

Mount Greylock Regional School District School Committee Open Session

YouTube from MGRS A109 Date: Thursday, Aug 6, 2020 (public will not be allowed on site)
Time: 4 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.

The public can access the meeting virtually here:

MGRSD YouTube Channel at:<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLR0nrLhpZHlyPFUhaMxPSg> *or watch the TV*

broadcast on Willinet TV channel 1302 in Williamstown.

****Public commenters should email prior to the meeting rputnam@mgrhs.org and cconry@mgrhs.org. You may send an email to be read by the Chair or may choose to share your public comment via phone. If you will share via phone, you will be called at a phone number that you provide. In your email, please be sure to include your name, town, phone number, and agenda item that you are commenting on.**

Open Session

- I. Call to order at 4:04; Members present Miller, Conry, Terranova, Art, Greene, and Carter (Via Phone);
- II. Reading of 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
 - I. Chair reads email comment from R. Hammann expressing concern about push to get students back into classrooms ASAP.
 - II. J. Skavlem delivers comments via speaker phone encouraging committee to pursue as much in person learning as much as possible in a manner consistent with state guidelines. Notes particular surprise and concern about plans for remote learning for grades 9-12.
 - III. Chair reads comments from K. Igoe and J. Igoe urging at least some in-person learning for all students.
- III. Approval of minutes [**Note this vote was defective and cured by the vote below.**]

Miller moves to approve the minutes for the following open meetings, Terranova seconds. Motion passes unanimously (6-0), with typos to be corrected.

1. July 6, 2020
2. July 9, 2020
3. July 13, 2020

4. July 17, 2020
5. July 24, 2020
6. July 29, 2020
7. July 30, 2020
8. July 31, 2020
9. July 31, 2020, 2:30 pm

IV. Superintendent update – Reopening plans Step II

1. Dr. Putnam described some of the challenges and adjustments of thinking through the logistics of reopening with social distancing, protective measures, and hybrid participation.
2. State deadline for plan submission has been extended to 8/14
3. Dr. Putnam requests delay of vote on plan until 8/13 to allow greater SC review and public comment before vote.
4. Then describes the administration's latest thinking on the plan, with information of the following:
 - I. Pre-requisites for in-person learning
 - II. Criteria for opening schools – we don't have the metrics on infection rate yet, commissioner has promised them by next week
 - III. Criteria for closing in-person –
 - I. At cohort, building, district level;
 - II. This is also a work in progress;
 - IV. Concerns of high needs students are at the forefront and must be addressed in the plans.
 - V. All of the plans are subject to negotiation. Dr. Putnam will start that process on Tuesday.
 - VI. Technology prerequisites for hybrid and remote environments, including, uniform learning platforms at each grade level, required equipment for classrooms, teachers, paraprofessionals, and students.
 - VII. Hybrid model (his current proposal for start):
 - I. Some students would attend school each day, if they have higher needs.
 - II. Prek-6: 4 days/week in school; half day sessions A/B groups; morning group & afternoon group; focusing on core academics
 - III. 7-9: 2-1-2 model, with 2 full days in person per week, refined curriculum; to the extent possible in cohorts; full non-rotating schedule; lunch in classroom with peers;
 - IV. 10-12: 2 full days in person per week; ½ grade at a time; full non-rotating schedule;
 - V. SC comments: appreciative of getting all students into school; questions about costs of conversation classrooms to hybrid and additional busing – J Bergeron explains that is being explored; don't have numbers yet.
 - VI. Transportation funding is big issue and big unknown.
 - VII. Community engagement in public health protective measures is a big challenge;
 - VIII. Changes nicely reflect the feedback from the community; consensus of deep appreciation for being responsive to community input;
 - IX. Discussion of HVAC –

- I. MG has new system with some HEPA filters in place and being maximized;
 - II. WES HVAC has been worked on since March, and is working better than it has; JAMROG is also looking into additional changes to improve air quality;
 - X. Questions about childcare – not much to report, it may be that we need to get the plan in place and seeing what the community can do to deliver coverage;
 - XI. Instructional group concerned about the skills necessary to go remote, to figure out how to do it well. Concern about the calendar, and what happens during the flu season;
 - XII. Have been in conversations with town health departments but not yet about strategies to increase community effort or norm for communal approach to protective measures;
 - XIII. Possible testing strategy may be developed in conjunction with Town of Williamstown’s Cares act funding; could be random sampling of the school community; possible pooled testing;
 - XIV. Questions about behavioral contracts for students and how much enforcement is possible.
 - XV. Discussion of how instruction works in hybrid weeks – don’t have an answer for that yet; Core subjects could be in the classroom, and some of specials could be remote;
 - XVI. All students will have ability to elect for remote;
 - VIII. Full in-person model – working on benchmarks for transition to in-person model;
 - IX. Full Remote – can have diversity of courses, but other risks associated with isolation and impacts on families;
- VI. Principal updates (delivered by Dr. Putnam)
- 1. MG – all faculty positions filled, hiring a few remaining staff, lots of input from faculty and staff; hosting check-ins and meetings with faculty, staff, students and families;
 - 2. WES – classrooms being prepped, answering questions from families, and faculty;
 - 3. LES – hiring new gen. ed teacher and music teacher, getting prepared for school in whichever
- VII. Chair report
- 1. Minutes Recorder Resignation submitted by Jonathan Nopper; may have a replacement soon
- VIII. CORRECTIVE VOTE: Miller moves to approve the minutes for the following open meetings, Terranova seconds. Motion passes unanimously by roll call vote: Art, aye; Carter, aye; Conry, Aye; Greene, Aye; Miller, Aye; Terranova, Aye with typos to be corrected.
- 1. July 6, 2020
 - 2. July 13, 2020
 - 3. July 17, 2020

IX. New Superintendent contract discussion (possible vote) VOTE

Greene moves the of the 3-year employment agreement by and Between MGRSD and with Dr. Jason McCandless as presented. Miller seconds. Art, aye; Carter, aye; Conry, Aye; Greene, Aye; Miller, Aye; Terranova, Aye.

X. Upcoming meetings:

Finance Subcommittee Thursday at 11 by Zoom.

School Committee Retreat, August 25

Possible public forum on Tuesday;

School committee next Thursday.

XI. Other business not anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of the meeting – None.

XII. Terranova moves to adjourn, Miller seconds. Art, aye; Carter, aye; Conry, Aye; Greene, Aye; Miller, Aye; Terranova, Aye.

XIII. Adjourned at 6:25.