

Mount Greylock Regional School District School Committee  
Location: Zoom Remote Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 24, 2020

Time: 6:00 pm <https://zoom.us/j/92598429280?pwd=QnJJWVg5djJpT0w5OExNcjVvaWhlZz09>

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. *This meeting will also be posted on the MGRSD YouTube page*  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLR0nrLhpZHlyPFUhaMxPSg>

## Meeting Minutes

School Committee members present: Art, Carter, Conry, DiLego, Greene, Miller, Terranova

Others present: R. Putnam, J. Brookner, E. Kaatz, K. Thompson, J. Bergeron, P. Priester, N. Pratt, C. Shebar, R. Wnuk, J. Schutz

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m.
- II. Reading of the 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 Conry reads public comment from Stephen Dravis, related to transparency of School Committee meeting materials, and requesting posting of meeting materials on website in advance of meeting.
  - II. Discussion of practices related to reading public comments for zoom meetings
- IV. School Reopening Report
  - I. Total enrollment of 1104, down from 1160;
    - I. LES: 198 → 189
    - II. WES 409 → 381
    - III. MG 553 → 532
    - IV. Homeschool increases: 6 LES → 13; Wes 8 → 20; MG 6 → 16
  - II. New staff update, with opening at WES for Asst. Principal; new faculty at all schools,
  - III. LES update from N Pratt;
    - I. Kudos to paraprofessionals in support center, and teachers embracing challenges
    - II. Connectivity is an issue for some remote students

- I. Trying to get at cause of the problem (with some hot spots)
  - II. As well as working to make up missed content
- IV. WES update from K Thompson
  - I. WES support center is open for higher needs students in the building
  - II. Kudos to Paraprofessionals and Teachers
  - III. Connectivity is an issue for some students and some folks in the building
- V. Remote Academy update from J Brookner
  - I. Pride in unique, district-created program
  - II. Fully staffed – update on staffing
  - III. Schedule mirrors hybrid & will be released when Hybrid Schedules are released (soon)
  - IV. Teachers and paraprofessionals are doing an amazing job;
- VI. MG update from J Schutz
  - I. Student schedules are firming up
  - II. Approximately 20 students in the building in life skills program and student support center
  - III. Lunches are free through the end of the calendar year
  - IV. When on site, lunches will be in tents, gym, cafeteria, auditorium at from 11 – 11:30
  - V. Student support center is an option for students for a variety of different reasons – capacity is up to 30 or 40; some students self selected, some are identified by teachers;
  - VI. Technology support is available for students and families who need it
  - VII. Planning on maximizing outdoor learning spaces
  - VIII. Clubs and athletics are under way
  - IX. Cohort announcements coming through powerschool, probably on Monday (WES and LES already know);
- VII. Question about challenges they've heard from families:
  - I. K-2 students harder to manage time of breaks and return to classroom;
  - II. At MGRS,
    - I. not so much related to technology or being remote – more standard transition issues;
    - II. trying to figure out remote welcoming of new students, club fair, other community building events
- VIII. Special Education update from P Priester, including on the following topics:
  - I. High needs students are in-person
  - II. Monitoring child study – process
  - III. IEP services & special services
  - IV. Covid Compensatory Services
  - V. New IEP Services
- IX. Facilities and Technology update from E Kaatz, including the following
  - I. Academic Technology Update
    - I. Speed bumps with Zoom, related to Zoom application for chromebooks which is not available; working through the browser may be better;

- II. Shutting down Chromebooks at help will help with updates;
  - III. Symptom screener – soft roll out of online screener at WES has been successful;
  - IV. Zoom upgrades coming later this week;
- V. Budgetary Implications of Reopening, presented by J Bergeron
  - I. Distancing & Capacity – reverting to a world of small desks
    - I. 120 for MG + 40 at WES, total cost \$16,000
  - II. Air Quality & HVAC
    - I. Improvements to Air Exchanges – work is ongoing, \$5,000 so far
  - III. UV-C lights & installation, approx. \$25,000 district wide – ongoing;
  - IV. Tents – totaling \$11,000 –
  - V. Personal & Cohort Safety – totaling approx.. \$45,000 YTD
    - I. PPE
    - II. Hand sanitizer
    - III. Lexan dividers & additional soap dispensers
  - VI. Hybrid & remote Staffing –
    - I. 7 paraprofessionals FTEs totaling \$175,000
      - I. Add'l monitors and extra duties
      - II. Newly identified student needs
      - III. Student support centers
    - II. MGRS – 2 teachers -- \$123,000
  - VII. Elementary & Remote Academy Staffing
    - I. Total Cost \$280,000
  - VIII. Cumulative: \$680,000 – not including the other expenses already covered.
    - I. \$355,000 in YTD COVID-19 grants
    - II. Recommend using school choice and tuition use to cover \$325,000 remaining; currently >\$1M balance
    - III. Caveats: more PPE, more substitutes, more unknowns, significant disruption with any shift to full schools (because anything above 15 in a classroom creates problems)
    - IV. Al Terranova notes the importance of having school choice accounts and tuition revolving accounts;
  - IX. Terranova moves to authorize the administration to use of up to \$325,000 of funds from School Choice and or School Tuition revolving funds to cover these expenses in compliance with Massachusetts law. Miller seconds. Vote: Art, aye; Carter, Aye; Conry, aye; DiLego, aye; Greene, aye; Miller, Aye; Terranova, aye.
  - X. Next Steps
    - I. K-6 Full Day, 4 days a week is no longer set for November 2, 2020; would be increased costs associated with this transition;
    - II. Public presentation at 6:30pm on September 29, 2020
- VI. Black Lives Matter signs discussion
  - I. Rob Putnam: advocated for posting of BLM signs, relying on guidance of MASS counsel. Must reverse decisions – and shift to support for underlying principles
    - I. wrongly assumed near universal common understanding of the intent of the action, and

- II. complications from posting of signs on school grounds raising
- II. He will take the signs down tomorrow
  - I. Discussions of how to demonstrate the district's support for the underlying principles and the principles in the school's mission statements
  - II. Discussions of past superintendent's DEI committee and how that can be expanded. That will be on the agenda for the October 8 school committee meeting
  - III. Administration notes that the removal of signs won't diminish the commitment of the administration to the underlying work
  - IV. J Schutz notes the items on the School Improvement Plans to focus on improving and addressing DEI objectives
- VII. Upcoming meetings:
  - A. Public Forum re: Reopening, September 29
  - B. School Committee meeting, October 8
- VIII. Other business not anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of meeting – None.
- IX. Motion to Adjourn Terranova moves to adjourn, Greene seconds. Vote: Art, aye; Carter, Aye; Conry, aye; DiLego, aye; Greene, aye; Miller, Aye; Terranova, aye.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:03.

Approved 10.8.20 with edit