



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

School Committee Education Sub-Committee Minutes

Date: August 4, 2020

Start: 9:02 AM

Adjourn: 11:27 AM

Location:

Zoom

In Attendance:

Committee Members:	Also Present:
Steve Miller, Chair Christina Conry, Vice Chair (until 10:52 AM) Ali Carter, Secretary	Robert Putnam, Interim Superintendent Nolan Pratt, LES Principal Elea Kaatz, WES Assistant Principal Alex Kastrinakis Amy Perry Mercier Anna Mello Beth Reynolds Jacqueline Vinette Julia Bowen Julieann Haskins Karen Kathleen Igoe Kellie Houle Matthew Hane Maureen Andersen Molly Polk Noelle Sullivan Ralph Hammann Rebecca Tucker-Smith Rob Mathews Stephen Dravis Wendy and John Skavlem

Item	Comments	Motion	Second	Vote
Call to order	Meeting called to order by Steve at 9:02 AM			
Public comment	None (written submissions from local pediatrician and several parents added to meeting packet)			
Approval of minutes	July 23 meeting	Conry	Carter	3-0-0



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

Discussion of back to school plans

R. Putnam: What can and can't do in school is different this year. Developing strategies and training so students and parents can learn what is necessary. Would like to use the PD days to help show what is necessary. For elementary would like to have one week of hybrid and move to full in person.

M. Anderson: Great goal but not something we can set right now because testing capacity is low. Need to see what happens when Williams and MCLA students come back into the community.

S. Miller: Williams students will be quarantined and constantly tested. Need a balance that will meet educational and social-emotional needs of our children while staying safe.

A. Mello: Teachers are super creative. Love challenges. People should not be faulted or have to explain if they need to stay home. But a lot of depression and worried families. Let's get them back creatively.

J. Skavlem: We are a community of educators and volunteers, in a fortunate position. These things shouldn't be a barrier, can figure out how to make it work.

R. Tucker-Smith: Agree that our starting point should be that we can make this work. Issues of equity with learning pods. A lot of college-age students will be in town because they are not going away to college. Can we hire college-aged students to work with small groups of students? Learning pods facilitated by schools.

R. Putnam: This Thursday's SC meeting will be in person for SC and admin. Public comment through phone; video streaming to YouTube.

Benchmarks

R. Putnam: Students will need to demonstrate new behaviors. Collect data on student behavior. When sure students follow protocols consistently then can be more comfortable moving to in-person. Considering how to reward and motivate students. Will have to consider airflow more.

S. Miller: Need benchmarks, and more info on ventilation. Need to know what need to spend money on sooner rather than later so we can budget for it.

Submission to DESE

R. Putnam provided overview of draft submission.

S. Miller: How much curriculum will be covered? Will the two days in person mean teachers are doing the same lectures twice per week? Can it be four lectures but two are in person and two are at home?



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

R. Putnam: Have to conceive of education in a different way. Need to determine our priority content goals and make those happen.

S. Miller: Whatever plans we have now we will need to adapt as plans change. Need to take advantage of the time we have now to make connections between teachers and students.

R. Putnam: Discussing how to facilitate and practice social distancing.

J. Skavlem: Concerned about where we are in the process and running out of time. We know the plan is only as good as remote learning component and also that there are tremendous effects on adolescents from remote learning. Need to better understand where we are as a community so we know what we need. How can we help? Kids are desperate to get back and highly motivated. We are a responsible community and our numbers are testament to that. Zero cases in N Berkshire County. We are in an ideal position to do the most for our kids and meet states objectives for getting students back in. CDC Director also said reopening schools in public health interest.

W. Skavlem: Earlier the better for in-person to build relationships between teachers and children, also weather is better. Bathrooms in administrative building at MG. Other schools have figured this out – borrow from them. Need to come up with a solution.

R. Putnam to put summary from instructional group on website.

R. Putnam: Rethinking class time – longer classes to minimize transitions? How to maximize educational opportunities in school and at home.

J. Skavlem: Better format for success if establish strong relationships first for when need to shift to remote model.

A. Mello: People will not feel safe until ventilation fixed. Need to prioritize this. What if the first week teachers connect with parents and figure out how many feel safe in person, who needs remote. Would be easy to give a lesson as practice. As an elementary school teacher can't just have students watch a video. Need more paras? Need to talk about bathrooms and bathroom breaks.

S. Miller: Can we use these creative ideas to have grade 10-12 students in classroom 2 d/wk?

R. Putnam: Will put into narrative to think through what we have and what we need. Meeting has helped refocus work of administrative team so we can get these things answered. Clear that there are questions I haven't been able to answer.



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	<p>S. Miller: Making great progress on social distancing protocols, getting grades 10-12 in. Need info on HVAC, numbers of students in school. Create safe environment so all students want to send their kids back.</p> <p>R. Putnam: Working group reports on website by 4pm today. Will publish plan next week once submitted. Will look at Dover-Sherborn plans.</p> <p>S. Miller: Hybrid plan has to have clear benchmarks and be specific about what is necessary for us to transition to full in person.</p> <p>R. Putnam: Will include rudimentary benchmarks.</p> <p>S. Miller: Need to make sure we are not forgetting about any of our children. Want to see grades 10-12 back at least 2 d/wk. Would like to see timeline for 5 d/wk, what are the challenges, what is needed?</p>			
Business not anticipated	None			
Adjourn	MOTION to adjourn at 11:27 AM	Carter	Miller	2-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,
 Alison Carter
 Education Sub-Committee Secretary