



# Mt. Greylock Regional School District

## School Committee Open Session Minutes

**Date:** September 10, 2020

**Start:** 6:03 PM

**Adjourn:** 9:57 PM

**Location:**

MGRS Meeting Room A109\*

1781 Cold Spring Road Williamstown, MA 01267

*No public attendance will be permitted.*

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

**In Attendance:**

| <b>Committee Members:</b>  | <b>Also Present:</b>  |
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| C. Conry, Chair<br>J. Art<br>A. Carter (remote, via phone)<br>R. DiLego (remote, via phone)<br>C. Greene<br>S. Miller<br>A. Terranova<br><br><b><u>Absent:</u></b> | Robert Putnam, Interim Superintendent<br>Joseph Bergeron, Business Administrator<br>Nolan Pratt, Principal - LES<br>Kristen Thompson, Principal - WES<br>Patrick Priester, Acting Director of Pupil Services<br>Joelle Brookner, Director of Curriculum & Instruction<br>Elea Kaatz, Assistant Principal - WES<br>Jake Schutz, Principal - MGRS (via phone)<br>Tim Sears, Director of Buildings & Grounds (via phone) |

| <b>Item</b>                | <b>Comments</b>  | <b>Motion</b> | <b>Second</b> | <b>Vote</b> |
|----------------------------|--|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| <b>I. Call to Order</b>    | Meeting called to order by C. Conry at 6:03 PM.  |               |               |             |
| <b>II. Mission</b>         | 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. |               |               |             |
| <b>III. Public Comment</b> | 1. Justin Crowe wrote to ask for District permission for the Williamstown Soccer Club to return for the fall and use school fields.  |               |               |             |



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| <b>IV. Approval of Minutes (VOTE)</b>               | <p>Submitted in the meeting packet for review and approval by the School Committee are meeting minutes from July 9; August 19, 26, 27; and September 1, 2020.</p> <p><b>MOTION to approve July 9, 2020 minutes by C. Greene, seconded by S. Miller</b></p>  | Greene | Miller | 7-0-0 |
|   | <p><b>MOTION to approve August 19, 2020 minutes by C. Greene, seconded by S. Miller</b></p>   | Greene | Miller | 7-0-0 |
|   | <p><b>MOTION to approve August 26, 2020 minutes by C. Greene, seconded by S. Miller</b></p>   | Greene | Miller | 7-0-0 |
|   | <p><b>MOTION to approve August 27, 2020 minutes by C. Greene, seconded by S. Miller</b></p>   | Greene | Miller | 7-0-0 |
|   | <p><b>MOTION to approve September 1, 2020 minutes by C. Greene, seconde by S. Miller</b></p>  | Greene | Miller | 7-0-0 |
| <b>V. Principal Updates</b>                         | <p><b>A. Mt. Greylock Regional School</b> - Principal Jake Schutz (via phone) updated the community about morning staff check-ins, various trainings and procedures, school schedules, and student placement notifications going out soon, having just been finalized.</p> <p><b>B. Lanesborough Elementary School</b> - Principal Nolan Pratt spoke about the professional development going on at LES, student kit prep, his coffee and parent weekend chat, and the student support center. He shared a sample rough-draft student schedule and explained it in detail. He also discussed parent tutorials for remote learning.</p> <p><b>C. Williamstown Elementary School</b> - Principal Kristen Thompson gave some staff updates, how teachers and staff have been preparing, as well as welcoming back some special education students to WES next week. She presented a sample remote learning schedule for WES.</p> |        |        |       |
| <b>VI. Acting Director of Pupil Services Update</b> | <p><b>A. Summer Programming Review / Update</b> - Acting Director of Pupil Services Patrick Priester explained how the Special Education Summer Program was handled during this pandemic and gave a presentation created by WES teacher Christin Gingras. Lanesborough Elementary and Mt. Greylock School were able to host in-person camps for students, while Williamstown Elementary offered remote tutoring.</p>  |        |        |       |
| <b>VII. Athletic Director Report</b>                | <p><b>A. Participation Fees for Fall Sports</b> - Athletic Director Lindsey von Holtz proposed that fees should be altered as either a fixed amount or a percentage of the stipends to be paid. Dr. Putnam explained some examples that L. von Holtz had prepared. A. Terranova</p>   |        |        |       |



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|  | <p>stated that he does not support having families pay for school activities. S. Miller reminded the group that funds are available to families that have the financial need for them.</p>  |
| <p><b>VIII. Superintendent Updates</b></p> | <p><b>A. Black Lives Matter signs to be displayed on school property</b> - Dr. Putnam read some of the Long and DiPietro opinion regarding the display of Black Lives Matter signage on Massachusetts school property. The MGRSD administration supports the decision to display the message. R. DiLego wanted clarification of which school properties it would be displayed, and Dr. Putnam that it is intended for all three schools. S. Miller recommended making our own community statement, <b>as posting a BLM sign could open up the District to posting requests from other groups.</b> J. Art shared his support of the posting of the signs on school property. C. Conry and A. Terranova voiced support as well. C. Greene wondered if as a school system we could provide a sense of safety for the community if we are advertising it. J. Bergeron noted that the support for the sign was unanimous from all administrators at MGRSD.</p> <p><b>B. Williamstown Soccer Club</b> - Dr. Putnam, after numerous discussions with some members involved in athletics and the club, announced that he is reconsidering his initial opinion of closing the fields. A. Terranova and S. Miller shared their thanks for Dr. Putnam’s reconsideration. R. DiLego was grateful that cohort and COVID restrictions will still be in play. Dr. Putnam said he’d be reaching out to the Williamstown Soccer Club tomorrow.</p> <p><b>C. (Added) Survey Presentation</b> - Joelle Brookner presented survey results regarding remote and hybrid learning options. The survey also asked which families would have children riding the bus.</p> <p><b>D. (Added) Other Items for Superintendent</b> - Dr. Putnam asked to present other update issues, which C. Conry agreed would be a good agenda item to add in the future.</p> <p><b>1. Remote Academy</b> - Because the over 20% enrollment for the Remote Academy dropped after the final survey, Dr. Putnam stated that the district would have to reevaluate how to provide this service for families.</p> <p><b>2. COVID Map</b> - Dr. Putnam spoke about the change from green to yellow on the Massachusetts COVID map in Williamstown and that he was reaching out to appropriate agencies and government officials to get clarification about the change, as the town manager stated he was unaware of new cases.</p> <p><b>3. Fire Drills</b> - A fire drill must occur within three days of opening the school to students. The concern is that having students exit quickly will remove any social distancing and COVID protocols in place. Our lockdown drills are able to happen remote.</p> <p><b>4. LES Sidewalk Update</b> - Tim Sears (via phone) explained that the sidewalk paving project for the Lanesborough Elementary School was completed.</p> |



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| <p><b>IV. Business Administrator Updates (VOTE)</b></p>    | <p><b>A. Copier long-term lease approval (VOTE)</b> - Joe Bergeron presented to the school committee a 5-year lease approval for continued use with Repeat Business Services and asked the school committee to accept the money-saving contract.</p> <p><b>MOTION to approve the copier long-term lease by C. Greene, seconded by S. Miller</b></p>   | Greene | Miller | 7-0-0 |
|  | <p><b>B. Staffing / FTE updates and approval</b> - J. Bergeron said that because the survey results revealed less-than-expected remote learning numbers, the district now has to reevaluate the staffing for the schools.</p>   |        |        |       |
|  | <p><b>C. Multipurpose Building project update &amp; approvals [if needed]</b> - The new building at Mt. Greylock should be able to be occupied by next week.</p>  |        |        |       |
|  | <p><b>D. FY 21 grant updates</b> - the district is set with the ESSER and Corona Virus Relief Fund grants and they are being used.</p>  |        |        |       |
| <p><b>X. Nomination of MASC Delegate (VOTE)</b></p>        | <p>C. Greene shared information about MASC and the delegate assembly. Andrea Wadsworth (former district employee) asked for a delegate from our school committee, which may have never had one before. C. Greene volunteered her services as the delegate. S. Miller offered to be the alternate delegate.</p> <p><b>MOTION to nominate Carrie Greene as MASC delegate with Steven Miller as alternate by C. Conry, seconded by S. Miller</b></p> | Conry  | Miller | 7-0-0 |
| <p><b>XI. School Committee Meeting Calendar (VOTE)</b></p> | <p>Dr. Putnam proposed a second monthly school committee meeting that dealt only with updates and reports on school reopening plans. He presented the proposed calendar.</p> <p><b>MOTION to accept the School Committee meeting calendar as presented by C. Greene, seconded by S. Miller</b></p>  | Greene | Miller | 7-0-0 |



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| <p><b>XII. Subcommittee Reports (VOTE)</b></p> | <p><b>A. Policy Liaison -</b></p> <p><b>1. Policy JLCB: Immunization of Students 1st read (with option to waive 2nd read, possible VOTE) -</b> C. Greene read the updated policy. The update states that immunization requirements now include a documented seasonal dose of the influenza vaccine. The date to get the vaccine is by December 21st, 2020. Elea Kaatz spoke about how schools, specifically WES, are working with local doctors and physicians to set up a service to administer the vaccine to the community.</p> <p><b>MOTION to approve revision to existing Policy JLCB, without second read, by A. Terranova, seconded by J. Art</b></p>  | <p>Terranova</p> | <p>Art</p>    | <p>7-0-0</p> |
| <p><b>XIII. Executive Session</b></p>          | <p><b>Motion to move into Executive Session</b> with intent to return to Open Session per M.G.L Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining with MGEA (all bargaining units) as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee and the Chair so declares. S. Miller shared that he is opposed to the idea of the meetings being closed to the public. A. Terranova agreed with S. Miller. J. Bergeron explained some of the reasons for holding the meeting as Executive Session, and that the only way to hold the meeting as an open session would be for both discussing parties to agree to it.</p> <p><b>MOTION to move into Executive Session by C. Greene, seconded by S. Miller.</b></p> | <p>Greene</p>    | <p>Miller</p> | <p>6-1-0</p> |



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|  | <p>Art, AYE; Carter, AYE; Conry, AYE;<br/>DiLego, AYE; Greene, AYE; Miller, NO;<br/>Terranova, AYE</p> <p>The School Committee moved into<br/>Executive Session at 7:58 PM and<br/>returned to Open Session at 9:56 PM.</p> |            |                  |              |
| <p><b>XIV. Discussion of<br/>Stipends</b></p>  | <p>No items to discuss at this time.</p>  |            |                  |              |
| <p><b>XV. Other business not<br/>anticipated by the Chair<br/>within 48 hours of<br/>meeting</b></p> | <p>S. Miller again wanted to reiterate that he thinks it's a mistake to not have discussions in public.</p>   |            |                  |              |
| <p><b>XIII. Motion to Adjourn</b></p>  | <p><b>MOTION to adjourn by J. Art,<br/>seconded by A. Terranova</b></p> <p>Art, AYE; Carter, AYE; Conry, AYE;<br/>DiLego, AYE; Greene, AYE; Miller, NO;<br/>Terranova, AYE</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 9:57 PM.</p>         | <p>Art</p> | <p>Terranova</p> | <p>6-1-0</p> |

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eli Phillips  
Mount Greylock Minutes Recorder