



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

School Committee Open Session Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 11th, 2021

Start: 6:00 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 Steven Miller <u>Absent:</u>	Dr. Jason P. McCandless, Superintendent Joe Bergeron, Business Administrator Jake Schutz, Principal MGRS Priya D'Souza, GMSU Member

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Item	Comments	Motion	Second	Vote
I. Call to Order	Meeting called to order by C. Conry at 6:00 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.			
IV. Public Comment (not related to Budget)	C. Conry asked to move the Public Comment not related to the budget prior to the budget presentation. A. C. Conry read a letter from Brian and Kendra Drake of Williamstown in which they urge the district to return to full in-person learning. B. C. Greene read a letter from John and Wendy Skavlem of Williamstown. The letter asked for a return to in-person learning as soon as possible with special focus placed on the Senior class at Mt. Greylock.			



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	<p>C. Kim Nicoll of Williamstown read her comment written by a group of parents and caregivers in regards to the Zoom incidents and how the district should prepare to confront and dismantle racism.</p> <p>D. Janean Laidlaw of Williamstown gave examples of her teaching experiences and why she is saddened by remote, screen-based learning.</p> <p>E. Catherine Keating of Williamstown shared her public comment urging the district to return to a more robust in-person learning model as soon as possible.</p> <p>F. J. Bowen read a public comment from Rebecca Green of Williamstown asking for a return to full in-person learning.</p> <p>G. C. Elfenbein read a public comment from John Spelman of Williamstown expressing his disappointment for the lack of in-person schooling.</p>			
<p>III. MGRSD FY22 Budget Presentation</p>	<p>Dr. McCandless gave a detailed presentation on a draft of the FY22 Budget to the committee. He spoke about what a school budget is and what the district is working toward. Dr. McCandless presented details of what resources the district is looking to bring on, including full-time Pre-K teachers and paraprofessionals for WES and LES, considerations for a DEIB staff member for the district in the future after DEIB work is done within the District, as well as plans for summer programs. Joe Bergeron shared a detailed graphic for the proposed budget as he and Dr. McCandless answered several questions from the committee.</p>			
<p>IV. Public Comment</p>	<p>A. Priya D’Souza of Williamstown shared her thoughts on the importance of listening to non-white voices in the community and she urged the district to look at people of color and their thoughts and experiences when hiring within the district, especially when looking toward a position for a DEI expert in the district.</p>			
<p>V. School Committee Discussion of FY22 Budget</p>	<p>No further discussion occurred.</p>			
<p>VI. Approval of Minutes (VOTE)</p>	<p>MOTION to approve minute from the February 25th, 2021 meeting by J. Bowen, seconded by M. Johnson.</p> <p>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Johnson, AYE</p> <p><i>(S. Miller was not present for this vote.)</i></p>	<p>Bowen</p>	<p>Johnson</p>	<p>6-0-0</p>



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VII. MGRS Principal Update	<p>A. Mount Greylock Multicultural Student Union Update - J. Schutz gave updates on the Mt. Greylock Regional School and how support will be provided for staff, students, and families, and surveys were sent to staff and families. Priya D’Souza gave a presentation on the GMSU and explained how they’ve had a spike in enrollment. She detailed various efforts the group is spearheading to help the school community. Dr. McCandless and J. Bergeron thanked Priya and expressed support for diversifying staff and improving.</p>			
VIII. Superintendent Updates	<p>A. School Choice update - Dr. McCandless shared a slideshow of updates to the committee. Openings for School Choice for the district will be brought forward in April.</p> <p>D. MCAS Schedule Update - At this time, MCAS is still scheduled to occur this year in May and June, but will be non-punitive.</p> <p>C. Recent Zoom-related Incident - Dr. McCandless shared the letter that went out to the school body that went out in response to this incident. The district has been working on tweaking Zoom to make these hurtful interruptions avoidable in the future.</p> <p>B. Time on Learning Regulation Changes update - Dr. McCandless shared DESE’s updates regarding the changes to learning regulations and how the district is responding to these new guidelines. A lengthy discussion occurred regarding vaccinations for teachers and the hope that staff can be vaccinated before a return to full in-person learning.</p>			
IX. Finance Subcommittee Update	<p>The finance subcommittee is looking at the line items of the proposed budget and will work with Dr. McCandless and J. Bergeron as support.</p>			
X. Upcoming Meetings	<p>A. March 18th, 2021 - School Committee Special Session, 6pm this meeting is cancelled</p> <p>B. March 25th, 2021 - Finance Subcommittee, 4pm</p> <p>C. March 25th, 2021 - School Committee Special Session, 6pm</p>			
XI. Other business not anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of meeting	<p>Dr. McCandless shared his thanks to Adams Community Bank for their gift to the Mt. Greylock Regional School class of 2021, School Committee will be approving at the next meeting.</p>			
XII. Executive Session	<p>MOTION to move into Executive Session with no intent to return to open session per MGL Chapter 30A Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with MGEA (All Bargaining Units) as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on bargaining and the Chair so declares by M. Johnson, seconded by C. Elfenbein</p>	<p>Johnson</p>	<p>Elfenbein</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>



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	<p><i>(S. Miller had rejoined the meeting by the time of this vote.)</i></p> <p>The meeting moved into Executive Session at 9:13 PM.</p>			
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Respectfully Submitted,
Eli Phillips
Mount Greylock Minutes Recorder

Approved with edits March 25, 2021

Meeting Documents:

-  00 Public Hearing FY22 Budget and School Committee Agenda 03.11.21
-  03 FY22 DRAFT Budget Book
-  03 FY22 Public Hearing and Budget Overview
-  04 Public Comment emails 3.11.21
-  06 2021_02_25 MtG Special Session minutes DRAFT
-  08 _Superintendent Updates March 11, 2021
-  08a 2020-0722 transport-guide from DESE