



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

School Committee Open Session Minutes

Date: November 14, 2019

Start: 6:01 PM

Adjourn: 8:40 PM

Location:

MGRS Meeting Room A109

1781 Cold Spring Road Williamstown, MA 01267

In Attendance:

Committee Members:	Also Present:
D. Caplinger, Chair C. Conry S. Miller J. Art A. Carter (Partial Attendance) R. DiLego A. Terranova <u>Absent:</u>	Kimberley Grady, Superintendent Andrea Wadsworth, Asst. Superintendent of Business & Finance Charlie McWeeny, Student Representative M. MacDonald, Principal MGRS J. Brookner, Principal WES N. Pratt, Principal LES

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Item	Comments	Motion	Second	Vote
Call to Order	This meeting of the Mount Greylock Regional School Committee was called to order by Superintendent Kimberley Grady at 6:01 PM			
Reorganization of School Committee	<p>K. Grady noted when calling the meeting to Order that this meeting includes the annual re-organization of the committee. K. Grady asked the committee for nominations for Chair.</p> <p>A. Terranova nominates Dan Caplinger, SECONDED by J. Art</p> <p>C. Conry nominates Regina DiLego, SECONDED by J. Art.</p> <p>Discussion: A. Wadsworth gave guidance as Chair of MASC Division VI on how to proceed with two chair nominations in order to decide who will serve. Committee members discussed the nominees. Discussion regarding the past practice of switching between Lanesborough and Williamstown members for the role of Chair and the timing of the exit of the former Chair from Williamstown prior to R. DiLego taking over and beginning to serve as a member from Lanesborough.</p> <p>Roll Call Vote: Carter – Caplinger, Terranova – Caplinger, Miller – Caplinger, Caplinger – ABSTAIN, Art – DiLego, DiLego – ABSTAINS, Conry – DiLego. Caplinger is named Chair of the School Committee.</p>			



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	<p>R. DiLego nominated A. Terranova for Vice-Chair. Terranova declined. K. Grady asked if the Chair would entertain pausing on the committee reorganization in order to present the Superintendent’s Award before the reorganization continues.</p>			
<p>Superintendent’s Award for Academic Excellence</p>	<p>K. Grady presented the Superintendent’s Award for Academic Excellence to Amelia Murphy. Congratulations, Amelia! Amelia spoke to her many positive experiences at MGRS and gave thanks for the recognition of this award.</p> <p>K. Grady took a moment to ask the committee to recognize the tragic and sudden loss of Kevin Harrington, a Special Education Teacher who passed away while working at Taconic High School earlier this week.</p>			
	<p>A. Terranova nominates C. Conry as Vice-Chair, Seconded by S. Miller. C. Conry rejects the nomination. R. DiLego nominates J. Art. J. Art also expressed concern in accepting the nomination and stated that he would accept if there were no other members willing to be nominated. Discussion: S. Miller asked if C. Conry would be willing to serve as Vice-Chair if he would run meetings if the Chair was absent. Discussion: None. VOTE: 6-0-0. R. DiLego nominates S. Miller, Seconded by C. Conry. No other nominations and no discussion. VOTE: 5-0-1. Miller ABSTAINS. Conversation regarding the role of District Secretary. This item was tabled and will be addressed at a future meeting.</p>			
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>Thomas Bartels of Williamstown spoke to the committee regarding the Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons agenda item to, again, express concern over health risks related to these materials.</p>			
<p>Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>September 26, 2019 October 8, 2019 November 5, 2019 MOTION to approve. Discussion: S. Miller noted that some split votes show the nays but not the ayes, i.e. page 3 of September 26. Discussion on whether or not to change. Consensus was to leave the minutes as presented in the packet. A. Carter exits prior to vote.</p>	<p>S. Miller</p>	<p>J. Art</p>	<p>6-0-0</p>
<p>Student Representative – Charlie McWeeny</p>	<p>WES/LES Updates: Charlie spoke to recent events and updates from each of the elementary schools including the recent celebration of Wyvern week celebrating school pride at LES and a recent field trip to Hopkins Forest. WES recently completed their ‘Words are Wonderful’ week. WES students also attended a production of Pirates Past Noon at the ‘62 Performing Arts Center and received a copy of that book. MGRS students recently completed a production of Greylock Plays and are looking forward to upcoming performances of ‘The Tempest.’ The Student Council has recently met to organize a corn hole tournament. They have been discussing programming for the next year including the exploration of classes that would offer life skills or real world training.</p>			



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	<p>The student council is also looking into the possibility of changing the school start time and are encouraging a feasibility study to look into this as an option.</p>
<p>8 Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) Discussion</p>	<p>The committee discussed this topic and how to proceed with establishing a process for having an informed discussion on this topic to address community concerns brought forward at public comment. S. Miller proposed having the Phase II subcommittee deliberate on this at their next meeting. A. Terranova was concerned about the time constraints further discussions would put on the District’s ability to move forward. R. DiLego suggested that it would be important for the entire committee to make a decision as it would have an impact on the type of infill that would be bid out as part of the Phase II Capital projects if the District pursued artificial turf fields. R. DiLego proposed a special meeting, and not having this as an agenda item during a regular meeting, for a deeper discussion on this topic. Further discussion regarding having the Phase II subcommittee potentially take the lead and report back to the full committee. No official motion or vote was taken regarding this agenda item. D. Caplinger stated that he would like to assure the community that further action would be taken on this at a future meeting.</p>
<p>Superintendent Update</p>	<p>K. Grady spoke regarding recent presentations during the Cape Conference on Community Engagement (included in packet). The themes of both presentations centered on community engagement and “the three E’s.” which are engage, educate and empower. K. Grady spoke to the current level of community engagement and the strategies that are being used to garner more support for increasing community engagement and increase the effectiveness of the workshops we have been putting on in an effort to educate and empower stakeholders within the District.</p> <p>D. Caplinger asked for more information about the presentations during the MASS/MASC conference and if there were any takeaway strategies for community engagement. K. Grady spoke to this and provided information on what other Districts are doing including developing a Family Engagement Leadership Team, having students present at things like Town Meetings, providing babysitting and transportation to certain events as needed etc.</p> <p>K. Grady spoke to work that is being done to update and make our hiring and recruiting practices more effective, including updating the school and district profiles that are published online with each job posting as well as getting feedback on interview questions and having community members participate on particular interview committees. The District office website is being revised and updated with Finals site. The District will be working with a student intern to assist in migrating data to a new content management system and updating the structure of the District and School Committee sites.</p> <p>K. Grady provided an update on District Enrollment for the past five years. Total Enrollment this year is down from last year to 1165. The committee discussed these numbers as it relates to employment cycles in Williamstown, Census data, and potential impact on school choice decisions.</p> <p>K. Grady and R. DiLego further reviewed and discussed updates and takeaways from the MASC/MASS conference that recently took place on Cape Cod.</p> <p>The District will hold Tech Nights for WES on 12/3, MGRS on 12/10 and LES on 12/7.</p>



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<p>Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance Update</p>	<p>A. Wadsworth discussed the tentative dates of the budget timeline included in the packet. The committee discussed the creation of an E-Rate Technology Fund. MOTION: I authorize the Assistant Superintendent to create a revolving account for the purpose of holding and monitoring e-rate funds. Discussion regarding revolving accounts that will be brought forward for consideration at a future meeting. Discussion regarding warrant process as it relates to discussion that took place at the MASS/MASC conference.</p>	<p>R. DiLego</p>	<p>S. Miller</p>	<p>6-0-0</p>
<p>Principal's MCAS & Accountability Presentation</p>	<p>J. Brookner presented on MCAS Accountability for WES. J. Brookner stated that WES students have made significant progress toward the goals as set by the State and the school has also made progress in terms of the rate of chronic absenteeism. J. Brookner further discussed the MCAS results and progress WES students made as denoted in the Accountability report.</p> <p>N. Pratt presented on the MCAS Accountability for LES. N. Pratt spoke to the need to address chronic absenteeism. LES declined in one area on the report which was Math with High Needs students.</p> <p>M. MacDonald presented on the MCAS Accountability for MGRS and spoke to the process for the newest version of the test as well as strategies and interventions that are being put in place going forward.</p>			
<p>Policy Subcommittee Facility Usage Discussion</p>	<p>K. Grady reviewed the proposed changes outlined in the packet including rates on the new facility use form. K. Grady is recommending that the auditorium usage rates be different for practices vs. performances. K. Grady also voiced concern for adding custodial fees to the cafeteria usage to ensure student safety due to students with severe food allergies. K. Grady further advised fees associated with custodial clean up and supply costs based on facility usage. K. Grady also outlined the process and the need for two weeks in order to complete the approval process. Move to approve the policy amendments with the daily rental rates for group c for the auditorium to be determined by the Superintendent. Discussion: The committee discussed ongoing costs associated with facility usage and if those costs should be included in facility usage fees to help offset costs or if those costs should be included within the annual budget process. R. DiLego suggested</p>	<p>J. Art</p>	<p>R. DiLego</p>	<p>6-0-0</p>



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	meeting with town leadership to determine if they have a preference on the way the committee moves forward on this issue. K. Grady will reach out to the Town Managers.			
Subcommittee Reappointments	K. Grady stated that many of the current subcommittees due to having a financial impact in terms of their decisions should be under the Finance Subcommittee and reviewed the subcommittees that are needed based on feedback received at the MASC/MASS conference from the District's field representative. Discussion regarding restructuring and reorganizing the subcommittees. D. Caplinger stated he would like to postpone the subcommittee reappointments in order to be more prepared given the recommendation to restructure and increase the efficiency of our subcommittee process.			
Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair within 48 Hours of Meeting	R. DiLego called the committee's attention to a respectfulness resolution that came out of the Governor's office and asked that the committee consider adopting this resolution at a future meeting. K. Grady read a message received from the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletics Association (MIAA) announcing that the MGRS Unified Basketball team would be receiving a Sportsmanship award. Congrats to the MGRS Unified Basketball Team! Thank you to our coaches: Liza Barrett, Karen DuCharme and Dakota Sunskiss and Athletic Director Ms. Von Holtz.			
Adjourn to Executive Session	Motion to enter into Executive Session with no 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 as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the committee and the chair so declares. Roll Call Vote: Terranova – AYE, Miller – AYE, Caplinger – AYE, Art – AYE, DiLego – AYE, Conry – AYE The committee entered Executive Session with no intent to return to Open Session at 8:40 PM	S. Miller	R. DiLego	6-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Jonathan Nopper
Mount Greylock Minutes Recorder