



# Mt. Greylock Regional School District

## School Committee Open Session Minutes

**Date:** August 8, 2019

**Start:** 6:00 PM

**Adjourn:** 9:02 PM

**Location:**

MGRS Meeting Room A109

1781 Cold Spring Road Williamstown, MA 01267

**In Attendance:**

<b>Committee Members:</b>	<b>Also Present:</b>
R. DiLego D. Caplinger C. Conry J. Art S. Miller A. Terranova  <b><u>Absent:</u></b> A. Carter	Kimberley Grady, Superintendent A. Wadsworth, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance Rob Bradley, LES Teacher Marsha Vinnette, LES Teacher Mary MacDonald, Principal MGRS Nolan Pratt, Interim Principal LES Lindsey Von Holtz, Dir of Athletics & Co-Curricular Activities J. Skavlem, Phase II Chair

10

<b>Item</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Vote</b>
<b>Call to Order</b>	This meeting of the Mount Greylock Regional School Committee was called to order by R. DiLego at 6:00 PM			
<b>Public Comment</b>	Dave Armet, Resident and Parent of a MGRS student. Mr. Armet spoke to the athletic fields updates. Mr. Armet stated that the goal of Phase II updates should be to have more useable/playable fields to benefit the student body. Mr. Armet spoke to some of the concerns that have been brought up by community members regarding the environmental impact of the turf fields that are being proposed.			
<b>Reorganization of School Committee</b>	<b>Appoint Records Access Officer:</b> S. Miller appoints S. Vigiard to be the Records Access Officer. Seconded by A. Terranova. Unanimous Roll Call Vote	S. Miller	A. Terranova	6-0-0
	<b>Chair:</b> R. DiLego nominated to be Chair by S. Miller. Unanimous Roll Call Vote. <b>Vice Chair:</b> S. Miller nominates D. Caplinger seconded by A. Terranova. Unanimous Roll Call Vote <b>Secretary:</b> D. Caplinger nominates S. Miller seconded by A. Terranova. Unanimous Roll Call Vote.			



## Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	<p><b>Subcommittee Reorganization Appointment:</b>          Finance Subcommittee: Dan Caplinger, Jamie Art, Regina DiLego          School Building Committee: Move to approve the slate as presented. D. Caplinger, Seconded by S. Miller. 6-0-0          Policy Subcommittee- C. Conry, Chair, S. Miller, A. Carter          Negotiations: D. Caplinger, R. DiLego, J. Art          Phase I: D. Caplinger, R. DiLego, C. Conry, Perri Petricca and Rita Coppola-Wallace          Phase II: D. Caplinger, S. Miller, A. Terranova, J. Skavlem, Bill Auger, Lindsey Von Holtz, and two student representatives</p>			
<p><b>Circulate Warrants</b></p>	<p>Warrants were circulated for signature</p>			
<p><b>Appointment of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer</b></p>	<p><b>Motion</b> to appoint D. Narey as Treasurer and B. Rondeau as Assistant Treasurer. S. Miller, Seconded by D. Caplinger</p>	<p>S. Miller</p>	<p>D. Caplinger</p>	<p>6-0-0</p>
<p><b>Approval of Minutes</b></p>	<p>May 9, May 23, and August 2, 2019: S Miller/A. Terranova. Discussion: AI commented on the excellent minutes Regina completed for the school committee retreat on August 2, 2019. 5-0-1 – Art Abstains          June 13, June 24, and July 2 were Postponed</p>	<p>S. Miller</p>	<p>A. Terranova</p>	<p>6-0-0</p>
<p><b>Approval of 6<sup>th</sup> grade Cape Cod Fundraising/Trip</b></p>	<p>This agenda item pertains to Lanesborough Elementary School only. Rob Bradley and Marsha Vinnette presented fundraising proposals for the 2020 Cape Cod trip. The trip will be May 26-29, 2019. Fundraising: Magazine launch, candy bar sale, flower sale, penny war and dance-a-thon. Corporate sponsor letters will be sent in January and there is a spaghetti dinner proposed if parents are available to do so. The Candy bar sale; the school gets 40% of profits and 50% of profits from the flower sale. R. Bradley stated that MGEA usually makes a donation for students who require financial assistance in order to participate. The chaperones are fully comprised of teachers and a nurse. <b>MOTION:</b> to approve the trip and fundraising activities. AT/JA 6-0-0.</p>	<p>A. Terranova</p>	<p>J. Art</p>	<p>6-0-0</p>



## Mt. Greylock Regional School District

<p><b>Discussion of Spanish Department Trip to Puerto Rico</b></p>	<p>K. Grady stated that she would like to send this field trip proposal to legal counsel to make certain that there are no concerns regarding this overnight travel proposal. A. Kirby and M. MacDonald stated that money for this trip would start being collected in January and the hope is to let families know details as soon as possible. Discussion regarding a recent field trip from MGRS that went through the Canadian Rockies. Discussion regarding if the proposed trip to Puerto Rico falls under the umbrella of a school-sponsored trip. As a school-sponsored trip, any issues that may arise would fall on the District's insurance. A. Kirby presented the proposed trip to Puerto Rico. The trip would take place over April 2020 vacation. All trip highlights relate back to the Spanish curriculum at MGRS. R. DiLego asked what would be required of the student's educationally during the trip as the trip is longer than the school vacation scheduled in April. A. Kirby provided details of the itinerary and noted that all tours will be conducted in Spanish. A. Terranova spoke to the liability to the District as it relates to the current unrest in Puerto Rico. Chaperones would be determined by the number of students who sign up and is outlined in the proposal (for example for 15 students, two chaperones are included). Fundraising options have not currently been looked into. M. MacDonald presented some history regarding how these types of trips have been planned for in the past and how students have worked to pay for them previously. Discussion regarding providing students equal access to this trip should it be approved by the Committee. D. Caplinger outlined what he would like included in these types of proposals if the ultimate goal is to begin offering them as enrichment to the curriculum; including vetting out the liability factors, fundraising and equal access for all students, opt out process for students who choose not to go. Ms. Kirby will bring the committee's feedback back to the Department so this proposal can be</p>			
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## Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	brought forward in the future. D. Caplinger mentioned the possibility of the SEE-Fund being an option for providing equal access to all students.			
<b>Athletic Director Update</b>	L. Von Holtz gave an update on athletic and co-curricular activities including the number of students that participate in the offerings at MGRS. In 2018/19, 68% of the MGRS student body participated in athletics and 41% participate in co-curricular activities. Ms. Von Holtz spoke specifically to questions the committee asked regarding baseball and football. Ms. Von Holtz also spoke to recent issues with playing time, scheduling, and rain outs, and cooperation with other local high schools. Discussion regarding baseball-specific.			
<b>Principal Update</b>	<p>K. Grady spoke to the committee having recently received updated/draft student-parent handbook. N. Pratt spoke to updates to the Lanesborough Elementary handbook. Some re-wording will be taking place such as “discipline matrix” being replaced along with the Code of Conduct. The handbooks will be teasing out bias-based incidents vs. bullying incidents. The vision statements will receive feedback from school councils and faculty. The mission statement is being reviewed by the Strategic Planning committee. M. MacDonald spoke to updates within the MGRS handbook. Some updates have already taken place regarding the language. Most recently, the school councils have been changing the wording within the area of dress code. M. MacDonald noted that legal counsel last reviewed the handbook two years ago. Last year, faculty updated the areas pertaining to academic integrity. The handbook has also changed substantially due to the opening of the new building and the changes that have taken place as a result of that. The handbooks will be ready to go for September and the start of school. D. Caplinger noted with appreciation the changes relating to attendance that have been added since the school committee last reviewed the MGRS handbook. M. MacDonald gave a brief update regarding the schedule.</p> <p><b>Acceptance of Gift:</b> A. Wadsworth noted that the District office is going to create a form which will capture any criteria for a gift that is given to MGRSD. This will allow for more transparency and</p>	S. Miller	D. Caplinger	6-0-0



## Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	<p>more public acknowledgement. A. Wadsworth also noted the process for creating accounts for gifts and ear marking them for the appropriate department or budget line if the gift is specific to a particular area. M. MacDonald spoke regarding the gift from the Alice Shaver Foundation which annually gives a gift in the amount of \$5,000 to MGRS. The gift is meant to be used toward student programming specifically. <b>MOTION:</b> move to accept the gift with thanks. S. Miller / D. Caplinger 6-0-0.</p>			
<b>Superintendent Update</b>	<p><b>MOTION</b> to authorize Treasurer to borrow: That the District Treasurer is hereby authorized, under the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 16(g) as amended by Chapter 134 of the acts of 1972, and with the approval of the Chair and District Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019, and to issue a note or notes therefore, payable within one year, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17. D. Caplinger/S. Miller VOTE: 6-0-0</p>	D. Caplinger	S. Miller	6-0-0
	<p><b>Liaisons:</b> Christina Conry for Elementary and Al Terranova for High School Wellness. Strategic Planning will remain Steve and Regina. B&amp;G: D. Caplinger. Endowments: C. Conry covering LIFE, A. Carter covering WESE and C. Caplinger covering SEE Fund. A. Terranova was added as a B&amp;G liaison.</p>			
	<p><b>Creation of Revolver Accounts: MOTION:</b> Create Donations revolver account MGL Chapter 71, s.37a; Special Ed tuition revolver account MGL Chapter 76, s.12b(0); and Facilities Use revolver account MGL Ch71, s. 16r. D. Caplinger/S. Miller 6-0-0</p>	D. Caplinger	S. Miller	6-0-0
<b>Approval of Master Calendar</b>	<p>The Master Calendar S. Miller/A. Terranova Discussion: The Town public meeting dates will be added. CPR updates will be given in February. K. Grady requested that the enrollment update be moved to the November meeting. <b>MOTION:</b> S.</p>	S. Miller	A. Terranova	6-0-0



## Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	Miller moves to amend the master calendar as recommended by the Superintendent. S. Miller/ Seconded by J. Art. 6-0-0			
<b>Approval of School Committee Goals</b>	The school committee came up with four overarching goals during the school committee retreat on August 2, 2019 to be followed and worked on through the 2019-2020 academic year. Discussion regarding the wording of those goals as it relates to key components, action items and measurable outcomes. D. Caplinger noted that the goals of the school committee would rightly be the least granular but would set the tone for the more detailed Superintendent's Goals, Administrator's Goals, etc. K. Grady will explain the alignment between the school committee's goals and the data that the Superintendent and Administrators will provide within the context of their own goals as they are set. School Building Committee and Project Counsel will be added as a measure for Goal 3. <b>MOTION:</b> Move to accept the goals and related objectives as presented and amended. D.Caplinger/C. Conry 6-0-0	D. Caplinger	C. Conry	6-0-0
<b>Electronic Packet Discussion</b>	The committee discussed electronic packet distribution to the committee as well as a potential new process for uploading the meeting packet to the website. Discussion regarding if the packet could be uploaded before or after the meeting.			
<b>Subcommittee Reports</b>	<p>Finance: D. Caplinger spoke to work that will be taking place after recently meeting and planning with A. Wadsworth, Assistant Superintendent of Business &amp; Finance</p> <p>School Building Committee Update: K. Grady spoke to activities that have been cancelled due to warranty work that has been taking place on the new building throughout the summer. There is a plan in place to finish the work prior to the start of school. The carpets needed to be replaced and outside walkways needed to be repaired due to frost heaves that occurred over the winter. The sidewalk work will be completed by the first part of next week. Some of the landscaping will be cleaned and replaced as much of the landscaping has not survived. The project subcontractors have assured us that the work will be completed, school will be able to open on time, and the final delivered product will last the test of time. Planning will take place in order to open the building during the last week of August for tours. A ribbon cutting event will be planned.</p> <p><b>Policy:</b> The newly organized policy subcommittee will be meeting, organizing, and will be addressing/updating the Facilities use form and fee schedule.</p>			



## Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	<p><b>Negotiations:</b> Negotiations are fully completed. There is a small discussion to resolve an issue with one particular individual.</p> <p><b>Phase I:</b> D. Caplinger stated that the subcommittee has come to the conclusion that building a space on the high school campus remains the best and most affordable option. The subcommittee has decided to divide what was one building into two. One for District office and attic storage and the other for facility storage needs. Bid documentation is being completed for this plan in order to bring forward to the full committee for approval.</p> <p><b>Phase II:</b> J. Skavlem gave an update from the Phase II subcommittee which meant earlier today. Bids will go out two weeks from now. There will be a pre-bid meeting on August 27th and any questions from the pre-bid meeting will be answered by August 30th. Final bids will be received back by September 4<sup>th</sup>. An FAQ sheet was developed based on community input. The track will be an add/alternate during this bid process. Discussion regarding synthetic turf vs. grass fields. L. Von Holtz commented on new MIAA guidelines as it relates to the fields and potential playing time. K. Grady spoke to changing the athletic policies to mirror those of MIAA. Discussion regarding the wording of the draft FAQ that is in progress.</p>			
<p><b>Phase II Field Discussion</b></p>	<p>D. Caplinger requested to hear from members of the committee who are not on the subcommittee. R. DiLego read a statement provided by committee member Ali Carter who could not make it to the meeting in person. A. Carter's statement outlined issues and concerns which amounted to reasons as to why she would be uncomfortable with moving forward with a synthetic turf field. A. Terranova reflected on the forum that recently took place. He feels many of the questions that are being asked were answered at the forum and spoke in favor of moving forward with the turf field. J. Art expressed that he appreciates the dialogue with the community that has been taking place regarding what is in the best interest for the school and what is in the best interest for students. J. Art feels that there are a lot of unknowns regarding the concerns and the environmental sustainability of the proposed turf fields; specifically when it comes to future potential run off and how that may impact the water supply. J. Art also expressed wanting to determine cost before making a final determination. He expressed digging deeper into the impacts of the project once numbers were in hand. C. Conry echoed A. Carter's concerns over</p>	<p>No Vote</p>	<p>No Vote</p>	<p>N/A</p>



## Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	<p>environmental impact. C. Conry also asked if there would be any potential impact if athletes from other towns/leagues would refuse to play on a turf field. L. Von Holtz commented that athletes already play on turf fields at other locations and she feels there is a preference in some cases to play on turf. Athletes can purchase different cleats to wear on artificial turf vs. natural fields but it is not a necessity. PHS and THS in Pittsfield play on turf currently at Berkshire Community College. Hoosac Valley plays on a turf field at MCLA. J. Skavlem and D. Caplinger spoke to the drainage that is being proposed as part of the turf field that would address the concerns for MGRS-specific drinking water. In terms of a natural grass field, it would be best practice to irrigate the fields which would be difficult on our property due to MGRS being on a well. K. Grady stated that she would follow up with Keller and the company that tests our water in order to get more information on how a synthetic turf field may impact the water supply at MGRS. K. Grady commented that UMASS students could come in and take soil samples. The Dir of B &amp; G will follow up in order to get these soil samples completed. K. Grady spoke to the conditions of the current natural fields and work that will take place in order to get them into a better condition for athletics in the coming months which will assist in the interim time frame while the phase II updates are still being discussed and implemented. D. Caplinger cited research that states adverse health affects from turf fields is unlikely. D. Caplinger further stated some surrounding areas that have moved forward on turf field projects; and also reviewed some positive reviews from those communities regarding increased playing time; increased competition and more outdoor programming as well as some feedback from areas that have turf on how sustainable those fields have been.</p>			
<p><b>Other Business Not Anticipated within 48 Hours of meeting</b></p>	<p>None</p>			





## Mt. Greylock Regional School District

<b>Adjourn to Executive Session</b>	Motion to enter 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, ESP unit, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining of the committee and the chair so declares Unanimous Roll Call Vote. The committee entered Executive Session with no intent to return to open session at 9:02 PM.	D. Caplinger	S. Miller	6-0-0
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Respectfully Submitted,  
Jonathan Nopper  
Mount Greylock Minutes Recorder