



# Mt. Greylock Regional School District

## School Committee Open Session Minutes

**Date:** December 12, 2019

**Start:** 6:01 PM

**Adjourn:** 8:59 PM

**Location:**

MGRS Meeting Room A109

1781 Cold Spring Road Williamstown, MA 01267

**In Attendance:**

<b>Committee Members:</b>	<b>Also Present:</b>
D. Caplinger, Chair C. Conry S. Miller J. Art A. Carter R. DiLego A. Terranova <b><u>Absent:</u></b>	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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<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 D. Caplinger at 6:01 PM			
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	October 10, 2019 November 12, 2019 November 14, 2019 <b>MOTION</b> to approve. Discussion: Amending a vote to 6-0-0 for the Vice Chair as Ali Carter was out of the room at that time.	S. Miller	C. Conry	7-0-0
<b>Circulate Warrants</b>				
<b>Student Spotlight</b>	Student council has recently been piloting a program in the foyer during lunch time where students can sign out to work in the foyer during lunch. Student council will be reaching out to other area student councils to do further research on school start times. C. McWeeny discussed additional items regarding student council outreach, and reviewed recent and upcoming events at MGRS, LES and WES. The committee asked questions regarding outreach to other student councils regarding school start times, commented on the importance of recognizing the stress level of AP courses. Charlie concluded by reporting on a recent corn hole tournament that the student council put on and informed the committee that another student council rep would be stepping in			



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	while he spends a semester away. S. Miller asked if we are investigating how a change of start time would impact families with children at different age and grade levels.			
<b>Lanesborough Elementary School Presentation</b>	N. Pratt introduced students from LES who gave a presentation about Wyvern Week at LES; a week that focused on the Wyvern, the school's mascot and centered on school pride. Thank you LES students for sharing your school pride and your Wyvern knowledge!			
<b>Public Comment</b>	None			
<b>Overnight School Activity Trip Request</b>	K. Grady reviewed an overnight trip request that would be taking place in April if approved by the committee. M. MacDonald stated that the request is being made by the Model UN. This trip would be to Dartmouth for twelve students to participate. Discussion regarding chaperoning the students and the vehicle that is being used to transport the students. <b>MOTION</b> to approve the overnight trip request for the Model UN.	R. DiLego	S. Miller	7-0-0
<b>Superintendent Updates</b>	<p><b>ELL Teacher/Coordinator Job Description (VOTE):</b> K. Grady discussed rationale behind changing the job description of our ELL Teacher to an ELL Teacher/Coordinator. The committee requested to spell out any acronyms that are used within a job description. K. Grady commented that she would like to replace some of the acronyms completely so that the job description reads as state standards. Discussion regarding if the FTE should be listed on the job description. The supervising component for the teaching element of the position would be the responsibility of the principal. The Coordinator component would be supervised by the Director of Pupil Services. <b>MOTION</b> to approve the ELL Teacher/Coordinator job description with the understanding that there will be final clarifying amendments to define more clearly specialized terms.</p> <p><b>Tier Focused Monitoring Discussion:</b> K. Grady reviewed Tier Focused Monitoring with the school committee (formerly referred to as Coordinated Program Review) including the timeline for completing the upload of data and the anticipated schedule of site visits. K. Grady encouraged the committee to review the information provided in the packet so that they</p>	A. Terranova	R. DiLego	7-0-0



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	<p>are prepared if questions are asked of one to two committee members beyond the Chair and if anyone has any questions, they should reach out to K. Grady and the Pupil Services department for further information.</p> <p><b>Strategic Plan – Core Beliefs, Mission, Vision</b>          K. Grady discussed the Strategic Plan with the committee. The decision was made for all three schools to maintain their individual vision statements so there was no feeling of loss to individual school identities. K. Grady further discussed the Mission and Vision statement that was formulated through the Strategic Planning Process. The Core Beliefs and Vision statements will be incorporated at the school levels. The Mission statement will need to be adopted by the School Committee. The committee reached a unanimous consensus regarding the adoption of the mission statement.</p>			
<p><b>Review/Vote Substitute Daily and Long Term Rates</b></p>	<p>K. Grady reviewed current sub rates at MGRSD along with the rates of our neighboring Districts. K. Grady reviewed data and some outliers that need to be addressed and outlined her recommendations that’s he would like the committee to consider to address the District’s need for substitutes across the board for Teachers, Nurses, Paraprofessionals, Custodians, and Cafeteria Workers. Further discussion regarding how to proceed with the rates. Consensus was reached to change the sub nurse rate to \$160 per day. K. Grady suggested continuing the process and discussion regarding the other sub rates within the Finance Subcommittee and bringing forward a more formal recommendation at a future meeting.          K. Grady and A. Wadsworth exit meeting.</p>			
<p><b>Mid-Year School Committee Review</b></p>	<p>D. Caplinger led discussion regarding the Mid-Year School Committee Review. D. Caplinger reviewed the school committee’s goals and gave his opinion on the progress the committee has made on each of those goals at this point in the year. The committee further discussed their goals, current progress toward goals and strategized on how best to move forward. Much discussion centered on strategies for community engagement.           A. Wadsworth returns to meeting.</p>			
<p><b>Assistant Superintendent of Business &amp; Finance Update</b></p>	<p><b>Preliminary FY21 Budget Discussion:</b> A. Wadsworth led budget discussion by first reviewing the current budget. A. Wadsworth reviewed the budget building process for FY21</p>	<p>S. Miller J. Art</p>	<p>J. Art C. Conry</p>	<p>7-0-0 7-0-0</p>



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	<p>including a recent meeting with all of the school councils.</p> <p><b>Review of School Priorities:</b> Budget priorities are being worked on by the school councils and the principals and will be further reviewed in January after the holidays.</p> <p><b>Warrant Approval Process (VOTE):</b> A. Wadsworth reviewed the current warrant process approved by the committee. D. Caplinger commented on the current process and the need to revise the process based on conversations with the state and recent changes in law. D. Caplinger reviewed deliberations that recently took place within the Finance subcommittee in terms of updating the warrant process and protocols. Discussion regarding the timing of signing warrants and who could be given the responsibility of signing the warrants. Discussion regarding the possibility of moving to an electronic signing process or a signing schedule where warrants would be made available to particular members in each town on a particular day. <b>MOTION</b> to establish a warrant approval process by which three members of the committee not on the same established subcommittee be authorized to sign warrants; such warrants will come back to the finance subcommittee for review by S. Miller. Seconded by J. Art. VOTE: 7-0-0. <b>MOTION</b> to approve Steve Miller, Al Terranova and Regina DiLego as the three committee members authorized to sign warrants. By J. Art, Seconded by C. Conry</p>			
<p><b>Subcommittee Realignment</b></p>	<p>D. Caplinger thanked the committee for their patience in giving him time to give consideration to subcommittee organization and re-alignment. D. Caplinger reviewed communication that had taken place with Liz Lafond from MASC and discussed potential subcommittee re-alignment that would put the committee's subcommittees more in line with the District's overall goals and strategic plan.</p> <p>The committee discussed subcommittee updates, organization and re-alignment which resulted in the following subcommittee structure:</p> <p><b>Negotiations:</b> Christina Conry (Chair), Regina DiLego, Jamie Art</p> <p><b>Finance Subcommittee:</b> Jamie Art (Chair), Regina DiLego, Dan Caplinger</p> <p><b>Buildings &amp; Grounds Liaison:</b> Al Terranova</p> <p><b>Phase I MGRS Capital Gift:</b> Regina DiLego (Chair), Jamie Art, Perri Petricca (Community Member)</p>			



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	<p><b>Phase II MGRS Capital Gift:</b> Dan Caplinger (Chair), John Skavlem (Community Member), Bill Auger (Community Member), Lindsey Von Holtz (MGRS Staff), Talia Cappadona (Student Representative) and Julius Nunemo (Student Representative)</p> <p><b>Policy Liaison:</b> Christina Conry</p> <p><b>Wellness Liaison:</b> Al Terranova</p> <p><b>Education (formerly Strategic Planning):</b> Steve Miller (Chair), Christina Conry, Alison Carter</p> <p><b>Berkshire Taconic Liaisons:</b> Dan Caplinger, Christina Conry, Alison Carter</p> <p>During the subcommittee re-organization discussion, the committee discussed if community members should chair subcommittees.</p> <p><b>MOTION</b> by R. DiLego to proceed with the Subcommittee assignments as amended but with the Capital Gift Phase II Subcommittee as originally proposed by the Chair.</p> <p>SECONDED by C. Conry. Discussion: R. DiLego stated that by adopting this it would be a first good step to moving toward the overall goal of re-aligning the subcommittees as suggested by MASC. J. Art voiced a concern that this particular subcommittee would have more non-school committee members than school committee members. S. Miller referred to previous subcommittees that have had more non-committee members than committee members (Superintendent Search). The Chair called the question without objection. VOTE: 4-3-0. MOTION PASSES.</p>
<p><b>Subcommittee Liaison and Chair Reports:</b></p>	<p><b>Negotiations:</b> No update; next meeting is scheduled for next week, December 18<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><b>Finance:</b> D. Caplinger spoke to updates that were discussed within the meeting and a written report that was included in the meeting packet.</p> <p><b>Phase I:</b> Phase I has gone out to bid on an OPM. Phase I will need to meet to discuss bid results. D. Caplinger asked Regina to meet with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent to get up to speed.</p> <p><b>Phase II:</b> Phase II met on Monday. The subcommittee reviewed a design bid and specifications for natural grass and reviewed value engineering reductions to the proposed artificial turf field. The subcommittee intends to continue doing work with Art Eddy from Traverse architects to continue to cut costs while addressing Title IX and ADA compliance elements of the project. Discussion regarding future meetings and potentially holding a community forum per community requests.</p> <p><b>Policy:</b> R. DiLego asked for an update regarding the Remote Participation policy which had been discussed at a previous meeting.</p> <p><b>Wellness:</b> A. Terranova stated that the Wellness Subcommittee met on Wednesday, 12/11 and discussed social-emotional issues as well as potentially changing the school day.</p> <p><b>WESE:</b> A. Carter stated that WESE met at the end of October to discuss grant applications that were received this year. The deadline for WESE grants is now in the fall instead of the spring which is working out well.</p> <p><b>SEE Fund:</b> D. Caplinger updated the committee regarding the SEE Fund. Two main topics of discussion were fundraising and Trivia Night which will be on March 12<sup>th</sup>.</p>



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	<b>Chair Report:</b> D. Caplinger updated the committee on a training he went to in Marlborough before Thanksgiving on the Superintendent Evaluation process.			
<b>Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair within 48 Hours of Meeting</b>	None			
<b>Adjourn to Executive Session with Intent to Return to Open Session</b>	<p>Motion to move into Executive Session with intent to return to Open Session for vote pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel (Director of Pupil Services)</p> <p><b>Roll Call Vote:</b> Carter- AYE, Art – AYE, Miller – AYE, Conry – AYE, Caplinger – AYE, Terranova – AYE, DiLego – AYE.</p> <p>The committee entered executive session at 8:38 PM</p>	S. Miller	A. Carter	7-0-0
<b>Acting Director of Pupil Services</b>	<p>The committee returned to open session at 8:54 PM. <b>MOTION</b> to appoint Patrick Priester as Acting Director of Pupil Services.</p> <p>D. Caplinger discussed setting up future meetings and the meeting types that may be needed to address committee business. Brief discussion regarding having a meeting to set parameters for future meetings including a community forum regarding Phase II.</p>	S. Miller	R. DiLego	7-0-0
<b>Motion to adjourn</b>	Motion to adjourn at 8:59 PM	J. Art	S. Miller	7-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jonathan Nopper  
Mount Greylock Minutes Recorder