

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

Date: Friday, October 16, 2020

Time: 12:00 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. *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, Greene, Miller, Terranova

Others present: R. Putnam, J. Bergeron, J. McCandless

- I. Meeting called to order at 12:03 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.
- IV. Presentation by J Bergeron on Capital Gift from Williams College, use of funds, and history of athletics fields project. Presentation materials available on the MGRSD website: <https://sites.google.com/mgrhs.org/fields/home>. Presentation includes:
 - I. \$3.1 M spent in total from the gift
 - II. \$110 K spent from non-gift funds for (30X60) facilities storage and Nordic ski support building;
 - III. Approximately \$3.7M remains of gift
 - IV. Unspent principal in the Fund will grow or recede without limit along with the college's endowment.
 - V. Current fields assessment and update;
 - I. 3 year intensive project with PJC Organics funded out of operating budget to improve existing fields (\$19,000 spent to date)
 - VI. Explanation of past assessment of question of synthetic turf vs. natural grass
 - VII. It turns out Nordic & Storage building is not sufficient for dual use;
 - I. Could dedicate that building for athletics support & storage (including waxing for Nordic) and construct other facilities storage building near construction trailer for approx. \$90k—this may require additional fundraising for Nordic building fit out;
 - VIII. Outline of 9 decision points facing the school committee
- V. Public Comment

- I. E-mail from Joan Blair read by C Conry thanking committee and urging committee to hold off on policy decisions until after the election and hold off on major expenditures.
- II. Email from C Malone read by C Conry thanking committee and expressing opposition to artificial turf field for concerns for replacement costs, lack of recyclability, potential health and environmental impacts, lower cost of grass, need for further study, lack of public support, and preference for track.
- III. Email from W Penner with concerns over process for the proposed athletic fields project, lack of comprehensive financial plan, lack of public engagement, past vote to include natural grass option, potential for loss of trust.
- IV. Email from B Spann with concern about process leading to today's meeting, preference for natural grass fields and track over the synthetic turf, lack of investigation of natural grass options.
- V. Comments of J Skavlem, former chair of Phase II committee, including: please respect and listen to voices of stakeholders who developed proposal over 5 years; time to move forward, there comes a time when a decision has to be made.
- VI. Comment from D Keiser-Clark, expressing concern about process lacking transparency and public participation, concerns about PFAS and other health and safety risk, threat of loss of trust.
- VII. M Sussman, member of Williamstown Finance Committee: over the five years the process has been going on, a third of the gift was always identified for future capital expenses; asking the committee to address commitment to preserve 1/3 of the gift for future capital expenses.
- VIII. E Smith expressing concerns about synthetic turf field; asking about commitment to new field vs. renewal of existing field
- IX. A. Jeschawitz urges school committee to put together comprehensive plan / needs assessment for next 5 to 10 years;
- X. J Beringer comments opposed to artificial turf, but speaking primarily about Nordic Waxing Facility concern about the delay of that project and suggestion they do fundraising to support their project;
- XI. S Boyd: notes she is completely impressed with the documents that have been pulled together; explains her involvement with the project, and various advisory committees; clearly we are not ready to move forward; It is all about the kids, but we should be teaching the kids how to make decisions, mentions kids with concerns about fields being intimidated to speak; need to find a way for all the voices to be heard; Notes \$700,000 - 800,000 premium for artificial grass field over natural grass field. What could we do with that money? Well and irrigation, upgrades to John Allen field; seconds call for a comprehensive plan and needs assessment;
- VI. Discussion and possible vote re use of funds of capital gift
 - I. C Greene's question for Joe about status of bid documents –
 - I. Work done so far is up on website;
 - II. Happy to do additional work about rfp bid documents, has not been quoted yet
 - II. Question about water – don't know what it it would cost to drill well and add irrigation
 - III. Re need for the current committee to make decision, noting what future school committee will need to deal with;
 - IV. S Miller notes we have been dealing with this issue for years;

- V. A Carter thanks Joe for the presentation; notes that we are not far from where we were two years ago weighs in on process; question re conception this is rushed;
- VI. C Greene moves we proceed with the bid documents that was approved in September of 2019; second by C Conry.
 - I. L von Holtz –
 - I. notes problems with how bidding was to be structured;
 - II. Notes need for waxing facility that can be used in other seasons;
 - III. Notes need for ADA & Title IX compliance;
 - IV. Notes participation advantages from artificial turf field;
 - II. C Greene notes need for code compliance, work on value engineering to be incorporated, interest in getting more information on turf vs. grass, and interest in a track;
 - III. A Carter notes she is struggling with concept of bidding a grass field as well as an artificial turf
- VII. C Greene withdraws motion.
- VIII. Dr. McCandless is recognized. Notes the importance of TIX and ADA compliance declines to address process issue
- IX. J Bergeron says he is reaching out on bidding issue.
- X. Discussion of alternate bid packages one for natural grass and one for synthetic turf.
- XI. Discussion of costs to rebid.
- XII. C Conry notes we have to talk about wax room as well.
 - I. Discussion of proposal to devote 30x60 building to athletic storage and Nordic team needs and construct facilities storage building on trailer site;
 - II. Committee members note support for proposal;
 - III. Some discussion of what the source of those funds could be;
- XIII. **Motion:** A Terranova moves that we devote 30x60 building to athletic storage and Nordic team needs and that we authorize spending up to \$90,000 from capital gift to construct facilities storage building on trailer site. Greene seconds. **Vote:** All in favor, 6-0 vote taken alphabetically by roll call vote.
- XIV. Discussion returns to field.
 - I. Discussion of bid document development
 - II. Discussion of public concern about cost comparisons, financing, saving money from capital gift;
 - III. A Terranova Moves to vote in favor of Phase II subcommittee recommendation to install a brockfill turf field with track as an add on Second by Miller.
 - I. C. Conry questions whether we need to rescind prior vote
 - II. J Bergeron notes procurement process and permitting
 - III. C Greene notes that the motion might be to move the phase ii recommendation as value engineered into detailed design;
 - IV. J Art notes risk of loss of goodwill by proceeding with the synthetic turf field without addressing concerns of communities, both boards of selectmen, and both finance committees.
 - V. C Greene proposes a friendly amendment: move the phase II recommendation which includes compliance for title ix, ADA, and synthetic turf, as value engineered, and broc-fill, with the track as an add alternate into detailed design.
 - VI. J Bergeron notes that he does not see a specific set of recommendations from the value engineering process. He

- expresses concern that he won't know how to operationalize the vote.
- VII. Need to look at the value engineering list and see what should be incorporated in the bid documents; the revisions of the documents will cost money;
 - VIII. Terranova and Miller accept friendly amendment.
 - IX. C Greene notes plan is to assess value engineering list and see what should be incorporated in the bid documents, and then bring the plan back to the committee. Notes that next week we could move something into detailed design
 - X. Second proposed friendly amendment: move the phase II recommendation which includes compliance for title ix and ADA, and synthetic turf, as value engineered, and broc-fill, with the track as an add alternate into detailed design by the following process
 - I. Internal review of VE list and bid documents
 - II. SC review and approval of VE and bid documents
 - III. Develop Detailed design documents
 - IV. ZBA review
 - V. Go out to bid
 - XI. Terranova and Miller accept friendly amendment.
 - XII. S Miller raises question of timeline
 - XIII. J Bergeron notes process is workable
 - XIV. **MOTION** as amended: Terranova moves and Miller seconds to move the phase II recommendation which includes compliance for title ix and ADA, and a synthetic turf field, as value engineered and with broc-fill, with the track as an add alternate into detailed design by the following process:
 - I. Internal review of VE list and bid documents
 - II. SC review and approval of VE and bid documents
 - III. Develop Detailed design documents
 - IV. ZBA review
 - V. Go out to bid
 - IV. **VOTE:** Art no; Carter aye; Conry no; Greene, aye; Miller, aye; Terranova, aye.
 - XV. Motion passes 4-2.
 - I. Miller moves to adjourn, Terranova seconds; Art aye; Carter aye; Conry aye; Greene, aye; Miller, aye; Terranova, aye.
 - VII. Adjourned at 3:48.

Approved 12.08.20