

**Mount Greylock Regional School District School Committee Committee**

**Location: Zoom Remote Meeting Friday, May 21, 2021 12:00PM**

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Present: Julia Bowen, Christina Conry, Jose Constantine, Curtis Elfenbein, Carrie Greene, Steve Miller

Also present: Jason McCandless, Joe Bergeron, Jacob Schutz, Cindy Sheehy, Nolan Pratt, Lindsey von Holtz

Not present: Ursula Maloy

- 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. Discussion of emergency modification of Policy EBCFA - Face Coverings regarding after school outdoor on-campus activities at MGRS VOTE
- IV. Motion to Adjourn

**MINUTES:**

- I. Call to Order: 12pm  
12:00pm
- 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. Discussion of emergency modification of Policy EBCFA - Face Coverings regarding after school outdoor on-campus activities at MGRS VOTE

Christina: do we need to waive the policy adoption? It is a revision....

Carrie: Do first and second read for new policy, can always vote to waive first read. My understanding is that there is not.

Steve: Can do as an emergency, but not sure

Carrie moves, Steve seconds, to waive first read on revision. Passes unanimously.  
Bowen aye, Constantine aye, Elfenbein aye, Greene aye, Miller aye.

Christina: have updates in packet. New language in green, any removed language in red.

Bowen: moves to accept revision, Steve seconds.

Steve: I strongly support aligning our mask policy with DESE's guidelines, but as this is the second time in less than a month that there have been issues with how we have discussed and implemented covid policies, I want to repeat my concerns about how we are creating our agendas and publicly debating issues, in regards to the item today but also in general.

While agendas must be finalized 48 hours in advance, we are allowed to have a standing item that allows us to discuss items not reasonably anticipated by the chair that arise too close to the meeting to have met this deadline. It is a wise policy to have such an item, especially in the covid era when conditions can change daily or even hourly. The Finance Subcommittee has such an item on all its agendas, and this has been very valuable; for example, in the meeting yesterday we were able to talk about the impact of some very new changes on costs of graduation ceremonies. I have asked in the past that we have such an item on all full committee agendas; the chair has sadly not included it and I will ask again that going forward we always have this. There is no good reason not to give us the ability to deal with changing circumstances; note that just because we can discuss something doesn't mean we will, but it at least gives us the opportunity.

Second, on Monday and Tuesday I asked the chair and superintendent if the superintendent could align our mask policy with DESE on his own or if we needed the school committee to meet, and I requested that if the latter we have a school committee meeting with this as an agenda item. The chair denied my request, and drew up our meeting for today to be solely on wearing masks after school. Not surprisingly, many members in the community were concerned about this and let the committee and administration know. I am glad that we are discussing this item under emergency covid policy rules, but this is not best practices. We could have had this as an agenda item, and chose not to. While the chair sets the agenda, the chair is supposed to work with the entire committee (I think the phrase is 'servant to the assembly').

Again, this is not the first time we have had such issues. I am bringing this up so that, going forward, we can do better. We illegally passed the travel policy with just one reading, and then selectively enforced an incorrect interpretation and continued to do so even after district counsel informed us of these errors, and attempts to remedy this at committee meetings were denied multiple times. Today our agenda explicitly states we are only to discuss the mask policy for after school activities, but we are discussing much more. We are doing a

disservice to our community by creating agendas and running meetings in ways that minimize all voices being heard; such actions go against our efforts to create an inclusive environment.

Julia: Do we need to have social distancing during eating/drinking?

Joe: My response is that the policy itself is on face covering and when we will not have social distancing enforced. Previously that language did apply to those bullets, I would apply we have other social distancing practices in place so we could add in front of those bullets but do not think needed.

Jake: We have a letter ready to go home, assuming these policy changes are enacted, that remind people on our expectation is that we follow the 6ft of social distance when eating outdoors.

Steve: amusing that do not need to wear face masks during mask breaks.

Steve: Will this be announced over the intercom?

Lindsey: Coaches are aware of the possibility. Families have not been informed yet.

Jake: Letter to go to families will go out by 130/2pm. For during the school day that will take effect on Monday.

Carrie: Could we have the statement Steve read shared with the committee by email.

Jose: This update from DESE came seemingly out of the blue, as we start to prepare for the next academic year, what is your sense about how quickly guidelines can change?

Jake: Hard to answer. Governor came out on Monday, DESE on Tuesday, we scheduled on Wednesday, this is about as quickly as we can do this given that this is a local policy, and state originally said localities are on their own. Last conversation (me and 300 superintendents / district leaders) can expect solid guidance in June/July for next year. Expect the unexpected, will do our best to keep up with changes.

Steve: For the record can we state the authority as to why can do more than just the original agenda item.

Jake: We felt there were several voices important to hear before changing how to do mask policy during the day (teachers, staff), but agenda needed to go out before could talk to all. Agenda was just for after school, but under EBCS (emergency plans, interim policies for covid-19) have the ability to do this. This is where the authority sits in our policy. The piece I am asking the committee is to use with the advice and consent of the school committee may suspend district policies to address. This can only be done while an emergency. As this is covid

related, requesting we grant the authority for this to apply. Have this apply to all mask situations until our June meeting, when we can revote.

Steve: Thanks, I again ask that we have the 48 hour item and have better agenda items.

Carrie: Let's vote on this.

Unanimously pass the revision related to after school policy.

Bowen aye, Constantine aye, Elfenbein aye, Greene aye, Miller aye.

Carrie: Support the request from the superintendent. Steve, Christina, Curtis agree.

Jake: Spoke to Ursula, I believe she is fine. To pull away from entire face covering policy will require another vote of the school committee. Face covering does not expire automatically.

Steve: is it June 14<sup>th</sup> that the state emergency declaration ends?

Jake/Carrie: June 15<sup>th</sup>.

IV. Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Julia, seconded by Curtis, passes unanimously.

Bowen aye, Conry aye, Constantine aye, Elfenbein aye, Greene aye, Miller aye.

Adjourned at 12:23pm

Minutes taken by Steven Miller, Secretary

Approved 6.10.21

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# APPENDICES:

## **BGB - POLICY ADOPTION**

Adoption of new policies or changing existing policies is solely the responsibility of the School Committee. Policies will be adopted and/or amended only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the School Committee when such action has been scheduled on the agenda of a regular or special meeting.

To permit time for study of all policies or amendments to policies and to provide an opportunity for interested parties to react, proposed policies or amendments will be presented as an agenda item to the Committee in the following sequence:

1. Information item - distribution with agenda
2. Discussion item - reading of the proposed policy or policies; response from Superintendent; report from any advisory committee assigned responsibility in the area; Committee discussion and directions for any redrafting
3. Action item - discussion, adoption or rejection.

Amendments to the policy at the action stage will not require repetition of the sequence, unless the Committee so directs.

The School Committee may dispense with the above sequence to meet emergency conditions.

Policies will be effective upon the date set by the School Committee. This date will ensure that affected persons have an opportunity to become familiar with the requirements of the new policy prior to its implementation.

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### Updated DESE Guidance:

- No face coverings will be required for students, even if distancing cannot occur for:
  - Recess,
  - Outdoor wellness/physical education classes
  - Youth sports (please see guidance from the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, MIAA, for specific guidance relative to youth athletics)
  - Other outdoor learning activities
- Appropriate distancing of three feet between students should be maintained whenever possible. (Admin note for the SC: note that our distancing efforts will be maintained and are not a part of the face covering policy)
- Face coverings must still be worn by adults if appropriate distancing cannot be maintained.

### Updated MIAA Guidance:

- Athletes on spring teams in active play outdoors are not required to wear a mask/facial covering.
- Athletes when they are on the bench or in a dugout are not required to wear a mask/facial covering.
- Athletes in low-risk sports when indoors where a distance of at least 14 feet or more is consistently maintained between each participant, are not required to wear a mask/ facial covering.
- Spectators and chaperones, coaches, staff, referees, umpires and other officials who can social distance while outdoors, are not required to wear a mask/face covering.
- Visitors, spectators, volunteers, and staff while indoors are required to wear

mask/facial covering.

- All athletes participating in high school sports are considered youth and fall under youth guidelines.

For the purpose of reviewing / approving the proposed policy modifications:

NEW language is in green and REMOVED language is in red strikethrough

#### EBCFA - FACE COVERINGS

The District is committed to providing a safe environment as schools reopen during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to public health experts, one of the best ways to stop the spread of coronavirus and to keep members of our school community safe is the use of face masks or face coverings. Therefore, in accordance with guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the following requirements are in place until further notice. A new or freshly laundered face covering that covers the nose and mouth must be worn by all individuals in school buildings, on school grounds, and on school transportation, even when social distancing is observed. Masks must be either multiple-layer fabric face masks, including N-95 and/or KN-95 masks, with a tight weave, or paper surgical masks. Masks must fully cover both the nose and mouth. The following are not acceptable masks: bandanas, neck gaiters and buffs, and masks with exhalation valves. Masks will be required for all ages.

Individuals may be excused from the requirement for the following list of reasons, per CDC guidance:

In the event the individual:

- has trouble breathing;
- is unconscious;
- is incapacitated;
- cannot remove the mask or face covering without assistance.

In addition, masks or face coverings will not be required for anyone who has a medical, behavioral or other challenge making it unsafe to wear a face mask or face covering. A written note from a physician is required for a requested exemption.

Additionally, face masks or face coverings will not be required in the following circumstances when appropriate social distancing is enforced:

- during mask breaks;
- while eating or drinking;
- for students: when outdoors (including recess, outdoor classes/sports, and outdoor athletic events); Note that school buses and district transportation are not considered “outdoors” and face coverings are still required in those contexts;

- for adults: when outdoors and appropriate distancing of 6 feet is maintained.

Face masks or face coverings will be required during physical education classes and while outside.

Exceptions to this policy under certain circumstances, such as for students with medical, behavioral or other challenges who are unable to wear masks, must be approved by the building principal in consultation with the school nurse or local Board of Health. Face shields or physical barriers may provide an alternative in some instances.

A student's mask or face covering is to be provided by the student's family. Staff members are responsible for providing their own face coverings. However, the district will supply disposable face covering for individuals who arrive at a building, or board school transportation, without one.

If students are in violation of this policy, the building principal will consult with the parent/guardians to determine whether an exception is appropriate, or the student may be removed from the school building for in-person learning until such time as they can comply with the requirement or the requirement is lifted.

Violations of this policy by staff will be handled in the same manner as other violations of School Committee policy.

Only visitors approved by Administration who are in compliance with this policy will be permitted to enter the school building during school hours.

This policy will remain in place until rescinded by the School Committee.

LEGAL REF.: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, COVID-19 Order No. 31 -

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/may-1-2020-masks-and-face-coverings/download>

REFS.: Center for Disease Control and Prevention - Considerations for Wearing Masks - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education - Reopening Guidelines - <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/>

Commonwealth of Massachusetts - Mask Up MA! -

<https://www.mass.gov/news/mask-up-ma>

[http://miasa.net/gen/miasa\\_generated\\_bin/documents/basic\\_module/phaseivstep1youthandadultamateursports51821.pdf](http://miasa.net/gen/miasa_generated_bin/documents/basic_module/phaseivstep1youthandadultamateursports51821.pdf)

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-mask-requirements#effective-may-29>

:-updated-mask-requirements-

CROSS REF.: JICA- Student Dress Code

SOURCE: MASC - August 2020

Updated/Voted March 25, 2021

Updated/Voted May 21, 2021

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BOSTON — Today(May 17, 2021), the Baker-Polito Administration announced that the Commonwealth is on track to meet the goal of vaccinating 4.1 million residents by the first week of June and all remaining COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted effective May 29.

The Commonwealth's face covering order will also be rescinded on May 29.

The Department of Public Health will issue a new face covering advisory consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's updated

guidance. Face coverings will still be mandatory for all individuals on public and private transportation systems (including rideshares, livery, taxi, ferries, MBTA, Commuter Rail and transportation stations), in healthcare facilities and in other settings hosting vulnerable populations, such as congregate care settings.

Governor Charlie Baker will end the State of Emergency June 15.

The Administration also announced updates that will be effective May 18 to revise face covering requirements for youth and amateur sports and other guidance relating to childcare programs and K-12 schools. The Administration will release updated guidance for summer camps effective May 29.

The Administration is able to take these steps to reopen the Commonwealth's economy because Massachusetts is on track to meet the goal set in December to fully vaccinate over 4 million individuals by the first week of June. The Commonwealth leads the nation in vaccinating residents, with 75% of adults receiving at least one dose. To date, over 4 million residents have received a first dose, with 3.2 million fully vaccinated.

New cases have dropped by 89% since January 8. COVID hospitalizations are down 88% since January 1 and the positive test rate is down by 88% from peaking at 8.7% on January 1 to 1% today.

#### Effective May 29

Effective May 29, all industries will be permitted to open. With the exception of remaining face-covering requirements for public and private transportation systems and facilities housing vulnerable populations, all industry restrictions will be lifted, and capacity will increase to 100% for all industries. The gathering limit will be rescinded.

All industries will be encouraged to follow CDC guidance for cleaning and hygiene protocols.

On May 18, 2020, the Administration published the reopening phases, which called for ending restrictions when vaccines became widely available. Today, there are over 975 locations for Massachusetts residents to access vaccines without delay.

#### Face Covering Guidance

In line with updated CDC face covering guidance, the Administration will rescind the current face covering order and issue a new face covering advisory effective May 29.

Non-vaccinated individuals are advised to continue wearing face masks and to continue distancing in most settings. The advisory will also recommend fully vaccinated individuals no longer need to wear a face covering or social distance indoors or outdoors except for in certain situations.

Face coverings will still be required for all individuals on public and private transportation (including rideshares, livery, taxi, ferries, MBTA, Commuter Rail and transportation stations), healthcare facilities and providers, congregate care settings and health and rehabilitative day services.



Face coverings will also remain required indoors for staff and students of K-12 schools and early education providers.

[Link to mask guidance](#)

[Youth and Amateur Sports Face Covering Guidance](#)

Effective May 18, the youth and amateur sports guidance will be updated to no longer require face coverings for youth athletes 18 and under while playing outdoor sports. Effective May 29, all youth and amateur sports restrictions will be lifted.

[Link to youth sports guidance](#)

[K-12, Early Education and Summer Camp Guidance](#)

Effective May 18, guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Early Education and Care will be updated to no longer require masks for outdoor activities like recess and to allow for the sharing of objects in classrooms, in both K-12 and childcare settings. This guidance will remain in effect beyond May 29.

The Administration will release updated guidance for summer camps, effective May 29, which will include no longer requiring masks for outdoor activities.

[Link to DESE guidance](#)

[Link to EEC guidance](#)

[State of Emergency Order](#)

Governor Baker will end the State of Emergency June 15, and the Administration will work with legislative and municipal partners during this period in order to manage an orderly transition from emergency measures adopted by executive order and special legislation during the period of the State of Emergency.

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