

## Mount Greylock Regional School District School Committee Open Session

YouTube from MGRS A109 Date: Thursday, Aug 13, 2020 (public will not be allowed on site) Time: 6 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 comments may be sent to the school committee at [schoolcommittee@mgrhs.org](mailto:schoolcommittee@mgrhs.org) up to 2 hours before the meeting. Your emailed comment will be read aloud by the Chair. If you prefer to voice your public comment, please send an email of intent with your phone number and you will be called during the public comment portion of the meeting. In your email, please be sure to include your name, town, (phone number), and agenda item that you are commenting on.

### Open Session Minutes

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm.
- 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. Introductions:
  - I. Members present Carter, Miller, Conry, Terranova, Art, Greene, and DiLegio;
  - II. Dr. Putnam, Interim Superintendent
  - III. Principals Thomas, Schutz, and Pratt
- IV. Public Comment: Reading of 17 written comments submitted via email by members of the public, all available here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1miYiJ9u3iH46CvxA2mYzfoNWK0dKx6lO>, and comment from Charlie McWeeny, rising senior MGRSD, by telephone call, who voiced support for in-person education, following guidance of public health experts and state officials.
- V. Approval of minutes:
  - I. June 16,2020 -- Miller moves to approve June 16, 2020 minutes, DiLegio seconds. Motion passes unanimously, 7-0.
  - II. June 25,2020 -- Miller moves to approve June 25, 2020 minutes, DiLegio seconds. Motion passes unanimously, 7-0.
- VI. Superintendent Update.

- I. Dr. Putnam presents reopening plan, voices appreciation for tone and comments, notes that reopening plan is a series of compromises. Notes fear of disease is tempered by low positivity in Massachusetts, and especially in Berkshire county. No cases in Williamstown & Lanesboro in the last month, out of 513 tests. No positive COVID tests among BMC staff in last month. All this demonstrates low level of infection in the community. Notes diversity of school reopening plans in county, all dependent on
- II. Discussion of Options for Families in 2020:
  - I. Blended synchronous learning model for in-person learning (Hybrid)
  - II. Remote synchronous learning model.
  - III. Full in-person for high-needs
  - IV. Hybrid option starts on 9/16 with 2 weeks of fully remote instruction; but bringing kids into school during those 2 weeks to meet with teachers and learn. Fully implemented Hybrid model starting October 1. Grades 7-12: 5.5 of synchronous instruction / day. Pre-K to 6 receive 5 hours of synchronous learning per day.
    - I. Pre-K to 6: instruction committee recommended AM/PM sessions.
    - II. Extended discussion by School Committee members and administrators.
    - III. Grades 7-9: Group A for 2 days; Remote on Wednesday; Group B for 2 days. With synchronous learning for core classes on remote days.
    - IV. Grades 10 – 12
    - V. Option 1A: half of grade attends in science class cohort; conduct classes remotely, with only in-person class being the lab science;
    - VI. Option 1(B): half of grade attends in alphabetical cohorts; rotates to their classes
  - V. Remote Synchronous Learning Model
  - VI. Dr. Putnam: He's supposed to send a plan tomorrow – comments and discussions have highlighted problems of plan;
  - VII. SC discussion – we should submit what we want to see, and try to negotiate;
    - I. Summary – generally accepting of plans, but desired more in person time at elementary school;
    - II. Consensus of proposed changes – have 4 full days at pk – 6
      - I. Need 3 new teachers + 1 para at LES;
      - II. At WES need additional 6<sup>th</sup> grade class + 1.5 Sp. Ed. hires;
      - III. Some committee members press for scheduled transition to in-person at middle & high school;
      - IV. Summary of consensus, for all who want it (remote remains an option):
        - I. Pk – 6; 4 days a week in person, 1 day remote; start 9/16
        - II. 7 – 9; ABRAB synchronous Hybrid / remote; start 9/16
        - III. 10-12: Option 1(b) ABRAB; start 9/16
        - IV. Plan to go full in day instruction for all 7-12 on 10/1, 4 days per week, with Wednesdays remote
      - V. Committee notes this is aspirational and subject to negotiation.
      - VI. Miller moves the approval of reopening plan with the following changes:

- I. In person prek-6 (one day remote on wednesday for deep cleaning) for 4 full days a week (mon-tues-thurs-fri), starting Sept. 16;
- II. 7-9 AB-AB for two full days of instruction in person (Mon-Thurs for one cohort, Tues-Fri for the other) for those who want it. Lectures will be synchronous, teachers will give four lectures and not repeat. Wednesday all are remote for deep cleaning. Starting hybrid in person Sept 16 as well
- III. 10-12: option 1B; for now grouped in alphabetical cohorts. Rotate classes. Cohort structure as in 7-9 (AB-AB). Wednesday deep cleaning and all remote. Starting hybrid in person on Sept 16.
- IV. Milestone is to go to full day for all: plan is for all to go four full days starting oct 1.

VII. DiLego seconds.

- I. Greene – voices support for administration position;
- II. Motion passes Vote 6 -1, with Greene opposed.

VII. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports:

VIII. Policy Liaison

- I. Policy EBCFA- Face Coverings, First Read by Greene. Discussion of what is an acceptable facemask both in terms of propriety (covered by normal dress code policy) and efficacy.
- II. Policy EBC-S Emergency Plans: Interim Policy for COVID-19 Related Issues, Second Read. Greene moves the approval of the Policy, Miller seconds. Motion passes unanimously, by a vote of 7-0.

IX. Business Administrator Update

A. SBCS late update. Dr. Putnam explains that we need to update the School Building Committee per MSBA rules. The only changes that we are proposing tonight reflect the changes in district staff and school committee members. The Superintendent role is now Robert Putnam, Business Administrator role is Joe Bergeron, the MGRS Principal is now Jake Schutz, and Carrie Greene is now on the school committee. For signing authority, Rob is the Superintendent and Regina can take signing authority as SBC Chair. (In case anybody asks, Dan Caplinger held the signing authority before.) Everybody else remains as they were.

Miller moves to accept the school building committee composition as presented. DiLego seconds. Greene notes her first name should be Carolyn. Motion passes unanimously, by a vote of 7-0.

B. SBC Finance Subcommittee Reorganization: Dr. Putnam explains the Superintendent and Business Administrator were previously on the committee along with longtime members Steve Wentworth and Hugh Daley, and suggests that the finance subcommittee consist of Steve Wentworth, Hugh Daley and Joe Bergeron -- to have an odd number of people on the

committee, focused on the financial picture as we move through completion of the project.

Miller moves to accept Steve Wentworth, Hugh Daley and Joe Bergeron as the members of the School Building Committee's Finance Subcommittee. Terranova seconds. Motion passes unanimously, by a vote of 7-0.

C. MGRS Building Project Signing Authority. Dr. Putnam explains signing authority is embedded within the School Building Committee slate, but good to move and accept a motion separately with more detail. In the past, signing authority was sometimes given to allow the Superintendent and SC representative to execute things below certain dollar thresholds or when time was of the essence ... but we're now in a phase where those caveats are not necessary. Miller moves that Robert Putnam, as Interim Superintendent, and Regina Dilego are persons with signing authority for the school building project, with the direction to use that authority only after recommendation by the School Building Committee's Finance Subcommittee. Terranova seconds. Motion passes unanimously, by a vote of 7-0.

- X. Dilego, moves to go into Executive Session with intent to return to Open Session per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(1) to discuss a complaint brought against the public body (Open Meeting Law Complaint filed July 28, 2020 by T. Daniels of iBerkshires against MGRSD School Committee); per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel (Interim Superintendent). Miller seconds. Carter, Aye; Miller Aye; Conry Aye; Terranova, Aye; Art, Aye; Greene, Aye; DiLego, Aye.

<<<<IN EXECUTIVE SESSION>>>>>>>>

Return to open session at 10:15.

- XI. Interim Superintendent contract discussion. Miller moves that we accept the submitted contract with Dr. Putnam to run from 9/1 through 11/10. Dilego seconds. Discussion notes Dr. McCandless to start 11/5. Motion passes unanimously.
- XII. Terranova moves to adjourn, Miller seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
- XIII. Other business not anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of the meeting
- XIV. Motion to adjourn