



# Mt. Greylock Regional School District

## School Committee Open Session Minutes

**Date:** Monday, November 23rd

**Start:** 5:00 PM

**Adjourn:** 8:19 PM

**Location:**

*Remote via Zoom*

\*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>
Julia Bowen Christina Conry José Constantine Curtis Elfenbein Carrie Greene Michele Michelle Johnson Steve Miller  <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Absent:</u></b></p>	Dr. Jason P. McCandless, Superintendent Lindsey von Holtz, Director of Athletics Jake Schutz, Principal, MGRS Nolan Pratt, LES Kristen Thompson, WES Joe Bergeron, Business Administrator

<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 5:00 PM.			
<b>II. Mission</b>	<b>MISSION:</b> 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. Welcome to Superintendent Jason McCandless</b>	C. Conry officially welcomed Dr. Jason P. McCandless as the new district Superintendent, who began on November 2nd, 2020.			
<b>IV. Presentation of Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence</b>	Dr. McCandless spoke of several of his past presentations of the award to various previous students. He presented the Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellent to MGRS senior Jackie Wells. He read a letter of commendation from MGRS staff member Beverly Maselli, as well as comments of praise from Principal Jake Schutz. Jackie accepted the award with gratitude.			



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<p><b>V. School Committee Member Introduction and Reorganization (VOTE)</b></p>	<p><b>A. Chair (VOTE)</b> - Dr. McCandless asked the committee if there was a nomination for Chair. J. Bowen nominated Christina Conry, who was the previous chair. The nomination was seconded by C. Greene. C. Conry accepted the nomination. Dr. McCandless asked for any other nominations for chair and none came forth.</p> <p><b>MOTION to appoint Christina Conry as Chair of the Mt. Greylock Regional School District School Committee by J. Bowen, seconded by C. Greene</b></p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE; Miller, AYE</p>	Bowen	Greene	7-0-0
	<p><b>B. Vice-Chair (VOTE)</b> - After a brief explanation that the Vice-Chair is often a committee member from the other town, J. Constantine nominated Carrie Greene for the position. J. Bowen seconded the nomination. C. Greene accepted the nomination.</p> <p><b>MOTION to appoint Carrie Greene as Vice-Chair of the Mt. Greylock Regional School District School Committee by J. Constantine, seconded by J. Bowen</b></p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE; Miller, AYE</p>	Constantine	Bowen	7-0-0
	<p><b>C. Secretary (VOTE)</b> - C. Conry explained the secretary is responsible for note-taking outside of the regularly scheduled monthly School Committee meeting. J. Bowen nominated Steve Miller, seconded by C. Elfenbein. S. Miller accepted the nomination.</p>	Bowen	Elfenbein	7-0-0



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	<p><b>MOTION to appoint Steve Miller as Secretary of the Mt. Greylock Regional School District School Committee by J. Bowen, seconded by C. Elfenbein</b></p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE; Miller, AYE</p>			
<p><b>VI. Public Comment</b></p>	<p>Before Public Comment, C. Conry wanted to officially welcome the four new School Committee members: Julia Bowen of Williamstown, José Constantine of Williamstown, Curtis Elfenbein of Lanesborough, and Michele Michelle Johnson of Lanesborough.</p> <p>C. Conry read one public comment submitted via email from Sheila and David Parks of Lanesborough regarding agenda item XVI. They expressed concerns about going forward with the artificial turf for various reasons, including health and cost issues.</p>			
<p><b>VII. Approval of Minutes (VOTE)</b></p>	<p><b>A. October 8th, 2020</b> - C. Greene addressed concerns of approving minutes for meetings our new committee members were not a part of. J. Bowen asked for more time to watch the meetings before voting. C. Greene requested that the comment on page 5, agenda item IX, regarding the monetary gift stated by S. Miller would be known as his opinion and not fact.</p> <p><b>MOTION to approve the October 8th, 2020 minutes by S. Miller, seconded by C. Greene</b></p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, ABSTAIN; Miller, AYE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Miller</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Greene</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6-0-1</p>
	<p><b>B. October 16th, 2020 &amp; C. October 22nd, 2020</b> - In order to allow time for the newest committee members to read the minutes and watch the previous school committee meetings, the remaining votes to approve the minutes for October 16th and 22nd, 2020, have been pushed back to the next School Committee meeting.</p>			
	<p><b>D. October 28th, 2020</b> - As this meeting occurred after C. Elfenbein's appointment, a majority was present and the minutes may be voted on. J. Bowen reminded the committee that the author of the minutes for every meeting must be listed.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Greene</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bowen</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7-0-0</p>



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	<p><b>MOTION to approve the October 28th, 2020 minutes by C. Greene, seconded by J. Bowen</b></p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE; Miller, AYE</p>			
<p><b>VIII. Athletic Director Update (VOTE)</b></p>	<p>L. von Holtz gave a summary on updates involving various clubs and organizations, including the Greylock Echo, the new Debate Club, a fall Shakespeare theater program, a pen pal program between the high school and elementary schools, some charity work (Hat for a Hat, a Mask-a-thon, and Thanksgiving donations), and a neighborhood clean-up initiative. For athletics, a survey was sent regarding the benefit of the fall programs, which received much positive feedback. Students participated in cross country, golf, and practice programs. The MIA met to discuss winter programs. There will be no ice hockey offering for Berkshire County and wrestling has been postponed to spring. Students will not be sent to other schools for Alpine skiing or swimming. Nordic skiing and basketball will hopefully be offered, but the programs will be different and localized. C. Greene asked about a vote for winter sports, and L. von Holtz said she wanted to gain committee feedback. C. Greene thought basketball may be problematic in regards to indoor practice if the district is remote, but L. von Holtz reminded everyone that volleyball was held over the fall.</p>			
	<p>M. Johnson asked about training programs for sports that won't have a season. L. von Holtz said they have a non-sports-specific program called M GOAT on the club side of things with fitness-related activities. M. Johnson expressed concerns with indoor activities due to rising COVID cases. L.von Holtz said the district would reassess in January. Dr. McCandless said a yes vote would just be preliminary and not set things in stone. J. Constantine asked what L. von Holtz's preference would be, to which she replied she'd rather have a vote now to move forward and prepare. She said that in her opinion she'd rather the school host these activities as they are better equipped than community members and the school can guarantee supervision.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Greene</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Miller</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6-1-0</p>



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	<p><b>MOTION to support the winter sports program with presented restrictions by C. Greene, seconded by S. Miller</b></p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, NAY, Miller, AYE</p>			
<p><b>IX. Principal Updates</b></p>	<p><b>A. MGRS</b> - J. Schutz spoke on continuing support for families, striving for academic and wellness balances, as well as encouraging families to fill out surveys sent by the school. MCAS is still scheduled for the school year, as are PSATs, but SATs are to be determined. Mr. Schutz talked about morning virtual staff meetings as well as one for parents. The Pep Club will return to MGRS. Mr. Schutz also talked of some potential budget needs as well as some accolades for the school. He played a clip of the Cohort B orchestra playing for everyone in the school lobby.</p> <p><b>B. LES</b> - N. Pratt began by stating that we have no positive COVID cases among students or staff currently. He gave updates on the support center, cleaning and safety in the building, as well as parent / teacher conferences. He informed the committee about the LES mascot, the wyvern, and how it's incorporated at the school. The Life Committee will be reintroduced, and the Diversity Examination Group has been started. Staffing has been finalized, behavior incidents are down, and the Remote Academy is changing to every Thursday.</p> <p><b>C. WES</b> - K. Thompson said that like LES, we have responsible community members and students who are allowing us to stay open with following the safety guidelines. The first group of parent / teacher conferences happened. The first PTO meeting was held and signs of encouragement were posted at WES. The position of Read Specialist is almost finalized, and school pictures have been scheduled for March. C. Greene congratulated Cindy Sheehy, the new Assistant Principal at WES.</p>			
<p><b>X. Superintendent Updates</b></p>	<p><b>A. Recognition of Retirees</b> - Dr. McCandless recognized and congratulated Maureen Jennings, Linda Wlodyka, and Ellen Kaiser of MGRS.</p> <p><b>B. Covid Learning Updates</b> - Dr. McCandless sent the committee the MGRSD snow day plan, which will incorporate remote learning on any snow days before February 19th, 2021. There will be no 2-hour delays. Following February 19th, if needed, there will be two snow days that will happen as regular snow days. Once two have occurred, any further snow days will revert again to remote learning days. C. Greene followed-up that the Commissioner of Education has given districts permission to hold remote learning on snow days just for this current school year. M. Johnson expressed concerns about 2-hour delays being fully remote putting a burden on parents of younger students as well as power and internet issues. J. Bergeron said that since many teachers teach remotely in the morning, having no transition time to travel to work would not be practical for a 2-hour delay.</p>			



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	<p>Dr. McCandless expressed gratitude for the warm welcome he has received from the three schools and spoke of various experiences he has had so far. He spoke of three pillars we are striving for: 1. social, emotional, and academic wellness; 2. physical and mental health and wellness of the staff who serve; 3. and the health and safety of the communities. Dr. McCandless presented several statistics on COVID as well as how it is relating to the district remaining in a hybrid model. After speaking of the many ways the school community is working to combat the pandemic, he praised the fact that he was seeing a lot of “We Over Me” among students and staff. J. Bowen expressed gratitude to Dr. McCandless for stepping in for this difficult task. C. Greene also gave words of support for the superintendent. J. Constantine asked about involving diverse voices within the community. Dr. McCandless believes it starts with leadership, meeting individuals, and bringing about inclusion and equity. Professional diversity trainings were floated about for staff as well as for the school committee.</p>			
<p><b>XI. Appoint District Secretary (VOTE)</b></p>	<p>J. Bergeron stated that the school district is required to have a secretary in addition to the school committee secretary, and that it is often the Superintendent.</p> <p><b>MOTION to appoint Jason P. McCandless as the District Secretary for the Mt. Greylock Regional School District by M. Johnson, seconded by J. Bowen</b></p> <p>*Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE</p> <p><i>*Steve Miller had to leave the meeting at 7:16 PM, prior to this vote</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Johnson</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bowen</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6-0-0</p>
<p><b>XII. Appointment of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer (VOTE)</b></p>	<p>J. Bergeron explained that within a regional school district, the Treasurer acts as the check and balance for money for the district. The past Treasurer was Donna Narey and the Assistant Treasurer was Brenda Rondeau. He asked the committee that they continue to act in their positions.</p> <p><b>MOTION to approve Donna Narey as Treasure and Brenda Rondeau as Assistant Treasurer for the Mt. Greylock Regional School District by J. Bowen, seconded by C. Elfenbein</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bowen</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Elfenbein</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6-0-0</p>



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	Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE			
<b>XIII. Appoint Records Access Officer (VOTE)</b>	<p>Dr. McCandless explained that the Records Access Officer is in charge of all records, which are public domain as the school is a public entity. He recommended that Joe Bergeron be appointed to the position. C. Greene said it seemed unusual to her to appoint the Business Administrator as the Records Access Officer. Dr. McCandless said that Mr. Bergeron would have much assistance if needed, and though unusual, he would act as a point person heading a team effort. J. Bergeron said he'd accept the position.</p> <p>MOTION to appoint Joe Bergeron as Records Access Officer for the Mt. Greylock Regional School District by J. Bowen, seconded by C. Elfenbein</p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE</p>	Bowen	Elfenbein	6-0-0
<b>XIV. Business Administrator Update (VOTE)</b>	<p><b>A. Warrants Review / Approval Process (VOTE)</b> - J. Bergeron explained that usually the Finance Subcommittee would take care of many of the following items. Mr. Bergeron read the current practice to the committee and followed with an updated version.</p> <p><b>MOTION to add provision to the Approval Process of warrants by C. Greene, seconded by C. Elfenbein</b></p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE</p> <p><b>B. Warrants Review -</b></p> <p><b>1. Payroll</b></p>	Greene	Elfenbein	6-0-0



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	<p><b>2. Accounts Payable</b> Both payroll and AP have been standard, per Mr. Bergeron.</p> <p><b>3. MGRS School Building</b></p> <p>Mr. Bergeron said no vote was needed but offered questions or discussions about the packet items.</p>			
	<p><b>C. Finance Subcommittee Reorganization (VOTE)</b> - J. Bergeron said the plan is to have the majority of subcommittees chosen at the December 8th meeting, but this subcommittee needs to be up and running ASAP. C. Conry recommended C. Greene as Chair, as well as M. Johnson and S. Miller to the subcommittee. C. Greene and M. Johnson accepted the nominations.</p> <p>MOTION to select C. Greene, M. Johnson, and S. Miller to the Finance Subcommittee for the Mt. Greylock Regional School District by J. Bowen, seconded by C. Elfenbein</p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE</p>	Bowen	Elfenbein	6-0-0
	<p><b>D. School Building Committee Slate Update (VOTE)</b> - J. Bergeron explained the changes to the current Slate.</p> <p><b>MOTION to accept School Building Committee Slate as presented by C. Greene, seconded by J. Bowen</b></p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE</p>	Greene	Bowen	6-0-0
	<p><b>E. WES Williams Capital Gift Use Approval (VOTE)</b> - Mr. Bergeron spoke of the project of adding ventilation to the eating area in the cafeteria at WES, but that other grant money helped with that.</p>	Greene	Bowen	7-0-0





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	<p>He said some of the gift was used for updating the HVAC system at the school and that it was authorized by the school committee in October of 2019.</p> <p><b>MOTION to accept the invoice as presented and pay Jamrog HVAC out of the Williams Capital Gift by C. Greene, seconded by J. Bowen</b></p> <p>*Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE; Miller, AYE</p> <p><i>*Steve Miller returned to the meeting at 7:46 PM, prior to this vote</i></p>			
	<p><b>F. MGRS Multipurpose Building Closeout (VOTE)</b> - J. Bergeron told the committee of the closeout amount for the project and asked for authorization from the Williams College Gift for payment.</p> <p>MOTION to authorize disbursement from the Williams College Gift to Mt. Greylock Regional School for the Multipurpose Building closeout by C. Greene, seconded by C. Elfenbein</p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE; Miller, AYE</p>	Greene	Elfenbein	7-0-0
	<p><b>G. FY22 Budget Timeline</b> - J. Bergeron spoke briefly on the budget process and what will be presented in December.</p>			
<p><b>XV. MASC Annual Meeting Update</b></p>	<p>C. Greene spoke about the first time having a delegate from Mt. Greylock RSD at the MASC annual meeting and proposed continuing sending a delegate.</p>			
<p><b>XVI. MGRS Fields Proposal from Perkins Eastman / Next Steps</b></p>	<p>J. Bergeron stated that a proposal was submitted as a late addition to the packet just this afternoon. C. Greene asked that it be sent to the Finance Subcommittee for review on Thursday, 12/03, because of the late submission.</p>			
<p><b>XVII. Discussion on reserving a portion of the gift for MGRS renewal fund (VOTE)</b></p>	<p>Mr. Bergeron explained that since the gift was pledged, typically the committee will save a portion of the fund every year for reserve. J. Constantine questioned what a vote would mean for this today. J. Bergeron said any vote could be altered in the future. S. Miller and</p>			




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	C. Greene suggested postponing any vote on the item until the Finance Subcommittee reviews the gift use.			
<b>XVIII. Upcoming meetings / events</b>	<b>A. December 8th, 2020 - School Committee Meeting</b> <b>B. December 22nd, 2020 - School Committee Special Session</b>			
<b>XIX. Other business not anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of meeting</b>	No other business to discuss.			
<b>XX. Motion to Adjourn</b>	<b>MOTION to adjourn by S. Miller, seconded by M. Johnson</b>  Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE; Miller, AYE  Meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.	Miller	Johnson	7-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Eli Phillips  
 Mt. Greylock Minutes Recorder

Documents shared at 11/23/20 School Committee meeting:

-  00 School Committee Agenda 11.23.20 (1)
-  05 MGRSD Chair History
-  06a Public comment, Sheila and David Parks
-  07A 10.8.20 Meeting Minutes DRAFT
-  07B 2020 10 16 Open School Committee DRAFT minutes
-  07C 10\_22\_20 Meeting Minutes DRAFT
-  07D 2020\_10\_28 MtG joint meeting Williamstown Lanesborough boards of selectmen DRAFT minutes
-  08 Co-Curricular Fall Summary, Winter Proposal & MIAA Modifications revised
-  10A MGRSD Retirees
-  10B Snow Days for the 20-21 School Year
-  11 MGL 71 Section 16A District Secretary
-  12 MGL 71 Section 16A Treasurer & Asst Treasurer
-  14B1a 2020-1106 Payroll Distribution Report-#10-11-6-20
-  14B1b 2020-1106 Voucher #17-11-6-20
-  14B1c 2020-1106 Voucher Detail Listing#1031-11-6-20
-  14B1d 2020-1106 Voucher-#1031-11-6-20
-  14B1e 2020-1120 Payroll Distribution Report-#11-11-20-20
-  14B1f 2020-1120 Voucher #18-11-20-2020
-  14B1g 2020-1120 Voucher #1033-11-20-2020
-  14B1h 2020-1120 Voucher Detail Listing-#1033-11-20-2020
-  14B2a 2020-1106 Accounts Payable Warrant #10.11 11.6.20
-  14B2b 2020-1120 Accounts Payable Warrant
-  14B3 CW#2 School Committee Voucher 10-26-20
-  14D Building Comm Composition November 2020 DRAFT
-  14E WES - Wheel Invoice
-  14F MGRS Multipurpose Building Closeout documents
-  15 Report from MASC 11.7.20 meeting
-  16 Proposal for Phase 2 AS Perkins Eastman

Approved with edits 12.08.20