

**Mount Greylock Regional School District School Committee
Finance Subcommittee**

Location : Zoom Remote Meeting

Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021

Time: 4:00 PM

Open Session Agenda

I. Call to order

II. Approval of January 14, 2021 meeting minutes

III. Review of warrants

IV. Capital Gift - next steps, if any

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

VI. Motion to adjourn

Present: Carrie Greene, Michelle Johnson

Also Present: Joe Bergeron

- I. Call to order 4:01 p.m.
- II. Motion moved by Michelle and seconded by Carrie. Carrie asked if Michelle had enough time to review, Michelle asked for more time and withdrew her motion. Will review at next meeting
- III. Joe says nothing out of the ordinary to report, no questions on presented documents. Joe says ready to sign and Carrie will stop by to sign
- IV. Capital Gift next steps if any
 - a. Carrie – put it on today because the SC tonight is special session and there won't be talking about the capital gift and wanted to have a follow up where the committee decided to move forward the elements of the project that were related to ADA & Title IV compliance related but not the turf field or the track. Haven't gotten a lot of feedback from community to her knowledge, when is the right time to start the conversation. Some community members were not happy with the process and think other voices need to be heard on how to spend the capital gift. Do we want to initiate or wait a year, will be full committee decision but wanted to see what this committee thought.
 - b. Michelle – need to give a little time for things to settle. Process needs to be transparent and outlined ahead of time. The process was public, all school committee meetings are public, some may just have not been paying attention. Maybe the process needs to be more clear and publicized like push emails to communities? I would still be curious to see a realistic grass/turf side by side comparison. Not arguing field is usable, but could we make it usable with natural grass and if so what would the cost be to do that. I didn't attend meetings, the impact on me is my tax rate. Fiscally speaking, turf is really expensive and lights on top of that was just too much right now.
 - c. Carrie – Michelle suggested bringing it to the towns, are you interested in moving ahead and what would it look like
 - d. Michelle – good question, not sure if it can go on the warrant – possibly seen it before about a preliminary temperature check to see how the town feels about footing the bill for part or all of turf
 - e. Carrie- I don't think we need it on the warrant separate, would be rolled into the budget and if they pass it they would be in favor of it. Michelle wants to know if it can be separate
 - f. Joe – doesn't have thoughts prepared and this is the subject where prepared thoughts would be helpful. Would be appropriate to ask administration to propose a process and commit time to create

a structure the committee can be guided through so individual members don't have to pull all the weight makes sense given all the details. When we think about timing, it would be helpful for it to go out the bid Nov/Dec of this year so the funds can be put to use as soon as they can be. Then it might make sense to declare what we want and then figure out how to get it. We've always carved out what we think we might want under a fair amount of duress and then realize we can't afford it at the last minute and then had to redo the process. It makes sense to know what we want as a group and then get it. Haven't explored other ways to fund the project outside of the gift. Better than a debate over how to utilize limited funds. Carrie – in other words create a new wishlist and are their ways to plan for that. Joe – and what is the new wishlist with enough details (lights, scoreboard, etc.). Once that decision is made it puts a stake in the ground and people know exactly how much they are funding.

- g. Carrie – seems like there is still a turf vs no turf component to this question. Is that what it's going to look like or is there a bigger question as to how we are going to use these funds?
- h. Joe – over the last 4 school committees, various fairly major school projects have seen their priorities moved up and down in the course of conversation. The school committee ultimately comes to a conclusion of what they want but it's a want that doesn't stay firm for months much less years. It's a want that comes over tension around a limited amount of funds and competing interests. It would be healthier to come up with a firm process to come up with a firm process to come up with a firm decision for what is desired and how things should and need to be prioritized within that.
- i. Carrie – sounds like you are suggesting we come up with a process to develop a long term infrastructure plan
- j. Michelle – I think that's the natural first step. Joe is right, it's not me driving the decisions, it's really me that gives my opinion on whether or not we have the funds to do it. I would like to see the long term plan before we go any further. There could be reasons why a grass is not viable according to the people who work at the school and if that's the case they may need to wait longer for a field until we can afford it. I still have concerns about it being assessed to the towns when it needs to be replaced. Still a big concern for me unless we can say that the replacement cost will come out of the gift. In this way the townspeople have no say over it. If fund the whole project out of the gift then people in the towns are going to be stuck with it regardless of whether or not they want it and we have the power to do that I'm just not sure it's right.
- k. Carrie – are there are priorities that should be considered from the gift. Michelle – I would love to hear from people who think that. Carrie – Phase I and Phase II committees were developed by the school committee, are you suggesting it would be administration? Maybe not the school committee
- l. Joe – needs to be a very public process for sure. Somehow the rhythm of the way info is gathered and presented and feedback is incorporated and new things are done could work in the context of a subcommittee. Somehow we need to lean heavily on people who will be committing a significant amount of time, on a regular almost work-level basis. That's different from sending off a committee to come back with a plan and then presenting to school committee. Needs to be a thread that runs through the work within the district to be transparent so people will feel that they wer
- m. Carrie – Captial gift – would like to have a full discussion about the campus as a whole – to address the concerns about what else the gift may be needed for.
- n. Michelle – have we ever considered a contest of sorts – if you had \$3m to improve Mt. Greylock, what would you do with it? Would love the students perspective. There was some discussion about

investing in the arts, but I could not think of a capital gift improvement with a brand-new state of the art auditorium that we have. It is probably something we aren't thinking of.

- o. Carrie – because it's a capital gift we are limited to what we can spend it on but a good way to get community feedback as to where people think funding could be needed.
- p. Michelle – thinks there is a strategic plan sort of completed? Joe said that hasn't been the focus yet because of the year but thinks people are interested.
- q. Carrie – Julia Bowen suggested this during the meeting and maybe could be done during a strategic plan. Strategic planning is the best idea, it is a community process so that's a discussion we can propose next time it's on the agenda.

V. No other items

VI. Motion to adjourn – made by Michelle Johnson, seconded by Carrie Greene at 4:27

Minutes submitted by Michelle Johnson

Approved 2.11.21