Greene seconds. Limited discussion. Art, aye; Carter aye; Conry, aye; DiLego, aye; Greene, aye; Miller, aye; Terranova, aye.
  - c. Carrie Greene noted the subject matter of the questions and the submission of over 50 questions from a broad swath of stakeholders.
  
- VI. Annual Appointment of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer
  - a. DiLego Moves to approve Donna Narey to the position of Treasurer and Brenda Rondeau to the position of Assistant Treasurer for the 2021 Fiscal Year, Miller seconds. Art, aye; Carter aye; Conry, aye; DiLego, aye; Greene, aye; Miller, aye; Terranova, aye.
  
- VII. School Committee Retreat Discussion (Date Change) Terranova moves and Miller seconds to postpone the retreat (to the morning of August 25<sup>th</sup>). Art, aye; Carter aye; Conry, aye; DiLego, aye; Greene, aye; Miller, aye; Terranova, aye.
  
- VIII. Other business not anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of the meeting
  - a. No meeting on 8/13; august will be 8/6 instead.
  
- IX. Terranova moves to adjourn, DiLego seconds. Art, aye; Carter aye; Conry, aye; DiLego, aye; Greene, aye; Miller, abstain; Terranova, aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.