



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

School Committee Open Session Minutes

Date: December 8th, 2020

Start: 6:02 PM

Adjourn: 9:13 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:

Committee Members:	Also Present:
Julia Bowen Christina Conry José Constantine Curtis Elfenbein Carrie Greene Michelle Johnson Steve Miller <u>Absent:</u>	Dr. Jason P. McCandless, Superintendent Joe Bergeron, Business Administrator Jake Schutz, Principal - MGRS Nolan Pratt, Principal - LES Kristen Thompson, Principal - WES

Item	Comments	Motion	Second	Vote
I. Call to Order	Meeting called to order by C. Conry at 6:02 PM			
II. Mission	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.			
II.I Agenda Item Request	Prior to Public Comment, C. Greene requested that the Finance Subcommittee report be added after the Superintendent's Report as item XIII, moving all items down one. C. Conry agreed to the agenda revision.			
III. Public Comment	1. C. Conry read a comment from Amie Hane of Williamstown regarding a pediatrician letter that may be added to the meeting. She presented data from the state regarding COVID clusters and did not think that schools are safe from the spread.			



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	<p>2. Cathy Keating of Williamstown gave her opinion about returning to schools in-person and shared a letter that local pediatricians wrote sharing that opinion.</p>			
<p>IV. Approval of Minutes (VOTE)</p>	<p>A. October 16th, 2020 (VOTE) -</p> <p>MOTION to approve minutes from October 16, 2020 by J. Bowen, seconded by C. Elfenbein</p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, ABSTAIN; Miller, AYE</p>	<p>Bowen</p>	<p>Elfenbein</p>	<p>6-0-1</p>
	<p>B. October 22nd, 2020 (VOTE) -</p> <p>MOTION to approve minutes from October 22, 2020 by M. Johnson, seconded by J. Bowen</p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE; Miller, AYE</p>	<p>Johnson</p>	<p>Bowen</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>
	<p>C. November 23rd, 2020 (VOTE) - M. Johnson noted her name is misspelled - Michelle is with two Ls.</p> <p>MOTION to approve minutes from October 23, 2020 by M. Johnson, seconded by C. Elfenbein</p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE; Miller, AYE</p>	<p>Johnson</p>	<p>Elfenbein</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>
<p>V. Subcommittee Reorganization (VOTE)</p>	<p>A. Negotiations (VOTE) - C. Conry admitted she'd like to stay on as Chair of the Negotiations Subcommittee and may be joined with J. Bowen and C. Elfenbein. C. Greene questioned how experience would come into play for the new members, but said she was fine with the proposed group after some discussion. J. Bowen and C. Elfenbein accepted the nominations.</p>	<p>Greene</p>	<p>Johnson</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	<p>MOTION to select Julia Bowen, Christina Conry, and Curtis Elfenbein as the MGRSD Negotiations Subcommittee by C. Greene, seconded by M. Johnson</p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE; Miller, AYE</p>			
	<p>B. Policy (VOTE) - C. Conry proposed appointing J. Constantine as Chair of the Policy Subcommittee alongside J. Bowen and C. Greene. Dr. McCandless explained the need for the full subcommittee. All parties accepted their nominations.</p> <p>MOTION to appoint Julia Bowen, José Constantine, and Carrie Greene to the MGRSD Policy Subcommittee by S. Miller, seconded by C. Elfenbein</p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE; Miller, AYE</p>	Miller	Elfenbein	7-0-0
<p>VI. Discussion of future workshops to discuss other liaisons or subcommittees</p>	<p>C. Conry explained that she had drafted a doc with Dr. McCandless and Joe Bergeron, and after conversations with MASC, they hoped to define the duties of liaisons and subcommittees for the public and the community. Proposed workshops about what the roles were were put forth for the school committee to attend. C. Greene wasn't clear why a workshop was needed. J. Bergeron said they wanted to define roles enough so that anybody new who took on the role would understand what expectations would be, and it could be best discussed in a workshop setting. Documentation, policies & existing expectations were all points to be made clear. J. Bergeron said there may be shorter workshops as it may not take that much time to discuss and finalize. C. Greene thought that evaluations should take a whole meeting, to which J. Bergeron agreed.</p>			
<p>VII. Superintendent Updates</p>	<p>A. FY21 Enrollment Updates - Dr. McCandless shared a lengthy presentation about why enrollment is important, district enrollment data, as well as information on Berkshire County enrollment. M. Johnson had a question about online learners. J. Bowen asked about demographics and how enrollment numbers decreasing would affect the budget. J. Bergeron gave information on the district budget related to enrollment. C. Greene suggested that returning homeschool children next year won't have been budgeted due to the low numbers from this current year, and that if we get a large number of returning students, it may create a budgetary issue. Dr. McCandless spoke about planning for the worst and hoping for the best, and how COVID has affected the Berkshires in some ways.</p>			



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	<p>J. McCandless suggested collaboration with other school districts in the area for remote learning. J. Bowen had a question regarding Berkshire County Education Task Force and its effect with the district.</p> <p>B. Educational Update - Dr. McCandless explained some of the COVID policies and protocols the district is following, along with help from health officials and the state. He gave extensive data regarding COVID numbers in our schools and also explained the balance of our district during the pandemic regarding remote vs in-person learning. C. Greene asked about the Memorandum of Agreement and where it stands. J. McCandless said it was agreed upon by the school committee and the union and it stands. He said that continued discussions next week regarding the MoA will include a local representative from the MA Teachers Association as well as the district council. *J. Bowen asked about other creative ways to involve students in a virtual way to reach students while learning remotely. M. Johnson expressed concern for disadvantaged students as well as the resources the district has for mental health. J. Constantine asked for clarification on what the process for revisiting the MoA was. There was a conversation about negotiations and Dr. McCandless explained that in all his experience, there are certain types of negotiations that should not be in public.</p>
<p>VIII. Finance Subcommittee Report</p>	<p>C. Greene spoke about the district’s long-term renewal planning and what may be coming up. She explained how the Capital Gift was meant to pay for capital projects for Mt. Greylock. C. Greene told the committee about renewal funds and the proposal for the turf field that arrived. She spoke on some discrepancies on the price bids presented and why they were sent back. J. Constantine had questions about the origin of the monetary number for the renewal fund and if it can be amended and reported. J. Bowen said a proposal may be helpful detailing where money from gifts should be used.</p>
<p>IX. Discussion of Turf Forum(s) and Format</p>	<p>Dr. McCandless spoke about the research he has done on our turf project and the various concerns from the community regarding the project. He proposed a forum, giving opposite views in the community an hour each to speak on the issue. J. Bowen showed her support in holding the forum to hear feedback. The committee discussed the best way to hold a forum on the issue, noting it would be beneficial for newer members to hear public comment as things may have changed. M. Johnson shared her concerns on having a Q&A with opposing views that may get heated. There was a discussion about how to get the word out to the community about the forum and how in what order it should be held. It was decided that the first hour will be public comment and the second hour will be a presentation and Q&A for the committee.</p>
<p>X. Discussion of MASC Workshop regarding School Committee Practices and Procedures / Potential Dates for Workshop</p>	<p>C. Conry was hoping to focus on Mt. Greylock specifically with one or a few MASC workshops. She wanted feedback from the committee to see their opinions. J. Bowen shared her gratitude for getting this on its feet and that she’d be happy to participate. M. Johnson also shared her support but suggested a January date for the Saturday workshop.</p>



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

XI. Other business not anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of the meeting	C. Conry had no business to report.			
XII. Motion to adjourn	MOTION to adjourn by M. Johnson, seconded by J. Bowen	Johnson	Bowen	7-0-0
	Meeting adjourned at 9:13 PM.			

Respectfully Submitted,
 Eli Phillips
 Mount Greylock Minutes Recorder

**J. Bowen requested that the minutes include a note that there are efforts being made to support student mental health while learning remotely. 12.22.20*

Approved with note 12.22.20

Documents shared with School Committee 12/08/20 Meeting:

-  00 School Committee Agenda 12.8.20
-  03a Public Comment A. Hane
-  03b Public Comment, C. Keating
-  04A 2020 10 16 Open School Committee DRAFT minutes
-  04B 10_22_20 Meeting Minutes DRAFT
-  04C 11.23.20 School Committee Minutes Draft
-  05a Draft SubCommittee Members Functions Roles
-  05b Proposed MG Sub Committee AssignmentsFY20_21
-  07A 2020-2021 Enrollment Report updated 12.7.20
-  07B NBPlettertoschools
-  08a Doodle Results for Forum Dates
-  08b Williams College - MGRS Capital Gift Agreement
-  FinSubcomm03Dec2020 minutes DRAFT