

Mt Greylock Regional School Committee

October 10, 2019

Present: Dan (acting as chair), Christina, Steve, Ali

Also present: Kim, Andrea, Lindsey

Call to order at 2:01pm.

Motion by Steve to approve the Twilight Invitational MG Girls' Cross Country overnight field trip.
Seconded by Ali.

Lindsey: have gone in previous years but under different procedures, this is just for varsity.

Steve: Why was this not communicated promptly?

Lindsey: Initially told could not go, then just go individually. When learned could not do that started to do emails to get forms.

Steve: In the future when learn that could be an issue should let the school.

Motion passes unanimously.

Dan: Issue from the superintendent that arose within 48 hours, will be brought forward by Andrea.

Andrea: In process of closing books looking at certifying E&D. Noted that need to find the balance, put us over 5%. Reclassified some expenses back to operating to get us to under 5% so we can certify to state, need a budget transfer. Need to certify within two weeks. Entry made by TMS putting about \$360,000 in choice funds. Because they did that, over-realized expenses in choice. Should have been in operating. Expenses should not to be sitting in a revolving account?

Steve: Do we need to alert the towns to this?

Andrea: No, these are true expenses, booked in the wrong account. Choice account is set up to offset budget, but that is up to amount. Instead of using the appropriated funds they had expenses there. What I have tried to do, inside choice line, assigned to different buildings, is to align to excess budget items so clean washes.

Andrea was asked to explain what E&D was, or excess and deficiency: For example a budget is set at \$10,000 (total) and took in \$12,000 in revenue. We have an excess of \$2,000, we would certify that, budget with expenses tied to it and too much money. We didn't spend enough money last year.

Dan: Is the revenue for the budget including choice or just appropriated?

Andrea: Choice. Money goes into a revolving account to back-fill expenses.

Dan: Net effect: We have so much money left over that if we add all to E&D we're over the limit. One of the reasons we have money left over is that we allocated certain expenses to come out of various school choice funds rather than taking them from appropriated funds. The suggested fix on page 3 is to put money revenue back into choice to reduce the surplus in the appropriated budget, so we replenish savings in one place, taking it from savings in another place but were limited in putting more there by the 5% rule. This is a way to take the money we have saved and save it in a manner that complies with all the requirements. Will still have the money, makes it easier to keep these reserves of money.

Andrea: Right, and later will have that choice money to offset assessments to the town in a future budget cycle.

Kim: Haven't done that for years, would be nice to do.

Dan: Walk me through.

Andrea: Went into accounts, saw expenses should have been in operating, found budget lines that had excess budget amounts. In LES school spending expense have \$18000+ too much. If we transfer that to school choice line then they wash each other. Moving budget dollars so can move expenses to the right places.

Dan: As chair of the finance committee, everything here makes sense to me. I would suggest we have the Finance sub-committee to review in greater detail at the next meeting. I see no objection to doing this. Moving money from one hand to another that complies with requirements.

Dan: With our peculiar system, the school choice matters for the towns and must keep records. Need to make sure things are visible. What **is** motion do you need?

Andrea: Approve the transfers with an addendum to add the codes, and then I will do them and file with the state.

Motion to approve \$217,578.23 by Ali, seconded by Steve, to transfer as specified. Approved unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Christina at 2:18, seconded by Steve, passes unanimously.