



# Mt. Greylock Regional School District

## School Committee Open Session Minutes

**Date:** October 8, 2019

**Start:** 6:02 PM

**Adjourn:** 10:11 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, Chair D. Caplinger C. Conry J. Art A. Carter <b><u>Absent:</u></b> S. Miller A. Terranova	Kimberley Grady, Superintendent

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<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 6:02 PM			
<b>Public Comment</b>	<p>First person called to Public Comment was Dan Clews, parent of an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at MGRS. Mr. Clews spoke to the fields and in particular suggested that a new subcommittee be created in order to further evaluate the proposals for the athletic fields with community input.</p> <p>Second Person to deliver Public Comment was: Molly Polk, parent of three students within the District. Ms. Polk spoke regarding the Phase II subcommittee's work and built on the words of Chair Skavlem's call to build community in terms of making a determination for the proposed capital improvements to the athletic fields.</p> <p>Third: Elayne Murphy of Williamstown and MGRS parent. Ms. Murphy spoke to Phase I plans as it relates to the Nordic Ski team and spoke to the need of the Nordic Ski Team to have a space to do their waxing.</p> <p>Fourth: Thomas Bartels of Williamstown spoke against the artificial turf fields and articulated the health related concerns associated with these materials. Mr. Bartels submitted a copy of his full statement for consideration of the committee. This statement was filed with the meeting documents as part of the public record associated with this meeting.</p>			



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	<p>The fifth person to give public comment was Lisa Conathin, Williamstown Resident and parent to two students at WES. Ms. Conathin echoed those who spoke before her and asked for the committee to slow down this process and build community by continue to listen to the community feedback of those who are concerned with the health, and environmental impact of the artificial turf fields. Ms. C. asked for comparable play times to be published in terms of playability on an artificial turf field vs. a new and well maintained organic grass field.</p>			
<p><b>Approval of Minutes</b></p>	<p>September 12, 2019: <b>MOTION</b> to approve. Discussion: None. MOTION passes. September 26, 2019: Postponed.</p>	<p>J. Art</p>	<p>C. Conry</p>	<p>5-0-0</p>
<p><b>Circulate Warrants</b></p>	<p>Warrants were circulated for approval.</p>			
<p><b>Declassification of Executive Session Minutes</b></p>	<p><b>SC Exec sessions</b> 1/1/18, 1/18/18, 6/14/18, 7/5/18, 9/20/18, 12/13/18, 1/23/19, 2/14/19, 3/14/19, 3/21/19, 3/3/19, 5/23/19, 9/12/19 2. <b>Negotiation Exec sessions</b> 1/11/18, 1/25/18, 2/1/18, 2/8/18, 2/15/18, 2/27/18, 3/6/18, 3/15/18, 3/22/18, 3/27/18, 4/4/18, 4/5/18, 4/10/18, 4/11/18, 5/1/18, 5/8/18, 5/9/18, 5/15/18, 5/22/18, 6/4/18, 6/5/18, 6/11/18, 6/12/18, 6/24/18, 6/30/18, 8/28/18, 8/30/18, 9/6/18, 9/13/18, 9/24/18, 9/27/18, 10/2/18, 10/10/18, 10/22/18, 10/30/18, 11/5/18, 11/19/18, 11/21/18, 12/3/18, 12/10/18, 12/14/18, 12/20/18, 1/9/19, 1/10/19, 1/14/19, 1/18/19, 1/28/19, 2/15/19, 2/19/19, 2/26/19, 3/15/19, 3/18/19, 3/26/19, 4/3/19, 5/2/19 <b>Motion</b> to declassify Executive Session minutes from the dates listed on the Agenda by J. Art / A. Carter. VOTE: 5-0-0. Motion Passes.</p>			
<p><b>MGRS Student Council Representative Update</b></p>	<p>Charlie McWeeny spoke regarding the recent ribbon-cutting event held at MGRS. The student council continues to plan fundraising events for the year. They are looking at purchasing some yard games that can be used outside at lunch during good weather. Recently there was a review of cell phone use by students. They are considering some initiatives such as phone free Fridays in the future. Also, the student council is looking at making some suggestions for revising student schedules. The student council would also like to begin giving more feedback on the issues facing the school committee like the athletic field capital improvements that are being proposed. Currently, the student body's sentiments on the issue are split.</p>			
<p><b>Director of Academic Technology Update</b></p>	<p>Eileen Belastock gave a presentation on a recent google form survey that was sent out to gather feedback on the school calendar and school vacations from staff and parents. R. DiLego commented that this survey was conducted to raise awareness and start to gather feedback that will factor into the discussion the committee has in the future when the calendar is discussed and voted for the 2020-2021 academic year. D. Caplinger stated that a larger conversation would be needed and the committee would need to provide reasons and justifications in order to educate all stakeholders should the traditional calendar be kept or if changes were made. E. Belastock stated that she did receive a large amount of feedback that those who were interested in changing the calendar were hoping the District would align the calendar to the Williams College</p>			



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	<p>schedule. The committee discussed that the driving factor for assessing the school calendar and related vacations are directly related to the number of snow days. K. Grady stated the “blizzard bag” initiative that was previously an option for some districts across the state is no longer an option. Further discussion about the school calendars across the rest of Berkshire County. D. Caplinger asked that all issues that might factor into this discussion be considered while we continue to assess the calendar for next year (i.e. using February break for a deep clean during flu season, etc).</p>			
<p><b>LNADS Request</b></p>	<p>R. DiLego reviewed a facility use request for LES. The organization has asked that the committee approve a waiver of the custodial fees associated with the facility use request. The group has used LES previously for many years and has not required a custodian previously and the Administration is comfortable with the request based on past experience. <b>MOTION</b> to grant the request for a waiver of a custodian.</p>	<p>J. Art</p>	<p>A. Carter</p>	<p>5-0-0</p>
<p><b>Principal Updates</b></p>	<p><b>LES:</b> N. Pratt gave an update on the LES open house. The community gave positive feedback on the new paint in the school gymnasium. The SIP for LES includes goals to continue to expand technology in the curriculum. Goal 2: Increase focus on social-emotional learning. Goal 3: Design curriculum maps for each content area  <b>Homeschool:</b> K. Grady reviewed homeschool numbers at LES, currently there are four students that are being homeschooled. N. Pratt also spoke to his desire to roll out a school pride initiative at LES in the form of “Wyvern” week.  <b>WES:</b> J. Brookner provided an update on the open house that took place at WES. Principal Brookner spoke to the school improvement plan. The first goal is around student support. J. Brookner discussed the “Choose to Be Nice” initiative at WES. The month of October’s theme is Respect. J. Brookner spoke to the school social worker that is new this year and has been working with students and parents. The second goal at WES is curriculum. J. Brookner reviewed the associated initiatives under this goal. The third goal at WES is technology and J. Brookner spoke to infrastructure upgrades recently completed by the Dir of Operations and tech nights being planned with the Dir of Academic Technology. There are seven</p>			



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	<p>students from WES that are being homeschooled this year.</p> <p>Four teachers from WES presented the proposed field trip to Cape Cod, outlined the educational activities that focus on team building and empathy and focusing on the natural resources and habitats located on the Cape.</p> <p><b>MOTION</b> to approve the WES Cape Cod 6<sup>th</sup> grade trip as proposed. D. Caplinger/ C. Conry</p> <p><b>MOTION:</b> Move to approve the fundraisers specified in the letter J. Art/D. Caplinger. VOTE: 5-0-0.</p> <p><b>MGRS:</b></p> <p>The get acquainted concert is next week at MGRS. MGRS Open House: Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. The first Unified basketball game is Thursday, 10/10. MGRS has four goals within its school improvement plan and Principal MacDonald reviewed those goals and the related initiatives. Principal MacDonald spoke to MGRS' search for a new school social worker. We are hoping to have a new social worker in place by the end of October. Principal MacDonald announced that MGRS' National Merit Scholars have been announced as commended students. Congratulations to Maddie Art and Owen Tucker-Smith. The number of home school students dropped from 9 students in 18-19 to 6 students during this academic year.</p>	<p>D. Caplinger</p> <p>J. Art</p>	<p>C. Conry</p> <p>D. Caplinger</p>	<p>5-0-0</p> <p>5-0-0</p>
<p><b>Pupil Services Update: Special Education Team Leader</b></p>	<p>K. Grady introduced Patrick Priester, the District's new Special Education Team Leader who joins MGRSD from Lee Public Schools. P. Priester gave an update on Special Education, Title I and English Language Learners to the committee. Discussion: J. Art asked a question regarding the data pertaining to Title I numbers. The difference in the data is that there is Title I funding for reading at one school and math at the other. Work is taking place to ensure that assessments are being completed in the same way so that there are no disparities between the two elementary schools. Question regarding putting the Dir of Pupil Services position on the agenda next month as a discussion to determine if we should re-post that position.</p>			
<p><b>Assistant Superintendent of Business &amp; Finance Update</b></p>	<p>D. Caplinger gave an update on behalf of the Finance Subcommittee in the absence of the Assist. Superintendent of Business and Finance. At this time, the year has successfully been closed for FY19. D. Caplinger stated there are many line item transfers that will need to be authorized by the school committee effective June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. <b>MOTION:</b> Move to accept the fiscal year 2019 budget transfer entry dated June</p>			



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	<p>30, 2019 as presented in the packet whose purpose is to reconcile and balance account code lines for year-end closure by D. Caplinger / J. Art. Discussion: D. Caplinger noted that the Finance Subcommittee has gone over these line items in detail and are comfortable with the proposal as it is being made. R. DiLego noted that some of these line items were made as a result of the new business manager coding differently than the previous one. <b>VOTE: 5-0-0.</b></p> <p>FY20 First Quarter Budget Update: Two spreadsheets were provided to the committee. One reflects expenses and one reflects to revenue received to date. At this time, we are comfortable that we are in pace to be on target for what we budgeted for FY20.</p>			
<p><b>Director of Buildings &amp; Grounds Update</b></p>	<p>K. Grady reviewed invoices that were included for needed maintenance updates at WES and LES. T. Sears explained that one invoice is to replace the Glycol in the heating system at WES; K. Grady and T. Sears stressed that this is preventative maintenance this is needed at WES.</p> <p>R. Wnuk reviewed additional expenses related to rooftop units at WES that were repaired and are related to the air conditioning system and an energy recovery wheel. Motion to authorize the expenditure of up to \$125,000 from the WES endowment for the three projects as enumerated in the packet. D. Caplinger / J. Art. VOTE: 5-0-0.</p> <p>LES maintenance update: T. Sears updated the committee on recent Glycol testing that took place at LES and necessary maintenance that is needed to be proactive with the heating system at LES. T. Sears stated that the typical maintenance would be to put an additive in after 3 years which will extend the life of your glycol by another five years and you can add an additive again after those five years to further extend the life of the glycol. To remove and dispose of the glycol is a very expensive process. Going forward, the long term maintenance plan will include regular and routine maintenance on the school's glycol systems. Discussion regarding the process and split of expenses between the District and the Town in order to take care of this issue before the heat must be turned on in the school before October 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the Town of Lanesborough for assisting in this process to</p>	<p>D. Caplinger</p>	<p>J. Art</p>	<p>5-0-0</p>



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	ensure that this was quickly and efficiently taken care of.			
<b>Superintendent Update</b>	<p>K. Grady gave an update on the ribbon cutting event for MGRS that recently took place. K. Grady stated that the closeout process continues to be finalized for the building project. K. Grady gave an update on the process for the communication of snow days and emergency school closings and delays.</p> <p>Dr. Adolph Brown will be coming to MGRS on 10/10 and 10/11. K. Grady reviewed a presentation she already saw of his during the MASS conference on the Cape earlier in the year. On October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM he will be at MGRS for a parent night. On October 11<sup>th</sup> he will be working with faculty and staff as part of the professional development day scheduled on that day. Dana Asby will be coming to WES to do mindfulness workshops.</p> <p>Process for Principals and Admin Goal Setting has been included in the packet. K. Grady noted that the process is very similar to the process the committee goes through with her as Superintendent but with slightly different rubrics.</p> <p>K. Grady reviewed proposal #6 from the MASC and is asking the committee to be proactive to that proposal in terms of eliminating the fees and providing universal pre-k in the District. K. Grady clarified that she would like to eliminate fees, and offer pre-k within the District that would run identical to the school day. Discussion about free and reduced lunch numbers and how it relates to Title I allocations and regional transportation aide once the District hits a particular threshold. Further discussion on this topic will take place as part of the budget discussions for FY21.</p> <p>Goals: K. Grady presented her goals to the committee. Goal I: Student Learning – Through the work of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, School Committee and district administration; will work collaboratively to promote learning experiences that enhance academic achievement at all levels. Goal II:</p>	D. Caplinger	C. Conry	5-0-0



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	<p>Professional Practice: Through feedback from Strategic Planning Steering Committee and School Committee, in the FY20 academic year the Superintendent will improve/increase community engagement events and activities as well as efficiency with correspondences and communications by completing key actions and meeting benchmarks (as provided in full outline).</p> <p>Goal III: District Improvement: Through the feedback of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee and the School Committee goals, the Superintendent will work with building admin to host family and community engagement activities to support the new visions and mission of the Region. Goal IV: District Improvement: Through the feedback of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee and the School Committee goals, I will work with building admin, HR Specialist, and Assistant Superintendent of Business &amp; Finance to promote a safe, efficient and effective learning environment for the MGRSD faculty and staff.</p> <p>The Superintendent reviewed each goal as well as the key actions and benchmarks associated with each goal. Discussion: D. Caplinger reflected that in approving the goals as outlined, the committee is also approving the process for documenting the evidence that will be associated with the key actions and benchmarks. He noted that some items seemed subjective and was looking for clarification on how to get feedback from the groups in order to ensure the committee effectively evaluates the Superintendent's performance. K. Grady provided feedback on the types of data and surveys that will be provided and presented as evidence to aide in the evaluation process. Discussion regarding the process of fairly evaluating the Superintendent based on both quantitative and qualitative work while acknowledging the limitations of the established rubric for the evaluation as they align to the School Committee Goals. C. Conry stated that she felt the goals were strong and the</p>			
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	<p>would be provided by the District. <b>MOTION</b> to waive the first read and approve the Classroom safety policy with letters to be determined by the policy liaison consistent with the policy manual. By D. Caplinger, Seconded by J. Art. VOTE: 4-0-0.</p>	D. Caplinger	J. Art	4-0-0
<p><b>Remote Participation Guidelines</b></p>	<p>R. DiLego stated that there are some updates needed to the remote participation guidelines as the reasons associated with the remote participation are no longer in the law. It should also be discussed and determined if there should be any guidelines or restrictions to the number of times remote participation can be used, including language for extenuating circumstances or reasonable accommodations. Discussion: The committee discussed the value associated with placing limitations on remote participation and discussed the reasons that used to be within the state law guidelines and still currently exist within the present policy. D. Caplinger asked that the subcommittee keep in mind that each committee member is a volunteer when making any considerations regarding updating the remote participation guidelines as well as keeping in mind what would be considered overuse of the remote participation policy including perhaps differentiating the language between the regular meetings of the school committee vs. special sessions of the full committee and all meetings of any subcommittee. Discussion regarding setting a particular number of remote participation occurrences with any additional requests under special circumstances being put before the committee for a vote. The policy subcommittee will work to address this and bring a recommendation back to the full committee to review.</p>			
<p><b>Subcommittee Reports</b></p>	<p>D. Caplinger gave an update in regards to the Finance Subcommittee: In particular, R. Wnuk has initiated District participation in the E-rate program. There will be a motion to create a revolver account forthcoming soon at a future meeting. There was also discussion of beginning a District stabilization fund which will be further</p>			



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	<p>discussed. There will be some work involved including determining if we can garner support from the Towns to determine if we can move forward in creating such a fund.</p> <p>Phase I has not met, however, D. Caplinger stated that work is moving forward in the bidding process as approved at a previous school committee meeting. Bids are due back by October 30, 2019. There is a pre-bid meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup> and final bids are due by 2 PM on the 30<sup>th</sup>. This bid is being completed through Bid doc so all bids submitted will be in electronic format.</p> <p>Discussion regarding how to move forward and set meetings once bids are received for Phase I. Phase I subcommittee will meet on 11/1 and the full committee will meet on 11/5. Discussion regarding if the subcommittee needed to meet to “open” the electronic bids on 10/30 and also the check with Dan Colli to determine his availability for any follow-up meetings.</p> <p>Phase II met on 10/1, Phase II reviewed the directions given on next steps by the full committee and looked at ways to incorporate the committees direction to incorporate grass field alternatives. Art at Traverse is working on design work associated with a grass field alternative or comparable quality. There was discussion on whether the grass field alternative should be conventional or organically managed. The subcommittee determined that most of the community feedback was for an organically managed grass field alternative. The subcommittee is not currently ready to take a vote. Discussion: R. DiLego asked for clarification to make sure the subcommittee is working to complete the re-bid in the way that the motion was worded during the September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. R. DiLego also asked if the subcommittee was looking for any feedback from the full committee to determine if a conventional vs. organically managed natural field should be looked at.</p> <p>Discussion regarding involving the student body in this discussion as well as discussion regarding run-</p>			
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	<p>off water data. K. Grady mentioned that some data exists on water run off as part of the work that's been completed within the building project. J. Art asked if the design changes vs. the maintenance practices had been discussed regarding artificial vs. natural turf fields. Discussion of any site specific issues being worked into the design documents for issues as it relates to organic vs. artificial turf fields (i.e. water and irrigation issues associated with natural turf).</p>			
<b>Future Meetings/events</b>	<p>Dr. Adolph Brown on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at MGRS          School Committee Special Session on October 23 or 24          MASC Conference on November 6-9 on Cape Cod.          Tours of Mount Greylock, Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9-12</p>			
<b>Other Business not reasonably anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of meeting</b>	<p>Field Trip Request: Cross County Twilight Invitational Request will be addressed on 10/10 at 2 PM</p>			
<b>MOAs for one year LES Interim Principal and Title I grant funded Math Interventionist</b>	<p>K. Grady reviewed the MOA being proposed for Nolan Pratt as he covers as Interim Principal should he choose to return to his teaching position in 2020-2021. The other MOA is in regards to Sheila Guercio who has been in the ESP unit for several years; during this academic year Ms. Guercio is working as a Title I Math Interventionist. The MOA protects her rights to enter back in to the bargaining unit as of the 2020-2021 school year should she so choose. <b>MOTION</b> to approve the two MOAs by J. Art, Seconded by C. Conry. Discussion: D. Caplinger asked about how seniority and salary schedule placement would work and asked that the language be clarified. VOTE: 4-0-0</p>	Art	Conry	4-0-0
<b>Adjourn to Executive Session</b>	<p><b>Motion</b> to move into Executive Session per MGL Chapter 30A Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation related to the MGRS School Building Project as an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Committee and the Chair so declares.</p> <p>Caplinger - AYE, Art - AYE, DiLego - AYE, Conry - AYE.</p>	Caplinger	Art	4-0-0



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	The committee entered Executive Session at 10:11 PM			
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Respectfully Submitted,  
Jonathan Nopper  
Mount Greylock Minutes Recorder