



# Mt. Greylock Regional School District

## School Committee Open Session Minutes

**Date:** Thursday, May 13th, 2021

**Start:** 6:00 PM

**Adjourn:** 10:11 PM

**Location:**

Remote via Zoom

\*Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, the public will not be allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting.

**In Attendance:**

<b>Committee Members:</b>	<b>Also Present:</b>
Julia Bowen Christina Conry José Constantine Curtis Elfenbein Carrie Greene Ursula Maloy Steven Miller  <b><u>Absent:</u></b>	Dr. Jason P. McCandless, Superintendent Jake Schutz, Principal MGRS Nolan Pratt, Principal LES Cindy Sheehy, Principal WES Joel Bard, Attorney for Town of Williamstown Joe Bergeron, Business Administrator

<b>Item</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Vote</b>
<b>I. Call to Order</b>	Meeting called to order by C. Conry at 6:00 PM			
<b>II. Mission</b>	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.			
<b>III. Public Comment</b>	<p><b>A.</b> Andrew Skinner of Williamstown wanted to give an update on the landscape of marijuana cultivation around the Mt. Greylock Regional School.</p> <p><b>B.</b> David Armet, Ralph Hamman, Allen Jezouit, Jenean Laidlaw, and Donna Wied of Williamstown shared a collective letter expressing their concerns of the district's proposed DEIB initiative.</p>			



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	<p>C. Kim Nicoll of Williamstown shared a letter written by members of the DEIB Parent/Caregiver Action Network expressing unwavering support for the MGRSD’s implementation of the DEIB curriculum.</p>			
<p><b>IV. Student Spotlight</b></p>	<p>Jake Schutz of MGRS introduced two students, Jonah <b>Hane</b> and Catherine <b>McAlister</b>, who shared their experiences in the YLP, or the Youth Leadership Program. Jonah and Katherine shared details about the program with the committee.</p>			
<p><b>V. Approval of Minutes (VOTE)</b></p>	<p><b>A. April 8, 2021 (VOTE) - Motion to approve the minutes for April 8, 2021 by S. Miller, seconded by C. Elfenbein</b></p> <p><b>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Maloy, AYE; Miller, AYE</b></p>	<p>Miller</p>	<p>Elfenbein</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>
	<p><b>B. April 27, 2021: Joint Meeting with Select Boards (VOTE) - Motion to approve the minutes for April 27, 2021 Joint Meeting by S. Miller, seconded by J. Bowen</b></p> <p><b>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Maloy, AYE; Miller, AYE</b></p>	<p>Miller</p>	<p>Bowen</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>
	<p><b>C. April 27, 2021: Special Session (VOTE) - Motion to approve the minutes for April 27, 2021 Special Session by S. Miller, seconded by J. Bowen</b></p> <p>C. Conry asked that <b>references to</b> documents be included in the future. C. Greene spoke on four items in the minutes for clarification and recommendation.</p> <p><b>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Maloy, AYE; Miller, AYE</b></p>	<p>Miller</p>	<p>Bowen</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>
<p><b>VI. Principal Updates</b></p>	<p><b>A. Lanesborough Elementary</b> - Nolan Pratt, Principal of LES, shared some updates of the goings-on at the Lanesborough Elementary School, including workshops about stress &amp; anxiety, MCAS, and 6th grade happenings.</p>			



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	<p><b>B. Williamstown Elementary</b> - Cindy Sheehy, Principal of WES, gave updates on Teacher Appreciation Week, 4th grade Shakespeare, the Renzi Award winners, as well as end-of-year plans.</p>			
	<p><b>C. MGRS</b> - Jake Schutz gave updates on graduation, spring sports, testing in school, and information on summer school and classes.</p>			
<p><b>VII. Appointment of a New Member to the Finance Subcommittee (VOTE)</b></p>	<p>C. Conry recommended new committee member U. Maloy to the Finance Subcommittee.</p> <p><b>MOTION to appoint Ursula Maloy to the Finance Subcommittee by J. Bowen, seconded by C. Elfenbein</b></p> <p><b>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Maloy, AYE; Miller, AYE</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bowen</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Elfenbein</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7-0-0</p>



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<p><b>VIII. Discussion re: Marijuana Cultivation in Williamstown (possible VOTE)</b></p>	<p>Dr. McCandless spoke regarding the marijuana cultivation and presented attorney Joel Bard, representing the Town of Williamstown, who was there to answer any school committee questions. Committee members addressed various questions and held a lengthy discussion, including how much say Lanesborough committee members should have. J. Constantine wanted to make sure that accepting the bylaw did not mean an endorsement from the School Committee to cultivate near the high school.</p> <p><b>MOTION to make a resolution to reject the bylaw amendment by J. Constantine, seconded by S. Miller</b></p> <p><b>Bowen, NO; Conry, NO; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, NO; Greene, NO; Maloy, ABSTAIN; Miller, NO</b></p> <p>Dr. McCandless wanted to ensure that the town takes the utmost care with what the school's input on cannabis cultivation is for the town. A statement from the committee to be read at the Town Meeting was proposed.</p>	<p>Constantine</p>	<p>Miller</p>	<p>1-5-1</p>
	<p><b>MOTION to draft a letter from the School Committee and Superintendent to be delivered and read at the Williamstown Town Meeting by J. Bowen, seconded by C. Greene</b></p> <p><b>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Maloy, AYE; Miller, AYE</b></p>	<p>Bowen</p>	<p>Greene</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>
<p><b>IX. Discussion to review Special Permit for a Wireless Communications Tower</b></p>	<p>Dr. McCandless shared information regarding the communications tower and wanted the space to have this conversation publicly since the tower would be on <del>school</del> property <b>adjacent to the school</b>. C. Greene shared her past experiences with the cell tower as a former member of the committee. Issues came up regarding the view, the space, as well as</p>			



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<p><b>at 580 Oblong Road in Williamstown</b></p>	<p>the impact on endangered species in the area. Dr. McCandless finished with a map of where the tower was proposed and again reiterated that he wanted to provide a space for public discourse.</p>			
<p><b>X. Policy Subcommittee</b></p>	<p><b>A. Update</b> - J. Constantine gave updates on their first meeting.</p>			
	<p><b>B. Policy EBCFB Interim Policy for Student Travel during COVID recommendation to rescind (VOTE) -</b></p> <p>The Policy Subcommittee unanimously voted to rescind the Interim Travel policy. Dr. McCandless presented more details about the success of the policy as well as his recommendation to remove it at this time.</p> <p><b>MOTION to rescind the Interim Travel Policy for Student Travel during COVID by Policy Subcommittee, seconded by S. Miller</b></p> <p><b>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Maloy, AYE; Miller, AYE</b></p>	<p>Policy Subcommittee</p>	<p>Miller</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>
<p><b>XI. Business Administrator Update</b></p>	<p><b>A. School Nutrition Grant Award (VOTE)</b> - The state awarded about \$8,000 for a new oven for Lanesborough Elementary School.</p> <p><b>MOTION to accept the School Nutrition Grant by J. Bowen, seconded by C. Elfenbein</b></p> <p><b>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Maloy, AYE; Miller, AYE</b></p>	<p>Bowen</p>	<p>Elfenbein</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>
	<p><b>B. SOA Grant Award (VOTE)</b> - This two-part award is for new ELA curriculum for the elementary schools.</p> <p><b>MOTION to accept the SOA Grant as awarded by the State by J. Bowen, seconded by C. Elfenbein</b></p>	<p>Bowen</p>	<p>Elfenbein</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>



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	<p><b>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Maloy, AYE; Miller, AYE</b></p>			
	<p><b>C. Excess &amp; Deficiency Certification and Reaffirming FY22 Budget (VOTE)</b>          - This account was certified by the state and the</p> <p><b>MOTION to acknowledge that Excess &amp; Deficiency in the amount of \$240,000 will be a part of the overall budget for FY22 by C. Greene, seconded by J. Bowen</b></p> <p><b>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Maloy, AYE; Miller, AYE</b></p>	Greene	Bowen	7-0-0
	<p><b>D. WES Renewal Fund Invoice Approval - ERV coils replacement (VOTE) -</b></p> <p><b>MOTION to approve WES Renewal Fund for ERV coil replacement by C. Greene, seconded by J. Bowen</b></p> <p><b>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Maloy, AYE; Miller, AYE</b></p>	Greene	Bowen	7-0-0
<p><b>XII. Superintendent Report (VOTE)</b></p>	<p><b>A. Decision to Review and Reaffirm School Choice Participation (VOTE) -</b>          Dr. McCandless presented this item to continue the district's participation in the MA School Choice program.</p> <p><b>MOTION to affirm the MGRSD to continue participation in the School Choice program for FY22 by C. Greene, seconded by S. Miller</b></p> <p><b>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Maloy, AYE; Miller, AYE</b></p>	Greene	Miller	7-0-0



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	<p><b>B. Upcoming Professional Development Activities Pertaining to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging</b> - Dr. McCandless gave a lengthy slide presentation explaining in great detail about the upcoming DEIB training for district staff. He presented the plans going forward, detailed some of the presenters, and answered questions from some of the school committee. Dr. McCandless shared personal stories and anecdotes explaining his reason for implementing this specific training for our school community.</p>			
<p><b>XIII. Motion to move into Executive Session</b></p>	<p><b>Motion to move into Executive Session with intent to return to Open Session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (MGEA) as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares by C. Conry, seconded by J. Bowen</b></p> <p><b>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Maloy, AYE; Miller, AYE</b></p> <p>The Committee moved to executive session at 7:40 PM. The committee returned to the Open Meeting at 10:09 PM.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Conry</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bowen</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7-0-0</p>
<p><b>XIV. Discussion and approval of MOA with MGEA (VOTE) -</b></p>	<p><b>MOTION to approve the MOA with MGEA as presented by C. Greene, seconded by S. Miller</b></p> <p><b>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Maloy, AYE; Miller, AYE</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Greene</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Miller</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7-0-0</p>
<p><b>XV. Upcoming Meetings</b></p>	<p><b>A. May 20, 2021: Finance Subcommittee, time TBD</b></p> <p><b>B. June 10, 2021: School Committee regular session, 6 PM</b></p>			
<p><b>XVI. Other items for discussion not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours before the meeting</b></p>	<p>No other items for discussion.</p>			



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<b>XVII. Motion to Adjourn (VOTE)</b>	MOTION to adjourn the School Committee meeting by U. Maloy, seconded by S. Miller  <b>Bowen, AYE; Conry, AYE; Constantine, AYE; Elfenbein, AYE; Greene, AYE; Maloy, AYE; Miller, AYE</b>  The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 PM	Maloy	Miller	7-0-0
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Respectfully Submitted,  
Eli Phillips  
Mount Greylock Minutes Recorder

Approved with edits 6.10.21