

Mount Greylock Regional School District School Committee
Finance Subcommittee
Location: Zoom Remote Meeting Date:
Thursday, September 24, 2020

J. Art called the meeting to order 4:01

Terranova moved the September 10, 2020 meeting minutes, J. Art seconds. Art,aye; Greene, aye; Terranova, aye.

Review of warrants

Payroll - C. Greene asks if there is a plan to adjust timing of approvals so they are prior to issuing payments. Regarding payroll, J. Bergeron says the timing is tight between when time sheets come in and when payments get entered in the system, but if we move Finance Committee approvals to Tuesdays, we can view warrants after submission but prior to issuing payments. Regarding Accounts Payable, the checks are not cut until the vouchers are approved.

J. Bergeron presented a Perkins Eastman Invoice from Sept 2019 and is seeking information regarding what it was for and why it was not paid.

Athletic infrastructure improvements: update and discussion of next steps

C. Greene wonders if we should look into engineered grass fields as a possible alternative to synthetic turf. J. Bergeron adds that such a field would require a subsurface, irrigation, drainage, would be artificially propping up grass, needs constant care and watering.

J. Art - we have solid numbers on the cost of synthetic turf and ballpark estimates on replacement, but we do not have similar numbers for grass with drainage and irrigation, annual maintenance, etc.. What is the shortest path to closing the gap in our knowledge? Art agrees we could apply for a second ADA/Title IX extension, but he says he is uncomfortable not making compliance a priority and would like to keep on the proper time frame. It would also be helpful to reach resolution and move beyond debate.

C. Greene asks how the playability compares to synthetic turf? J. Bergeron responds that engineered grass would be less than turf but more than an organic grass field. A. Terranova reminds the group that we lose March/April, as well as Oct/Nov to grass. A. Terranova reiterates that the issue is playability, not cost.

J. Art agrees that synthetic turf fields provide superior levels of playability during lifespan, but there is a cost question - what happens when you need to replace the turf? Will we have the money available to fund replacement without impacting other district priorities? There was talk of private fund raising possibilities. Not sure if that's still possible. A. Terranova states that if we

know the replacement cost, we put money aside in a revolving fund annually to pay for it, or ask the towns to do this. There are multiple ways to do this. This can be done in a fiscally responsible way, budgeting for future expenses. The opposition is small but vocal.

J. Bergeron recommends we present slides outlining options and the associated 10-20 year costs

Other items for discussion not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours before the meeting.

Motion to adjourn 5:05 A. Terranova moves, J. Art seconds. Terranova, aye; Art, aye; Greene, aye.

Minutes approved 10.8.2020