

Mount Greylock Regional School District School Committee

Location: Zoom Remote meeting

Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Time: 6:00 pm

Please join meeting using the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/95736959764>

Meeting ID: 957 3695 9764

One tap mobile

+16468769923,,95736959764# US (New York)

+13017158592,,95736959764# US (Washington D.C)

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.

Please see our Public Comment Policy for Guidelines regarding Public Comment at Remote Meetings:

<https://z2policy.ctspublish.com/masc/browse/mtgreylockset/mtgreylock/BEDH-R>

Open Session Agenda

- I.** Call to order
- II.** 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
- IV.** Approval of minutes
 - A.** October 16, 2020 **VOTE**
 - B.** October 22, 2020 **VOTE**
 - C.** November 23, 2020 **VOTE**
- V.** Subcommittee Reorganization
 - A.** Negotiations **VOTE**
 - B.** Policy **VOTE**

- VI.** Discussion of future workshops to discuss other liaisons or subcommittees
- VII.** Superintendent Updates
 - A.** FY21 Enrollment Updates
 - B.** Educational Update
- VIII.** Discussion of Turf Forum(s) and Format
- IX.** Discussion of MASC Workshop regarding School Committee Practices and Procedures/
Potential Dates for Workshop
- X.** Other business not anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of the meeting
- XI.** Motion to adjourn

This meeting will be broadcast on WilliNet TV channel 1302 in Williamstown. It will also be posted on the MGRSD YouTube page within 24 hours of the meeting

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLR0nrLhpZHlyPFUhaMxPSg>

Amie Hane, Williamstown, submitting this comment as a parent of 2 students in the district, not representing any other institution or group. This comment is anticipation that a letter provided by Northern Berkshire Pediatrics dated December 3rd is to be placed under the agenda item VIIb "Educational update" or item X. "Other business not anticipated" and/or if and when the letter is to be discussed or read in public forum at all.

It is critically important that we all focus on the wellbeing of children and families. The letter submitted by Northern Berkshire Pediatrics offers important information about the state of mental and physical health in their practice. There are, however, some points of clarity needed. To claim that schools are safer than homes is misleading. It may preclude making any efforts to further mitigate infection risk inside buildings while blaming teachers for not being willing to serve as front line workers.

The claim that "outbreaks in school have not been seen" is not supported by the data. In the Commonwealth alone, there were 30 clusters in the last 2 weeks in the K-12 schools as reported by the 12/03 MA Dashboard. There were 90 clusters in childcare settings. Cluster risk is ranked as follows: 1) households; 2) long-term care facilities; 3) childcare centers; 4) K-12 schools. The K-12 school cluster count in the last two weeks exceeds hospitals, colleges, social gatherings, restaurants, recreation centers and places of worship. Household data is influenced by school data for any school in which children return home daily. The spaces our children attend need help with infection control—not a blank check to proceed without "fear," which may be interpreted as directed at teachers to be braver.

Also, the letter presumes we know what has happened with the positive cases we have seen in-district. Before Berkshire County reached the 3.01% that triggered a shift to remote learning, MGRHS was pausing to assess the efficacy of their protocols given the positive cases. This is a prudent mitigation effort. I do not yet know what we learned. This letter assumes to have knowledge that parents do not and that has not been affirmed or refuted by the district. The few districts that have reported to DESE's dashboard report 1,135 positive students and 868 positive staff in the last 4 weeks.

Finally, teachers are not health care providers. Teachers are educators. Teachers did not take the Hippocratic oath to do no harm. But they indeed do less harm by promoting public health in this pandemic as they watch numbers and work hard to flexibly educate in and out of the building. Infection control in schools is a challenge. Until public schools can create the safety claimed in this letter by twice weekly testing, single sleeping rooms & private bathrooms to avoid affecting family members, and pods for controlled peer socialization for child mental health, the claim that a school building is safer for infection control than a home is ill informed. For this to be true, public schools would need to be boarding schools, with controlled exposure to outside community spread and teachers as protected as their students.

Amie Hane, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychology, Chair of Public Health

Williams College

Williamstown, MA 01267

<http://psychology.williams.edu/profile/ahane/>

December 8, 2020

Urgent Appeal to Reopen MGRSD

Dear School Committee Members and MGRSD Administration,

We are writing to voice our collective support for getting our children back to in-person learning in a more substantial way. Recent DESE guidance would support this as well. We realize the timing of this letter may seem at odds with the recent increase in cases in our county, but now, more than ever, it is important to use science and evidence to guide decisions regarding in-person education for our children. Since the last Memorandum of Agreement was adopted in late summer, there is new data available and updated evidence that supports the safety of in-person learning that should be considered and incorporated into a new agreement.

Children and families are suffering serious adverse consequences of not being in school. Recent national and global research has shown that remote schooling of children exacerbates food insecurity and widens the learning gap between children of higher-income and lower-income families (Van Lancker & Parolin, 2020), has adverse impacts on mental health with increased rates of depression and anxiety in children (Loades et al., 2020), and is associated with increased incidences of domestic violence (Thomas et al., 2020). If we wish to be a school district truly dedicated to equity these phenomena cannot be ignored.

Over the course of this pandemic so far, we have learned that children have not been shown to be major vectors of Corona Virus transmission and positive cases in schools are more likely to be indicative of community spread rather than school-based transmission, particularly when there are robust mitigation procedures in place. With a bit of creativity, we could have all our elementary school children back full time with their cohorts while following social distancing guidelines (between 3-6 feet). That seems like it might be more difficult at the 7-12 level as they are a more mobile group, but with some additional thought and planning they might be able to get at least one more day a week as well. As the New York Times reported in November, the idea of "deep cleaning" as a mitigator of disease incidence has not been backed up by evidence (Ives and Mandavilli, 2020). Having the children back in school on Wednesdays, thereby increasing in-person learning by 20% would be of huge benefit. Bearing all of this in mind, we would like to ask that the school committee and administration consider advocating for re-opening the elementary schools full time and the middle/high school re-open with added hybrid learning hours on Wednesdays.

We need decision making that is rooted in data and science and is dedicated to promoting equity. Since this is an ever-evolving situation, we need to remain flexible in our decision-making and it appears that the best available data at this time favors re-opening schools. We acknowledge that there will be challenges with staffing and budgeting. Perhaps if all parties involved (staff, teachers, administrators, community members) work together to come up with a plan based on current evidence and public health guidelines, we could come up with a plan that better addresses the needs of our children which acknowledges that in-person school is a safe option.

Respectfully submitted,

MGRSD Parents and Community members (see attached names)

References:

Ives, M. & Mandavilli, A. (2020, 18 November). The Corona Virus is airborne indoors. Why are we still disinfecting surfaces? The New York Times, available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/18/world/asia/covid-cleaning.html?referringSource=articleShare>

Loades M.E., Chatburn E., Higson-Sweeney N., Reynolds S., Shafran R., Brigden A., Linney C., McManus M.N., Borwick C., & Crawley E. (2020). Rapid Systematic Review: The Impact of Social Isolation and Loneliness on the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents in the Context of COVID-19. *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry*, 59(11), 1218-1239.e3.

Thomas E.Y., Anurudran A., Robb K., & Burke T.F. Spotlight on child abuse and neglect response in the time of COVID-19. *Lancet Public Health*. 2020 Jul;5(7):e371. doi: 10.1016/S2468-2667(20)30143-2. PMID: 32619538; PMCID: PMC7326432.

Van Lancker, W., & Parolin, Z. (2020). COVID-19, school closures, and child poverty: a social crisis in the making. *The Lancet*(5)5, E243-E244.

CC: Governor Charlie Baker's Office of Constituent Services Massachusetts State House, 24 Beacon St., Office of the Governor, Room 280, Boston, MA 02133

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	My child/children attend(s)		
12/6/2020 21:16:07	shaina.adams@gmail.com	Shaina Adams-El Guabli	WES		
12/6/2020 21:16:27	be2@williams.edu	Brahim El Guabli	WES		
12/6/2020 21:38:16	courtney.hatch.blauvelt@	Courtney Hatch Blauvelt	WES		
12/6/2020 21:43:48	lmneathawk@gmail.com	Lindsay M. Neathawk	WES		
12/6/2020 21:57:11	mc10@williams.edu	Matt carter	WES		
12/6/2020 22:07:14	ernkernk@gmail.com	Catherine I Keating	MGRS, WES		
12/6/2020 22:08:27	saraheraymond22@gmail	Sarah Raymond	WES		
12/6/2020 22:49:38	wendymcw@gmail.com	Wendy McWeeny	MGRS, WES		
12/6/2020 23:06:27	jen@fasterskier.com	Jennifer Mygatt	Pine Cobble School		
12/7/2020 3:14:03	amswann3@gmail.com	Ann Marie Swann	MGRS		
12/7/2020 6:45:05	bdrake@onedigital.com	Brian Drake	MGRS, WES		
12/7/2020 6:58:45	zestylewis@hotmail.com	Betsy Kellogg	LES		
12/7/2020 7:24:30	melissa.zuroff@gmail.com	Melissa Zuroff	LES		
12/7/2020 7:27:47	d.zachary.finch@mcla.ed	Zack Finch	WES		
12/7/2020 7:29:26	stacey.pesce@hotmail.co	Stacey Pesce	MGRS, WES		
12/7/2020 7:45:45	nicole.methot@gmail.com	Nicole Keogh	WES		
12/7/2020 7:53:29	hgreene@williams.edu	Hilary Greene	MGRS		
12/7/2020 7:54:03	srogers@williams.edu	Seth Rogers	MGRS		
12/7/2020 7:59:06	rjoffehalpern@gmail.com	Rebecca Filson	WES		
12/7/2020 8:20:25	klunddrake@gmail.com	Kendra	MGRS, WES		
12/7/2020 8:21:56	agiarolo@hotmail.com	Andrew Giarolo	WES		
12/7/2020 8:25:57	amysosne@gmail.com	Amy Sosne	WES		
12/7/2020 8:49:01	andrew.stuebner@gmail.c	Andrew Stuebner	WES		
12/7/2020 8:50:31	c_marie108@yahoo.com	Cristina Stuebner	WES		
12/7/2020 8:55:05	jenbayliss1@gmail.com	Jennifer Bayliss	MGRS, WES		
12/7/2020 9:29:36	laurelbifano@yahoo.com	Laurel bifano	WES		
12/7/2020 9:30:13	jessika.drmacich@gmail.c	Jessika Drmacich	WES		
12/7/2020 9:32:23	bffilson@aol.com	Brent Filson	WES		
12/7/2020 9:36:40	snafzige@williams.edu	Steven E Nafziger	WES		
12/7/2020 9:39:35	longhurst.mark@gmail.co	Mark Longhurst	WES		
12/7/2020 9:59:00	farmon@gmail.com	Michael Evans	WES		

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	My child/children attend(s)		
12/7/2020 10:03:28	juliamunemo@gmail.com	Julia M Munemo	MGRS		
12/7/2020 10:09:02	ntp1@williams.edu	Ninah Pretto	WES		
12/7/2020 10:27:51	djudge31672@gmail.com	Duffy Judge	MGRS, WES		
12/7/2020 10:28:29	qnancy4@gmail.com	Nancy Quevillon	MGRS		
12/7/2020 10:30:01	mattneely13@gmail.com	Matt Neely	WES		
12/7/2020 10:33:05	margo@neelyanddaughte	Margo Neely	WES		
12/7/2020 11:16:29	eastuebner@gmail.com	Erwin A Stuebner M.D.	Physician/grandparent		
12/7/2020 11:22:24	dave@williamstownpt.cor	Dave Armet	MGRS		
12/7/2020 11:29:21	jwestalldraper@altonwest	Jackie Draper	WES		
12/7/2020 11:41:35	jcarothers@atsu.edu	Jim Carothers	MGRS, WES		
12/7/2020 12:11:44	md28lixe@aol.com	Mark	WES		
12/7/2020 12:22:45	jeffreykellogg@yahoo.co	Jeff Kellogg	LES students choiced out this year due to closure		
12/7/2020 12:27:02	judgeigoe@gmail.com	Kathleen Igoe	MGRS, WES		
12/7/2020 12:32:56	jonathan.igoe@gmail.com	Jonathan Igoe	MGRS, WES		
12/7/2020 12:33:57	mjr5@williams.edu	Mark Reach	WES		
12/7/2020 12:41:59	jessika.drmacich@gmail.c	Jessika Drmacich	WES		
12/7/2020 12:56:21	judgeigoe@gmail.com	Kathleen Igoe	MGRS, WES		
12/7/2020 13:02:42	cogiovanetti@gmail.com	Catherine Giovanetti	Future WES student (currently in pre-school)		
12/7/2020 13:19:47	klyevans@gmail.com	Katherine Evans	WES		
12/7/2020 13:26:50	fmanary@gmail.com	Faith G Manary	WES, (also MGRS employee)		
12/7/2020 13:27:02	clarkiem21@gmail.com	Michael Clark	WES		
12/7/2020 13:27:31	carolina.ornellas@gmail.c	Maria Carolina N Clark	WES		
12/7/2020 13:28:54	Kboucher1110@gmail.co	Kristina Boucher	WES		
12/7/2020 13:33:18	desperadosmoon@aol.co	Heather Gleason	WES		
12/7/2020 13:36:36	immoreno15@gmail.com	Iris Moreno	WES		
12/7/2020 13:37:52	kellypaul415@gmail.com	Kelly Paul	MGRS, WES		
12/7/2020 13:40:59	kelliek12@hotmail.com	Kellie Klinger	LES		
12/7/2020 13:42:33	jlatimernbp@gmail.com	Jaclyn Latimer	WES		
12/7/2020 13:48:16	Jmwqueen@hotmail.com	JMWQueen	Retired educator		
12/7/2020 13:48:58	Ltaxier@gmail.com	Laina Taxier	WES		

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	My child/children attend(s)		
12/7/2020 13:54:22	angiehillman@gmail.com	Angie Hillman	WES		
12/7/2020 13:55:32	abryan123@yahoo.com	amy k bryan	MGRS		
12/7/2020 14:03:46	jminer1987@hotmail.com	Jessica Horn	WES		
12/7/2020 14:06:15	mthompson1534@gmail.com	Megan thompson	WES		
12/7/2020 14:08:49	elisha.joy1980@gmail.com	Elisha	MGRS, WES		
12/7/2020 14:25:52	jecrow@gmail.com	Jennifer Crowell McDermott	MGRS, WES		
12/7/2020 14:29:56	katherineanneberry@gmail.com	Katherine Cortes	LES		
12/7/2020 14:30:12	lsm1@williams.edu	Luana Maroja	MGRS		
12/7/2020 14:30:41	pcelectric30@gmail.com	Pedro Cortes	LES		
12/7/2020 14:39:18	ohdearashok@gmail.com	Ashok S Rai	MGRS		
12/7/2020 14:39:33	ngb2@williams.edu	Nicole Gillett Brown	I hope my child will attend WES (Kindergarten) in January 2021		
12/7/2020 14:42:04	sltstokes1@yahoo.com	Brian Stokes	LES		
12/7/2020 14:45:18	heather.vroman@gmail.com	Heather Vroman	WCP		
12/7/2020 15:03:00	mm43@williams.edu	Michele Monserrati	WES		
12/7/2020 15:21:31	rebeccagreen317@gmail.com	Rebecca Green	WES		
12/7/2020 15:29:51	debbie.koamaya@gmail.com	Debbie KoaMaya	WES		
12/7/2020 15:51:50	sarahwhitey413@gmail.com	Sarah	LES		
12/7/2020 15:53:18	bjr2@williams.edu	Bob Rawle	WES		
12/7/2020 16:02:39	philip.jude.koamaya@gmail.com	Jude KoaMaya	WES		
12/7/2020 16:12:39	Laubrandie@yahoo.com	Brandie L Lau PharmD	WES		
12/7/2020 17:09:23	n.alexandra1221@gmail.com	Nicole wheeler	MGRS		
12/7/2020 17:14:56	jmc224@cornell.edu	John Carasone	MGRS		
12/7/2020 18:19:08	lisachretien54@gmail.com	Lisa Chretien	LES		
12/7/2020 18:21:58	philip.jude.koamaya@gmail.com	Jude KoaMaya	WES		
12/7/2020 18:25:30	mtm3@williams.edu	Mark McDonough	WES		
12/7/2020 18:25:59	ksmccabe4@gmail.com	Katie McDonough	WES		
12/7/2020 18:52:18	katie_swabey@hotmail.com	Katie Swabey	MGRS, WES		
12/7/2020 19:00:53	marcmcdermott@gmail.com	Marc McDermott	MGRS, WES		
12/7/2020 19:15:05	catz319@yahoo.com	Dawn Booth	MGRS		
12/7/2020 19:16:07	ecnbooth@yahoo.com	Erin Booth	MGRS		

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	My child/children attend(s)		
12/7/2020 19:20:16	mrenzi@live.com	Megan Renzi	LES		
12/7/2020 19:20:44	drenzi@gisigns.com	Daniel Renzi	LES		
12/7/2020 19:39:11	ksmccabe4@gmail.com	Katie McDonough	WES		
12/7/2020 19:40:19	jholland07@verizon.net	Janet Holland	Grandmother		
12/7/2020 19:42:00	Daniel.e.Lawson@Verizo	Daniel Lawson	MGRS, WES		
12/7/2020 19:47:50	kim.gutschow@williams.e	Kim Gutschow	MGRS, UWC Norway and New Mexico		
12/7/2020 19:50:24	dtuckers@williams.edu	David Tucker-Smith	MGRS		
12/7/2020 20:02:45	darel.e.paul@gmail.com	Darel E. Paul	MGRS, WES		
12/7/2020 20:28:12	john.spelman@gmail.com	John Spelman	WES		
12/7/2020 20:33:19	Mead.w.brooke@gmail.co	Brooke Mead	MGRS, WES, Brooke Mead		
12/7/2020 20:40:48	brkadk@gmail.com	barb keating	MGRS, WES		
12/7/2020 20:56:19	aliciajmaher@gmail.com	Alicia Maher	Currently we are homeschooling, but are considering re-enrolling at WES.		
12/7/2020 20:57:22	lisa.conathan@gmail.com	Lisa Conathan	WES		
12/7/2020 21:10:32	owen.thompson83@gmai	Owen Thompson	WES		
12/7/2020 21:17:42	bensosne@mac.com	Ben Sosne	WES		
12/7/2020 21:26:07	faith.mcclellan1@gmail.co	Faith McClellan	WES		
12/7/2020 21:57:45	adriane@strolle.com	Adriane Strolle	WES		
12/7/2020 22:01:39	jbhenry323@gmail.com	Joshua Bishoff	WES		
12/7/2020 22:10:54	appaloosahillsidefarm@li	Maury M Lawson	MGRS, WES		
12/8/2020 5:17:09	agwilliams82110@gmail.c	Alecia Williams	MGRS		
12/8/2020 6:36:12	tanyacarlos@mac.com	Tanya & Carlos Maramag	MGRS		
12/8/2020 6:56:04	ryanneathawk@gmail.cor	Ryan Neathawk	WES		
12/8/2020 7:47:23	mhpolk@hotmail.com	Molly Polk	MGRS, WES		
12/8/2020 8:09:21	aalberts@williams.edu	Daniel P. Aalberts	WES		
12/8/2020 8:39:25	ffieldhartman@gmail.com	Francine Hartman	MGRS		
12/8/2020 8:42:44	Shoe282000@yahoo.com	Sharon Auger	MGRS		
12/8/2020 9:18:42	Jim_scialabba@yahoo.co	Jim Scialabba	MGRS		
12/8/2020 9:34:29	ead2@williams.edu	Erica Dankmeyer	WES, Pine Cobble		
12/8/2020 11:19:22	eepalmer76@gmail.com	Erin Palmer	WES		
12/8/2020 11:24:01	spalmer0316@hotmail.co	Steve Palmer	WES		

Timestamp	Email Address	Name	My child/children attend(s)		
12/8/2020 12:02:33	krolnick0401@gmail.com	Krystal Rolnick	WES		
12/8/2020 12:43:57	Peter.D.Low@williams.ed	Peter Low	MGRS, WES		

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.



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

School Committee Open Session Minutes

Date: October 22nd, 2020

Start: 6:03 PM

Adjourn: 8:14 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:
C. Conry, Chair J. Art C. Greene S. Miller A. Terranova A. Carter <u>Absent:</u>	Robert Putnam, Interim Superintendent Jason McCandless, Incoming Superintendent Joe Bergeron, Business Administrator Nolan Pratt, Principal - LES Jake Schutz, Principal - MGRS Kristen Thompson, Principal - WES Joelle Brookner, Director of Curriculum & Instruction Elea Kaatz, Director of Academic Technology Patrick Priester, Acting Director of Pupil Services

Item	Comments	Motion	Second	Vote
I. Call to Order	Meeting called to order by C. Conry at 6:03 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.			
III. Principal Updates	A. School Improvement Plans - LES - Principal Pratt shared a slideshow of LES' four current goals: I - Continue to improve technological curriculum and pedagogy; II - Social emotional curriculum related to COVID-19; III - Anti-racist curriculum; IV - Data driven goal.			



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	<p>WES - Principal Thompson shared a draft of WES' current goals for the year, drafted from last year's committee: I - Student support; II - Creating a respectful, inclusive community; III - Curriculum; IV - Technology in the classroom.</p> <p>MGRS - Principal Schutz shared the goals for MGRS: I - Ensuring 9th grade meets math standards; II - Ensure a respectful, inclusive school environment; III - Explore potential new opportunities for arts education; IV - Expand social emotional wellness; V - Develop skills to better utilize data.</p> <p>B. Homeschool Numbers - Dr. Putnam shared the current homeschool numbers for the district, which has LES at 13, WES at 27, and MGRS at 19. He compared the numbers to previous years.</p>			
IV. Special Education / ELL / Title I Updates by Director of Pupil Services	<p>Patrick Priester shared his presentation which included special education enrollment numbers and percentages. He also presented data on ELL services, Title 1, and special education staffing for the district. C. Greene asked about the impact of COVID-19. Mr. Priester said that finding substitutes and the cohort model has made it difficult this year.</p>			
V. School Reopening Report	<p>Joelle Brookner and Elea Kaatz co-presented preliminary results from a community survey regarding our school year opening, which polled students, parents, and faculty/staff. The results appeared to be mostly positive for the district.</p>			
VI. Public Comment	<p>1. C. Conry read an email from Judith Reichert of Williamstown, related to the turf field debate, which urged the committee not to rush to a decision and that real grass would probably be safer to the environment.</p> <p>2. C. Conry read an email from Wendy Penner of Williamstown which expressed her concerns of a rushed vote to move forward with a turf field bid and no plan to advance a natural grass field bid in play, especially when a new school committee will need to continue this process shortly.</p> <p>3. C. Conry read an email from Marc McDermott of Williamstown. He supported any type of field progressing and expressed concerns that the continuous delays prevent any usage of a field for the community.</p>			
VII. MGRS MSBA Building Project signing authority (VOTE)	<p>J. Bergeron explained that with Regina DiLego's committee resignation, they will need to reassign a signing authority for the District. He recommended having the Superintendent take over the signing authority for the time being.</p>	<p>Greene</p>	<p>Art</p>	<p>6-0-0</p>



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	MOTION to approve the recommendation of the Business Administrator to appoint the Superintendent as the signing authority by C. Greene, seconded by J. Art			
VIII. MGRS Capital Gift Use	<p>A. Report and discussion on field-related value engineering and bid options -</p> <p>J. Bergeron presented updates from Perkins Eastman and Travers on potential bids to the district. C. Greene suggested a possible survey on the turf field. J. Art supported waiting on a decision instead of pushing something through. A. Terranova disagreed and said it is the job of the committee to make these decisions and go forward, with artificial turf. C. Conry thought a climate survey would be valuable to let many people have a voice. C. Greene said percentages of community support should be incorporated. A. Carter didn't feel like "rushed" was the right word for the situation, but that a decision should be made with the committee who had done the research. She worried that a survey may be based on incorrect information floating around the community. S. Miller reiterated all the work and research the committee has done for the past years on the issue and urged a vote for next week. The committee also discussed differences of community perception regarding public trust and how there are various opinions of the committee's handling of the turf issue. Dr. Putnam explained the copious amounts work that Mr. Bergeron has been currently putting into the project.</p> <p>B. Discussion and possible vote on reserving a portion of the gift for MGRS renewal fund -</p> <p>C. Conry said there was a recommendation to set aside 1.5 million dollars of the Capital Gift for infrastructure, but it's never been voted by the committee. S. Miller said some of the money has already been used for different projects, one being the MGRS boiler. A. Terranova explained where the 1.5 million figure came from, and suggested putting this to rest. C. Greene thought it would be helpful to take a vote on what portion they should set aside. J. Art suggested letting this issue roll over to the new committee. A. Terranova said he was not in favor of a limit to the endowment. No vote will occur at this time.</p> <p>C. Discussion and possible vote to move field project to detailed design -</p> <p>As there is no design yet, a vote will not happen at this time.</p>			
IX. Other Business not anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of meeting	C. Greene offered thanks to A. Terranova, J. Art, and A. Carter for their years of service on the committee and their hard work. She also thanked Dr. Putnam for stepping in and guiding the schools and for Dr. McCandless for joining some meetings. S. Miller expressed his thanks as well.			
X. Motion to Adjourn	MOTION to adjourn by A. Terranova, seconded by S. Miller	Terranova	Miller	6-0-0
	Meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM			



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

Respectfully Submitted,
Eli Phillips
Mount Greylock RSD Minutes Recorder

DRAFT



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:

Committee Members:	Also Present:
Julia Bowen Christina Conry José Constantine Curtis Elfenbein Carrie Greene Michele Johnson Steve Miller	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
<u>Absent:</u>	

Item	Comments	Motion	Second	Vote
I. Call to Order	Meeting called to order by C. Conry at 5:00 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.			
III. Welcome to Superintendent Jason McCandless	C. Conry officially welcomed Dr. Jason P. McCandless as the new district Superintendent, who began on November 2nd, 2020.			
IV. Presentation of Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence	Dr. McCandless spoke of several of his past presentations of the award to various previous students. He presented the Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence 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.			



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

V. School Committee Member Introduction and Reorganization (VOTE)	<p>A. Chair (VOTE) - 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>MOTION to appoint Christina Conry as Chair of the Mt. Greylock Regional School District School Committee by J. Bowen, seconded by C. Greene</p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE; Miller, AYE</p>	Bowen	Greene	7-0-0
	<p>B. Vice-Chair (VOTE) - 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>MOTION to appoint Carrie Greene as Vice-Chair of the Mt. Greylock Regional School District School Committee by J. Constantine, seconded by J. Bowen</p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE; Miller, AYE</p>	Constantine	Bowen	7-0-0
	<p>C. Secretary (VOTE) - 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



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	MOTION to appoint Steve Miller as Secretary of the Mt. Greylock Regional School District School Committee by J. Bowen, seconded by C. Elfenbein Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE; Miller, AYE			
VI. Public Comment	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 Johnson of Lanesborough. 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.			
VII. Approval of Minutes (VOTE)	A. October 8th, 2020 - 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. MOTION to approve the October 8th, 2020 minutes by S. Miller, seconded by C. Greene Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, ABSTAIN; Miller, AYE	Miller	Greene	6-0-1
	B. October 16th, 2020 & C. October 22nd, 2020 - 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.			
	D. October 28th, 2020 - 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.	Greene	Bowen	7-0-0



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	<p>MOTION to approve the October 28th, 2020 minutes by C. Greene, seconded by J. Bowen</p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE; Miller, AYE</p>			
<p>VIII. Athletic Director Update (VOTE)</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>	Greene	Miller	6-1-0



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	<p>MOTION to support the winter sports program with presented restrictions by C. Greene, seconded by S. Miller</p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, NAY, Miller, AYE</p>			
IX. Principal Updates	<p>A. MGRS - 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. LES - 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>C. WES - 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>			
X. Superintendent Updates	<p>A. Recognition of Retirees - Dr. McCandless recognized and congratulated Maureen Jennings, Linda Wlodyka, and Ellen Kaiser of MGRS.</p>			
	<p>B. Covid Learning Updates - 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>			



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	<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>			
XI. Appoint District Secretary (VOTE)	<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>MOTION to appoint Jason P. McCandless as the District Secretary for the Mt. Greylock Regional School District by M. Johnson, seconded by J. Bowen</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>	Johnson	Bowen	6-0-0
XII. Appointment of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer (VOTE)	<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>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</p>	Bowen	Elfenbein	6-0-0



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE			
XIII. Appoint Records Access Officer (VOTE)	<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
XIV. Business Administrator Update (VOTE)	<p>A. Warrants Review / Approval Process (VOTE) - 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>MOTION to add provision to the Approval Process of warrants by C. Greene, seconded by C. Elfenbein</p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE</p>	Greene	Elfenbein	6-0-0
	<p>B. Warrants Review -</p> <p>1. Payroll</p>			



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	<p>2. Accounts Payable Both payroll and AP have been standard, per Mr. Bergeron.</p> <p>3. MGRS School Building</p> <p>Mr. Bergeron said no vote was needed but offered questions or discussions about the packet items.</p>			
	<p>C. Finance Subcommittee Reorganization (VOTE) - 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>D. School Building Committee Slate Update (VOTE) - J. Bergeron explained the changes to the current Slate.</p> <p>MOTION to accept School Building Committee Slate as presented by C. Greene, seconded by J. Bowen</p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE</p>	Greene	Bowen	6-0-0
	<p>E. WES Williams Capital Gift Use Approval (VOTE) - 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



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	<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>MOTION to accept the invoice as presented and pay Jamrog HVAC out of the Williams Capital Gift by C. Greene, seconded by J. Bowen</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>F. MGRS Multipurpose Building Closeout (VOTE) - 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>G. FY22 Budget Timeline - J. Bergeron spoke briefly on the budget process and what will be presented in December.</p>			
XV. MASC Annual Meeting Update	<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>			
XVI. MGRS Fields Proposal from Perkins Eastman / Next Steps	<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>			
XVII. Discussion on reserving a portion of the gift for MGRS renewal fund (VOTE)	<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>			































Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	C. Greene suggested postponing any vote on the item until the Finance Subcommittee reviews the gift use.			
XVIII. Upcoming meetings / events	A. December 8th, 2020 - School Committee Meeting B. December 22nd, 2020 - School Committee Special Session			
XIX. Other business not anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of meeting	No other business to discuss.			
XX. Motion to Adjourn	MOTION to adjourn by S. Miller, seconded by M. Johnson 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

DRAFT

Functions and Duties of Standing Subcommittees/Liaisons

In specifying the functions and duties of subcommittees/liaisons, the same general format should be followed. An ideal format would be to include some or all of the following areas:

- The title of the subcommittee/liaison.
- Description/Definition of the general responsibilities of the subcommittee/liaison.
- List the types of tasks the subcommittee/liaison might undertake
- Provide a general schedule or projected timetable for the work (i.e. How often the subcommittee will meet.)
- List of district-level support staff that will work with the subcommittee/liaison.
- Other resources that may be provided to the subcommittee/liaison so their work can be completed in a timely manner.

Negotiations: The Negotiations Subcommittee negotiates collective bargaining agreements with MGEA (Mount Greylock Education Association) and non-union personnel and updates the full committee on all aspects of the negotiation process. Final contract negotiations must be approved by the full committee. Responsible for negotiations: Teachers, Educational Support Personnel (Paraprofessionals and Custodians), Cafeteria Workers

- **Tasks:** Handle contract negotiations with district collective bargaining units. Make recommendations and report status to the School Committee.
- **Current Contracts:** *Teachers and E.S.P.: July 1, 2018- June 30, 2021; Cafeteria Workers: September 1, 2018-August 31, 2021*
- **Supporting Staff:** Legal Counsel, Superintendent, Business Manager
- **Members:**
 - Julia Bowen (Proposed)
 - Christina Conry, Chair
 - Curtis Elfenbein (Proposed)

Finance: Review and monitor budget and financial matters; meets to review warrants and approve; Explore options for improvements of athletic facilities.

- **Tasks:** Make recommendations to the school committee on the proposed budget and projected revenue, budget transfers, any major mid-year budget impacts, and financial matters brought to the subcommittee by the administration or the school committee. Report to the School Committee as per the annual agenda or more frequently as needed.
- The Finance Subcommittee meets to develop the overall budget of the district and reviews financial statements and expenses throughout the year. They hold a consortium meeting every February to present a preliminary budget to the sending towns. The final budget must be approved by the full committee.
- **Supporting Staff:** Superintendent, Business Administrator
- **Members:**
 - Carrie Greene, Chair

DRAFT

- Michelle Johnson
- Steven Miller

Policy: Responsible for review and monitoring District Policies for revision and updating. Monitors changes at the state and MASC levels to ensure the district remains current with its policies.

- **Tasks:** Work with the Administration, Finance Subcommittee, and the School Committee as needed to accelerate the process of updating policies. Report on which policies will be updated in a given year, per the annual agenda. Report status and progress towards goals to the School Committee.
- **Supporting Staff:** Superintendent, Business Administrator, District Office Manager, MASC Delegate
- **Members:**
 - Julia Bowen (Proposed)
 - Jose Constantine (Proposed Chair)
 - Carrie Greene (Proposed)

The following Subcommittees or Liaison roles will be discussed in a future workshop/s to help define roles of School Committee within these organizations, how best to communicate between the group and how best to bring information to/from each of these groups:

Berkshire Taconic Fund: This liaison will serve to the three Mount Greylock Regional School District Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation Funds. SEE: Define; LIFE: Define; WESE: Define.

- Tasks:
- Supporting Staff: Superintendent
- Member:
 - TBD

D.B.E.I (Diversity Belonging Equity Inclusion):

- Tasks:
- Supporting Staff: Superintendent
- Member:
 - TBD (Curtis has volunteered)

Wellness:

- Tasks:
- Supporting Staff: Superintendent
- Member:
 - TBD

School Council:

- Tasks:
- Supporting Staff: Superintendent
- Member:
 - TBD

P.A.C. (Parent Advisory Council):

- Tasks:
- Supporting Staff: Superintendent

DRAFT

- Member:
 - TBD

Evaluation: Work with the Administration, Finance Subcommittee, and the School Committee as needed to accelerate the process of updating policies. Report on which policies will be updated in a given year, per the annual agenda. Report status and progress towards goals to the School Committee.

- Tasks:
- Supporting Staff:
- Members:

FY20/21 PROPOSED SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS - MGRSD SC

proposed 12/8/2020

	Negotiations Sub	Finance Sub	Policy Sub				
Julia Bowen	x		x				2
Christina Conry	x						1
Jose Constantine			x				1
Curtis Elfenbein	x						1
Carrie Greene		x	x				2
Michelle Johnson		x					1
Steven Miller		x					1
	3	3	3	0	0	0	0

Chair/Point Person of subcommittee Christina Carrie

FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES**Negotiations:**

Negotiate with MGEA bargaining units and non-union personnel

Finance (Phase 2 Capital Gift):

Review and monitor budget and financial matters; warrant workshop app

Explore options for improvements of athletic facilities

Policy:

Review and monitor policies for revision and updating

MEETING FREQUENCY

As needed; Cycle for FY22-24 negotiations to start early FY21

Bi-monthly as relates to warrant cycle

As needed

Berkshire Taconic Funds Liaison SEE (Define); LIFE (Define): WESE (Define)

DBEI Liaison 1 hour workshop needed to review relationship with School Committee and Regular Cycle of Communication. Documentation will be created and published on the website.

Wellness 1 hour workshop needed to review relationship with School Committee and Regular Cycle of Communication. Documentation will be created and published on the website.

School Council 1 hour workshop needed to review relationship with School Committee and Regular Cycle of Communication. Documentation will be created and published on the website.

P.A.C. (Parent Advisory Committee) 1 hour workshop needed to review relationship with School Committee and Regular Cycle of Communication. Documentation will be created and published on the website.

***Note: Each member should set aside time to read through the MGRSD Policy Manual. Getting familiar with this manual will help guide informed decision making for each member of the committee.**

Mt. Greylock Regional School District

2020-2021 Enrollment Report

December 8, 2020



Contents

- Why This Matters (and why we are taking time with this)
- October 1, 2020 student enrollment data
- October 1, 2020 student enrollment data in a three year context
- School Choice
- Home School
- Other Enrollment Factors
- Student Enrollment Data in the Berkshire County Context



from www.mass.gov



Why This Matters?

Our sole purpose in existing as a public school district is to educate and serve the children who reside in our community.

Children, and by extension their families, are our clients, our customers.

Through this primary role, we also serve the community itself through wise stewardship of the community's human and financial resources, and through generous, capable, and powerful service to the children and families of the community.

The number of clients an organization serves is vital information, and has impacts on finances, staffing, programing, and a host of other areas. This information is crucial, as in the end, this data represents the very reasons we are all here.

Student Enrollment 2020-2021 Pre-K through 12+



Lanesborough Elementary School: 190 students (from 5 towns)



Williamstown Elementary School: 376 students (from 7 towns)



Mt. Greylock Regional School: 532 students (from 12 towns)



Mt. Greylock Regional School District: 1098 students (from 12 towns)

Elementary Grades

Grade by Grade 20/21

	LES	WES	Total
Pre-k:	8	11	19
Kindergarten:	20	36	56
Grade 1:	27	37	64
Grade 2:	27	55	82
Grade 3:	22	54	76
Grade 4:	35	60	95
Grade 5:	23	66	89
Grade 6:	28	57	85
Total:	190	376	566

Grade by Grade 19/20

	LES	WES	Total
Pre-k:	14	16	30
Kindergarten:	28	38	66
Grade 1:	27	56	83
Grade 2:	24	61	85
Grade 3:	34	58	92
Grade 4:	22	68	90
Grade 5:	26	60	86
Grade 6:	24	52	76
Total:	199	409	608

Grade by Grade 18/19

	LES	WES	Total
Pre-k:	15	12	27
Kindergarten:	29	59	88
Grade 1:	24	62	86
Grade 2:	34	57	91
Grade 3:	20	72	92
Grade 4:	25	62	87
Grade 5:	31	55	86
Grade 6:	31	57	88
Total:	209	436	645

Secondary Grades

Grade by Grade 20/21

	MGRS
Grade 7:	77
Grade 8:	87
Grade 9:	116
Grade 10:	89
Grade 11:	73
Grade 12:	87
Ungraded:	3
Total:	532

Grade by Grade 19/20

	MGRS
Grade 7:	92
Grade 8:	131
Grade 9:	85
Grade 10:	77
Grade 11:	84
Grade 12:	84
Ungraded:	4
Total:	557

Grade by Grade 18/19

	MGRS
Grade 7:	123
Grade 8:	90
Grade 9:	79
Grade 10:	88
Grade 11:	84
Grade 12:	87
Ungraded:	5
Total:	556

School Choice

Receiving and Outgoing Students and Tuition (pre-regionalization)

	Receiving Students FY18	Receiving Revenue FY18	Outgoing Students FY18	Outgoing Revenue FY18
Lanesborough:	16	\$90,077	19	\$102,068
Williamstown	35	\$183,597	6.1	\$31,445
Mt. Greylock Regional Middle and High School	58.7	\$306,963	27.1	\$178,587

School Choice

	Receiving Students FY19	Receiving Revenue FY19	Outgoing Students FY19	Outgoing Revenue FY19	Receiving Students FY20	Receiving Revenue FY20	Outgoing Students FY20	Outgoing Revenue FY20
Mt. Greylock Regional School District	92 (18 new students: LES:6 WES:12 MGRS:0)	\$507,746	44	\$235,777	83.4 (10 new students: LES: 4 WES: 6 MGRS: 0)	\$437,307	45.3	\$246,200

FY21 New School Choice Students:

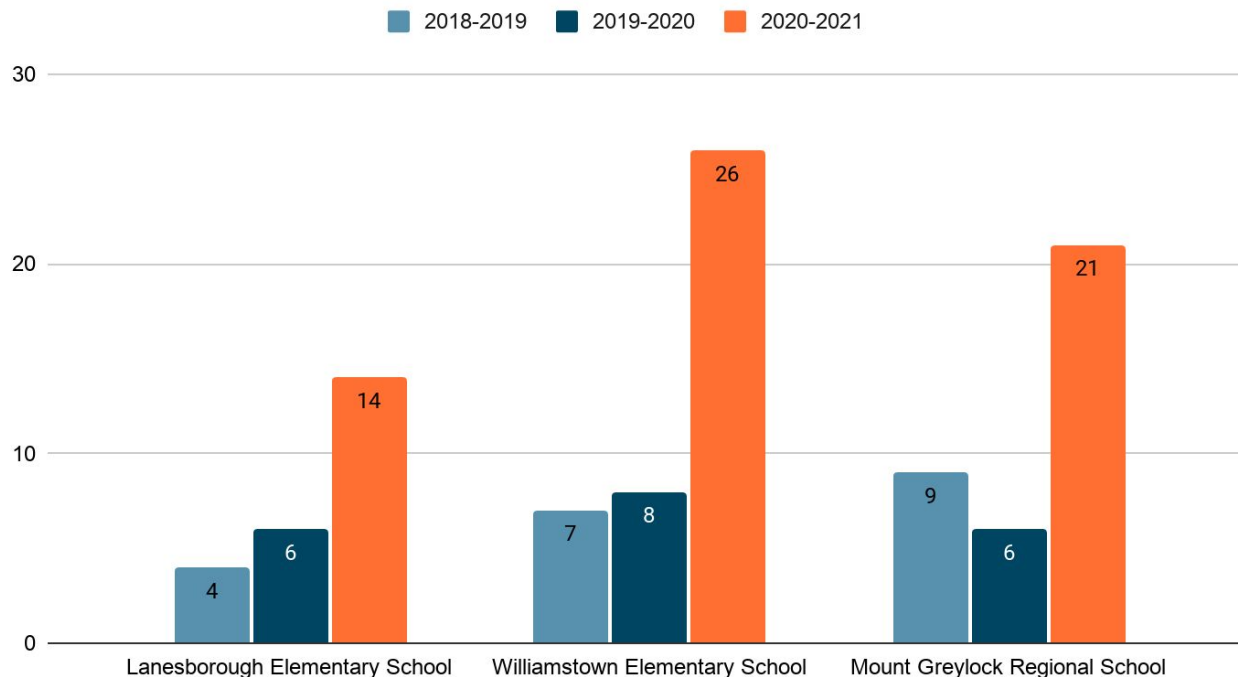
LES: 0

WES: 2 (sibling spots only)

MGRS: 0

Home Schooling

Number of Homeschool Families by School



The MGRSD, like many school districts across Berkshire County, the Commonwealth, and the United States, has seen a pronounced uptick in families choosing to homeschool their children. The full and long term impact of this may not be seen until we are able to resume school-as-usual.

“COVID-19 has created a strange natural experiment in American education: Families who would have never otherwise considered taking their kids out of school feel desperate enough to try it.”

--Emma Green in *The Atlantic*, September 13, 2020

Where Do Our Children Go To School?

2019-2020 (last year available, updated August of 2020)

	MGRSD	Regional CTE	Charter Schools	Out of District Publics	Parochial and/or Independent	Homeschool
Lanesborough	320	18	2	34	11	10
Williamstown	667	16	8	9	63	14

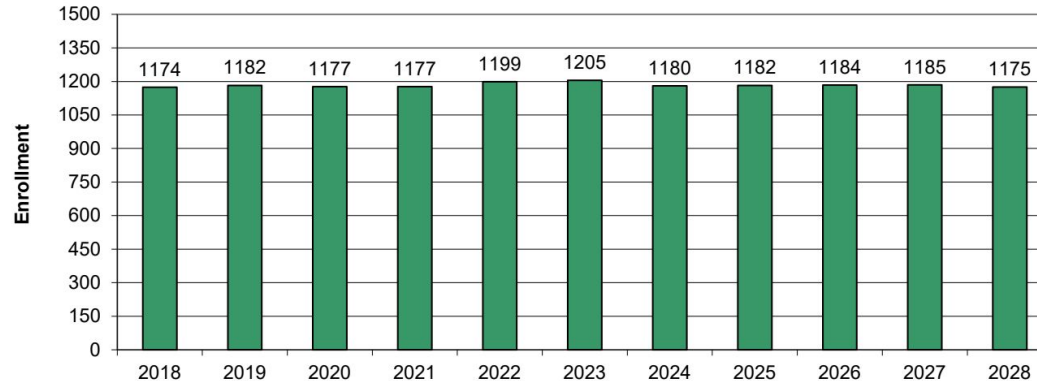
From MA DESE: <https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/statereport/schoolattendingchildren.aspx>

Mt. Greylock RSD Enrollment Look Ahead



Mount Greylock RSD, MA Projected Enrollment

K-12 To 2028 Based On Data Through School Year 2018-19



The New England School Development Council (NESDC) does annual enrollment projections for all member districts based on data that local districts provide to them.

Their vision is helpful in the big picture. My experience in three Berkshire County Districts suggests the NESDEC reports tend toward higher enrollments than districts actually see.

School choice can and is a means of keeping enrollments up in some districts, but can come at a cost that a community may or may not be willing to bear.

Mt. Greylock RSD Enrollment Look Ahead

Berkshire County Public School Enrollment Projections (V2020)

The Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission has a track record of being close to the actual mark over the past decade in terms of student enrollments in individual districts in the Berkshires, and on a county-wide scale.

Mount Greylock Regional School District Enrollment Projections (V2020)

Grade	2015	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
K	82	66	55	54	52	51	49	48	47	45	45	45
1	83	83	68	57	56	54	53	51	50	49	47	47
2	86	85	86	71	60	59	57	56	54	53	52	50
3	101	92	86	87	72	61	60	58	57	55	54	53
4	79	90	92	86	87	72	61	60	58	57	55	54
5	89	86	92	94	88	89	74	63	62	60	59	57
6	102	76	84	90	92	86	87	72	61	60	58	57
7	97	91	74	82	88	90	84	85	70	59	58	56
8	106	130	100	83	91	97	99	93	94	79	68	67
9	91	85	129	99	82	90	96	98	92	93	78	67
10	86	77	76	120	90	73	81	87	89	83	84	69
11	81	84	75	74	118	88	71	79	85	87	81	82
12	87	84	82	73	72	116	86	69	77	83	85	79
Total	1170	1129	1099	1070	1048	1026	958	919	896	863	824	783

MGRSD Births

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
83	69	64	68	66	74	78	49	64	69	71	68	64	53	61	47	55

Average 5-year Migration (2016-2020)

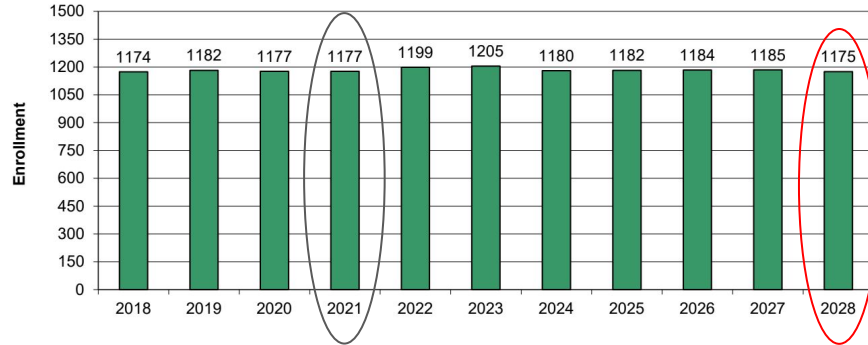
Grade	Birth-K	K – 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12
Average Migration	2	3	1	0	2	-2	-2	9	-1	-9	-2	-2	-2
Average Migration %	2.5%	3.5%	1.1%	0	2.2%	-2.3%	-2.3%	8.9%	-1.0%	-10.3%	-2.3%	-2.3%	-2.4%

Mt. Greylock RSD Enrollment Look Ahead



Mount Greylock RSD, MA Projected Enrollment

K-12 To 2028 Based On Data Through School Year 2018-19



Berkshire County Public School Enrollment Projections (V2020)

Mount Greylock Regional School District Enrollment Projections (V2020)

Grade	2015	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
K	82	66	55	54	52	51	49	48	47	45	45	45
1	83	83	68	57	56	54	53	51	50	49	47	47
2	86	85	86	71	60	59	57	56	54	53	52	50
3	101	92	86	87	72	61	60	58	57	55	54	53
4	79	90	92	86	87	72	61	60	58	57	55	54
5	89	86	92	94	88	89	74	63	62	60	59	57
6	102	76	84	90	92	86	87	72	61	60	58	57
7	97	91	74	82	88	90	84	85	70	59	58	56
8	106	130	100	83	91	97	99	93	94	79	68	67
9	91	85	129	99	82	90	96	98	92	93	78	67
10	86	77	76	120	90	73	81	87	89	83	84	69
11	81	84	75	74	118	88	71	79	85	87	81	82
12	87	84	82	73	72	116	86	69	77	83	85	79
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MGRSD Births

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
83	69	64	68	66	74	78	49	64	69	71	68	64	53	61	47	55

Average 5-year Migration (2016-2020)

Grade	Birth-K	K-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12
Average Migration	2	3	1	0	2	-2	-2	9	-1	-9	-2	-2	-2
Average Migration %	2.5%	3.5%	1.1%	0	2.2%	-2.3%	-2.3%	8.9%	-1.0%	-10.3%	-2.3%	-2.3%	-2.4%

2020-2021 Actual: 1079
(Actual including Pre-K: 1098)

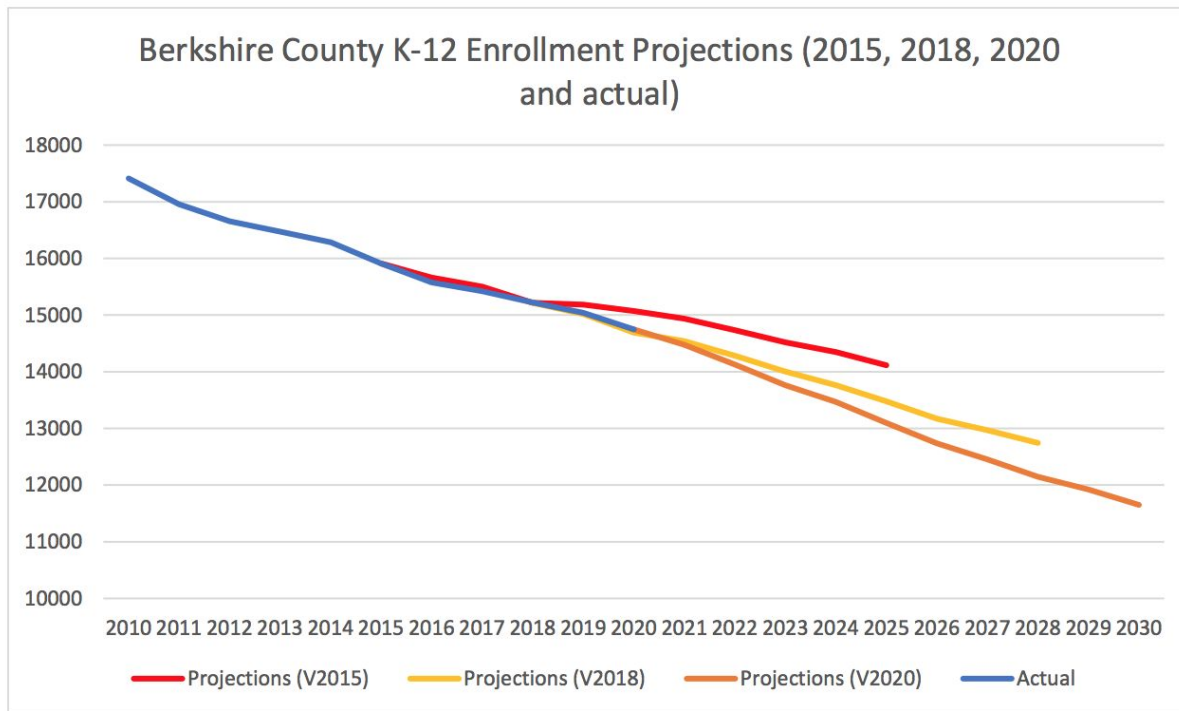
Berkshire County Context

The Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission has documented a lengthy history of public school enrollments decreasing over time in the Berkshires.

https://cdn.websites.hibu.com/8569343280a049328652e2f80f284bce/files/uploaded/Berkshire_County_Public_School_V2020_Final.pdf and

<http://www.berkshirebenchmarks.org/>

Figure 3. Enrollment Projections (V2015, 2018, 2020))



Berkshire County Context

Given faith in the BRPC's numbers, our neighbors, friends, and colleagues at the Berkshire Arts & Technology Public Charter School, Richmond Consolidated School, and the Hancock School Union will be the only districts to see growth in student enrollment between now and 2030.

Overall, the County is forecasted to see a drop of 3,097 students, or a 21% decrease in enrollments over the next decade. The MGRSD is predicted to see a drop of 346 students, or 31% of its total enrollment.

Table 3. Projected Enrollment (V2020)

School District	2020	2022	2024	2026	2028	2030	Change	% Change (2020-2030)
BART - Berkshire Arts & Technology Charter School	372	378	371	380	376	379	7	2%
Berkshire Hills Regional School District	1,156	1,088	1,005	956	915	877	-279	-24%
Central Berkshire Regional School District	1,522	1,465	1,426	1,375	1,354	1,335	-187	-12%
Clarksburg School District	197	205	195	201	188	190	-7	-4%
Farmington River Regional School District	81	73	66	61	55	50	-31	-38%
Florida School Union	73	62	52	43	42	38	-35	-48%
Hancock School Union	39	44	48	53	51	53	14	36%
Hoosac Valley Regional School District	1,038	1,019	993	986	964	1,014	-24	-2%
Lee School District	693	679	662	637	623	595	-98	-14%
Lenox School District	750	748	728	704	682	651	-99	-13%
Mount Greylock Regional School District	1,129	1,070	1,026	919	863	783	-346	-31%
North Adams School District	1,236	1,147	1,071	919	815	705	-531	-43%
Northern Berkshire Vocational School District	507	513	501	501	501	504	-3	-1%
Pittsfield School District	5,129	4,879	4,614	4,307	4,021	3,800	-1,329	-26%
Richmond School District	154	155	174	196	217	233	79	51%
Savoy School District	48	46	45	47	43	41	-7	-15%
Southern Berkshire Regional School District	624	557	490	455	436	403	-221	-35%
Berkshire County	14,748	14,128	13,467	12,740	12,146	11,651	-3,097	-21%

Berkshire County Context

Why This Matters

- Finances
- Academic Programing
- Fine and Performing Arts Programing
- Outside of the School Day Programing
- Teacher and Administrator Recruiting
- Specialized Services
- Other Reasons

Berkshire County Public School Enrollment Projections (V2020)

Mount Greylock Regional School District Enrollment Projections (V2020)

Grade	2015	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
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4	79	90	92	86	87	72	61	60	58	57	55	54
5	89	86	92	94	88	89	74	63	62	60	59	57
6	102	76	84	90	92	86	87	72	61	60	58	57
7	97	91	74	82	88	90	84	85	70	59	58	56
8	106	130	100	83	91	97	99	93	94	79	68	67
9	91	85	129	99	82	90	96	98	92	93	78	67
10	86	77	76	120	90	73	81	87	89	83	84	69
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2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
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Average Migration %	2.5%	3.5%	1.1%	0	2.2%	-2.3%	-2.3%	8.9%	-1.0%	-10.3%	-2.3%	-2.3%	-2.4%

Beyond the Berkshires

- “According to statistics released by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on Tuesday, enrollment in public schools dropped by 3.9 percent this year, or approximately 37,400 students – from 948,800 students last year to 911,400 this year. That compares to enrollment drops of around one-quarter of one percent each of the last two years.”
 - <https://commonwealthmagazine.org/education/public-schools-see-steep-drop-in-student-enrollment/>
- “The shift cannot be attributed solely to the pandemic, but the disruption caused by coronavirus appears to have accelerated enrollment trends. Changes in which schools students are attending will have major financial implications for school districts, since state funding is tied to enrollment. “
 - <https://commonwealthmagazine.org/education/as-students-leave-district-schools-charters-and-vocational-schools-see-growth/>

More Questions Than Answers

The information we have examined this evening is important, and as is often the case with large amounts of information, may leave us with more questions than we have answers.

It is vital to know who and how many we are, and vital to embed our now-thinking in the future-thought of who and how many we ***will be***.

If the storm clouds of the pandemic have any silver linings, one of those linings is that our educators, our students, and our families have realized that learning can happen in positive and meaningful ways by the alternative means.

Some of these lessons will be crucial as we consider how to maintain powerful opportunities for students in spite of a decreasing student population. The wide spectrum of student-needs and student-wants will not contract, but our ability to deliver on all of those needs and wants may decrease as student and community population also decrease. Our ability to do important things in new, creative, and efficient ways will be vital for our children in the decades to come.

Thank You

Questions, Concerns,
Comments?





NORTHERN BERKSHIRE PEDIATRICS, LLP
AMBULATORY CARE CENTER, 77 HOSPITAL AVE., SUITE 302
NORTH ADAMS, MA 01247
PHONE: (413) 663-8365 FAX: (413) 662-2363

December 3, 2020

Dear Superintendents, Principals, and School Nurses of northern Berkshire county schools,

We write to you today as the pediatricians to many of the children in your school districts to champion for as much in-person school as feasible during this difficult time.

We'd like to start by thanking you for everything you do for the children and families we all serve - we know this year has been incredibly challenging. We are fortunate that so far Berkshire county has not had the devastating numbers of COVID cases that other areas have, and we are glad that most of our patients have been able to go to school at least a handful of days a month. Although the numbers of people in the community with the virus are rising, we hope to see the children in school more, not less, of the time.

As we are sure you are aware, the repercussions of children spending so much time out of school are astounding, and many may end up being lifelong. In our clinic, we are seeing far more major depression, anxiety, and thoughts of suicide in teenagers than we've ever seen before- and the local therapists are booking out months because they are so busy. One of us reviewed 3 separate Emergency Room notes from suicide attempts over the holiday weekend. Many children are left to care for siblings while they are all attempting to learn remotely so that parents can work. We are all seeing record amounts of weight gain - some in excess of 30 lbs - and increased injuries due to lack of appropriate supervision. We are seeing younger children without schedules or structure at home presenting as behavior problems that their already stressed parents do not handle well. We've never seen anything like this. We are worried - really worried - about our patients and their families.

We absolutely realize that the idea of contracting COVID evokes real fear - we have been working in our offices from the beginning of the pandemic, and we were frightened initially. However, we all know much more now about how to avoid the spread, and the data is clear that mask wearing, distancing, washing hands frequently, and staying home while sick really works. Our fear has been replaced by common sense practices, and well-established protocols are part of our routine. All of your schools who have been having students in the buildings are very familiar with these.



Fortunately, the data so far related to school opening in the US indicates that children are at lower risk of COVID when they are in school versus out and that teachers and staff working in schools are at no increased risk above the risk in the general population. In fact, teachers and staff are more likely to contract COVID from their social, family, and household contacts than they are from students wearing masks in classrooms. In Massachusetts, with 77% of school districts having returned to some form of in-person learning and more than 450,000 students back in school, outbreaks from in-school transmission are not being seen. Recent data out of Ohio reveal that in a county where approximately 2000 students have been placed on 2 week quarantines for being contacts of COVID positive students in school, none of them contracted COVID! Paradoxically, some experts have suggested that closing schools may increase community numbers as teens gather together unsupervised and learning/childcare pods form among younger children, often without the strict use of masks and distancing required in school.

In the past few weeks, there have been many temporary pivots to remote learning, some reportedly for isolated cases without evidence of spread within the school. We fully realize that each particular decision is agonizing and that each situation is nuanced, but we hope that this trend will not continue. We feel strongly that children are safest in school and that the teachers and staff that educate and care for them are no less essential than we as pediatricians and our staff are in their overall health. Let's use the science we have all been learning about the effectiveness of the various layers of protection - staying home if any symptoms at all, wearing a mask, staying apart from others, washing our hands - in every single situation. Any time out of school that is not absolutely necessary is having worrisome impacts on the health of the children for whom we all care.

Sincerely,

Childsy Art, MD
Beth Ellingwood, MD
Marc McDermott, MD

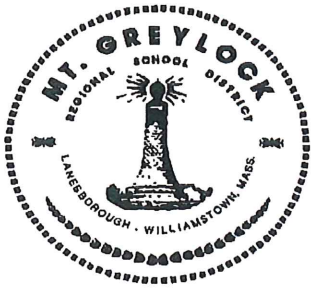
Jen Degrenier, DO
Jillian Herrington, CPNP
Kathryn Wiseman, MD

Amanda Egan-Poirier, NP
Marie Madsen, DO
Kris Savitsky, NP

Poll "School Committee special sessions field forums"

<https://doodle.com/poll/iz8dgzvguzk4s6xr>

December 2020																
Mon 14			Tue 15			Wed 16			Thu 17			Fri 18				
	5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	7:00 PM – 8:00 PM	5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	7:00 PM – 8:00 PM	5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	7:00 PM – 8:00 PM	5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	7:00 PM – 8:00 PM	5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	7:00 PM – 8:00 PM	
Christina Conry	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK		OK	OK				
Julia Bowen	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK				
Carrie Greene	OK	OK	OK				OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK				
Steven Miller	OK		OK	OK		OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK			
José Constantine	OK	OK	OK				OK	OK								
Michelle Johnson	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Curtis Elfenbein	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK										
Count	7	6	7	5	4	5	6	6	5	4	5	5	2	1	1	



Mount Greylock Regional School District
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Amended and Restated Description of the Fund for Mt. Greylock Regional School District Capital Projects

To clarify the original intent of the parties, this Amended and Restated Description supersedes and replaces in its entirety the Description of the Fund for Mount Greylock Regional School District Capital Projects signed by Mount Greylock Regional School District on August 8, 2017 and by Williams College on August 9, 2017.

In its Fiscal Year 2017, Williams established the Fund for Mt. Greylock Regional School District Capital Projects (the "Fund"), with beginning principal of \$5 million. As set forth below, payments from the Fund shall be limited to capital projects at Mount Greylock Regional School, 1781 Cold Spring Road, Williamstown, MA (the "School").

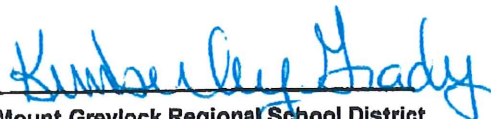
The college treats the Fund like an endowment. For all its endowments the college each year determines what percent of the market value of the principal will be distributed to endowment spending accounts. This payout rate is approved by the college's board of trustees annually, and currently is 5% of the average principal measured in the previous 12 quarters. Any additional earning or growth is returned to principal. Unused dollars in each spending account are carried forward in that account to the following year.


When the amount in the spending account for the Fund is zero, the district may spend from the principal.

Payment from the Fund may be made (a) to the Mount Greylock Regional School District either to reimburse the district for capital project expenses at the School, or in advance to provide funds to be used by the District for payment of capital project expenses at the School, or (b) directly to third-party suppliers or contractors for material and/or services delivered or provided for capital projects at the School, all of which shall be as determined and directed by the Mt. Greylock School Committee. The committee may use this money to cover all or part of the cost of any capital project at that School that the district undertakes, whether alone or with other public entities.

Unspent principal in the Fund will grow or recede without limit along with the college's endowments.

The Fund will cease to exist when the Mt. Greylock Regional School District is no longer the primary entity educating students in Williamstown, or upon the expenditure of the entire spending account and principal.


Mount Greylock Regional School District
Date: 2/28/18


Williams College
Date: 3/9/18