

Mount Greylock Regional School District School Committee Location: MGRS Meeting Room A109

Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 1781 Cold Spring Road Williamstown, MA 01267

Present: Regina, Steve, Christina, Jamie, Dan, Al

Also present: Kim, Lindsey

Absent: Ali

Called to order at 12 pm Special Session

Agenda

- I. Call to order
- II. Superintendent Updates
 - A. Superintendent Goal Revision VOTE
 - B. Overnight Field Trip VOTE
- III. Acceptance of Gift from General Dynamics VOTE
- IV. Finance Subcommittee update
- V. Phase 1 bid documents : discussion and VOTE
- VI. Discussion of Williamstown Finance Committee comments
- VII. Other business not anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of meeting
- VIII. Motion to Adjourn

Did IIB first, request from cross country team (girls team and some individual boys) to go to Gardner. Want to stay overnight evening prior to the race, felt would sleep better. Not asking for district funds. Proactive approach.

Al mentioned issues about students paying bills, and in the past school covered expenses.

Lindsey: Difference here is it is possible to go down the day of, and it is a choice to go down a day early. We have covered the cost in past years but not requesting this year as there is no need; will get one for the wrestling team.

Motion to accept by Steve, seconded by Christina, passes unanimously.

IIA: Kim: Superintendent goal revision: cleaned up some language, removed some benchmarks, added some items in. Looking for blue stuff to be accepted, stricken stuff to be removed.

Some minor grammatical errors and typos pointed out.

Jamie: Look fine, goal two on benchmark: missing a number (should be 2 to 3). On next page in key actions for goal three word missing after families.

Dan: Standard 3: First benchmark: are we crossing out as already have?

Kim: No, no sign in sheets for families, no ways to give these. Wasn't going to yield the results want, wouldn't say more than there. Change in how we did things, worked, but not going to give the data you want.

Dan: I think it was measurable, we had the tables.

Kim: I can leave as we did, know there was a lot of discussion on these.

Dan: Happened, was a win.

Kim: Felt there was reservation as to what it was demonstrating.

Dan: For some benchmarks some members will have more experience than others, expect we will also share with each other our experiences.

Steve: Making sure we will talk about all cohorts not just lowest.

Kim: Goal of department of ed is lowest 25th percentile.

Steve moves to accept, Christina seconds, passes unanimously.

III: Acceptance of gift of \$2000 from General Dynamics: they are generous each year, supports activities such as robotics program. Steve moves to approve and send a letter of thanks, Jamie seconds, passes unanimously.

IV: Finance committee update: Regina: had a meeting on Friday on how the capital gift would be used.

Dan: handed out before meeting reports. Lacks a huge amount of detail as not sure if I can go into detail in a report what individual committee members say in a meeting, as if that is distributed prior to a monthly meeting it might be construed as deliberation. Today is not the day to have this discussion, just raising the issue to get guidance.

Kim: will ask at the joint conference later this week on what others are doing.

Dan: Will get update in detail at monthly meeting on the 14th. Discussion on the capital gift on the different priorities (Phase I, II, endowment, improvements to school).

(Andrea on phone now, 12:19pm)

Dan: Did not come to any grand solutions. More just a discussion.

Jamie: Talked about trying to start conversations with representatives of Finance Committees from the two towns about how we are approaching capital costs and capital expenses in the future, both at the elementary schools and MtG. Talked about need for transparency.

Dan: I'll have an update when we get to the finance committee update section that we have made progress in transparency and channels of communication.

Regina: Did have a robust conversation about keeping some of the gift and try to honor the intent of the gift, looking at how the elementary school gift was used. Things come up. Want to be aware of concerns.

Steve: Good to bring up to be explicit, I thought it was good when the finance committee members wanted to see the big picture, all the expenses coming up in the near future, not breaking into pieces, so can make decisions. Important to recognize that a lot of these expenses should be paid by the taxpayers, fortunate that we have a capital gift and can do a lot of these items and have an endowment, but should be budgeted by towns.

Al: who is following the endowment? How much do we have?

Regina: Talked about that, Dan is aware of the process to get numbers.

Kim: Update from Amy on what have spent to date.

FY17: \$22,308

FY18: \$48,714

FY19: \$127,607

FY20: \$165,000 (approximately) (to date)

Paying for trailer, Perkins-Eastman, architects,

Trailer to date \$65,000 (utilities tapped in to MtG). This is from last year to present.

Al: How much is left in the capital gift?

After discussion: Number is, we believe, \$6.3 or \$6.8 million.

Discussion on how much we have spent on bidding. Al said several hundred thousand dollars, Kim corrected that is much less.

Regina reported requests for public comments. Steve said worth hearing from people who are here, Dan agrees.

Matt Sheehy: Thanks committee for work, says should be consistent for Phase I and Phase II, should have a public forum for Phase I to report on what have done. Should think about all long term expenses.

Dave Armet: Thanks committee for work, also asks for consistency for Phase I and Phase II, remarks that there is a negative view by some if supporting fields, have had people say not going to his business as he wrote a letter to the editor in support.

Tim Cromby: President Berkshire Trade Council: Congratulates on how far we have gotten, mentions costs are likely to go up if wait. Not going to get cheaper if wait. Could be 30-45% more expensive to do later, could be hard to get people to come back and rebid as costs them to bid.

Discussion on Phase I.

Dan: Summary page in packet.

Steve: Uncomfortable supporting Phase I until I know what is happening with the fields, things must be done there (ADA), unlike past we now have an idea of how much Phase II will cost, ask that any motion on Phase I include funds for other items. Also worth considering rent, can generate rent from return on endowment, Matt Sheehy has details on some property (decision from chair not to have him provide information).

Regina: have already researched all this. As a Lanesborough person want something closer to Lanesborough.

Steve: Understand, must balance that with cost to taxpayers.

Kim: Not just a district office, need only about 2800 square feet, also need storage, also bathrooms if having fields. Rental space for free for last year coming to an end. Need \$3500/month come January. Have stalled for a year. Issues with our space now violating code. Too many of us in trailer, violating town code. Looked at 13 places, we looked out, minutes do not reflect that. Far more costs come January. Sickens me as both fields and building need to be done.

Dan: Interpret Steve's comments as an attempt to look at all the expenses of the capital gift fund, asking same questions that town officials are asking. Difficult conversations. Need to balance all these issues.

Steve: Concerned about partial plans. Have had public discussions on fields. I think there is a value to a public discussion on building.

Dan: Broaden to concern about having an endowment.

Kim: Groups keep spending the \$1.5 million dollars. We need to go somewhere.

Dan: Question on progress of advisory group in identifying needs. Trying to anticipate objections public bodies may bring. Do we have a sense of how much of a draw might get on the endowment, so have an idea of what level of reserve.

Kim: Do not have those numbers yet. Boilers need to be replaced. 10 years old, normally 15-20 years, will hit in a few years.

Dan: Towns understood this when approved building project. Expenses like this are foreseeable. Need to balance. Information is incomplete. Seems dangerous to spend money on bathrooms before know if will have fields.

Jamie: Process: what is the deadline? (From last week). What was the Phase I recommendation?

Andrea: Cannot change scope of bid.

Dan: No recommendation. Comfortable with both bidders and prices, strongest opinion if at some point going to do bathrooms makes sense to do now.

Jamie: District office could not be funded as part of the building project, fortunate to have a gift. See the \$2.2 million worth doing, wish we could have found rental space elsewhere, would have been a good win for the district. Have visited many places.

Christina: Been on Phase I, comfortable with both bids. Need to move forward, great location. Sort of in the middle.

Al: Learned when served on Lanesborough Finance Committee how much things cost, a lot more than expect, sticker shock. House of \$200,000 house, every \$25,000 in operating cost increases is about a nickle.

Dan: \$2.3 million for Phase I, \$2.5 million for Phase II, \$2 million for endowment. Accept low bid for base plus induction but not bathroom.

Kim: If build big field need bathroom, if don't have Cannot go back, need to think about \$315,000. A necessity, cannot start a process and then go back and add. Either build or have port-a-potties.

Steve seconds.

Friendly amendment that the endowment is what remains, in case we don't have the numbers in our account we think, Dan accepts with the caveat of remembering these numbers were the basis of the proposal. Discussion on what to do about bathrooms, decide to take E&D and not use the capital gift for the approximately \$300,000. Add to the motion.

Jamie: are these motions for up to? If up to have more flexibility.

Dan: Will accept up to for amount left for endowment, not for amount for Phase II as otherwise could significantly cut.

Jamie: Came here with thoughts on Phase I as that was on agenda, Phase II catching me off-guard, understand reason behind it, giving me pause. Concerned not going to be responsive to political concerns about field project.

Steve: Finance committee said school needs to consider all expenses, I have concerns about Phase I but if part of a compromise dealing with all an support. Can we postpone vote till 14th?

Regina: For me, problematic if only approve one project if approve another.

Steve: Difference is now we have understanding of both costs.

Regina: But this is committing.

Steve: Suggest we postpone to the 14th.

Dan: Not making that assumption. Three parts to motion, don't have to agree to all parts to support, if cannot move forward on anything until have all information, matter of timing.

Jamie: This allocates \$2.5 million to fields, wasn't prepared based on agenda.

Al: Correcting some misperceptions on fields. People from Lanesborough in favor of fields, people against fields were against this building. Disregarded recreation committee.

Regina: question is tying ourselves to committing funds.

Al: Have to do something, support Dan and Steve's motion, let's vote and move forward. Would accept a 9 day cool off period.

Steve: Would love to wave magic wand and get all info, this fixes three needs. Happy to support something like this, if not let's wait.

Kim: If wait too long have issues with weather; will start accruing costs if wait another 9 days if really want to do, can we agree on this now and then discuss fields later?

Jamie: I get the points, willing to vote in favor so we can move forward.

Steve: Recall what Dan said before, skeptical about Phase I, but trust sub-committee.

Regina: Saying that as want support for Phase II, will support this as we need to move forward.

Motion: Accept second bidder, alternate two from E&D, \$2.5 million for Phase II, rest for endowment.

Dan: Based on the \$6.8 million.

Roll call vote: all in favor.

Dan: We have discussed the Finance Committee's concerns, feel no need to say more, have talked to the finance committee chair.

Motion to adjourn by Christina, seconded by Steve, passes unanimously at 1:46pm.