

Mt. Greylock Regional School District

School Committee

Finance Subcommittee

Open Session Minutes

Date: Friday December 20, 2019

Location: MGRS Room A109

Start: 8:48 am

1781 Cold Spring Road,

Williamstown, MA 01237

Adjourn: 1:11AM

In Attendance : Committee Members: Jamie Art, Regina DiLego, Dan Caplinger

Also Present: Supt Kim Grady, Asst Supt-Bus Mgr Andrea Wadsworth, Technology-Curriculum Director Eileen Bellastock, Dave Tierney, Michele Butler

- I. Call to Order: called the meeting to order at 8:48 am.
- II. Public Comment: none
- III. Phase I requisition and signing authority: Discussion regarding whether or not this is a Phase I issue or a Finance Subcommittee issue. Consensus is that this is a Finance issue as it is financial in nature. Discussed process with Tierney, Supt Grady and Bus Mgr Wadsworth. Every two weeks Tierney and the Admin will meet to get bills processed timely. The recommendation is to have the Finance Subcommittee chair sign bills to be paid along with the Supt as currently happens with the School building project and the school building committee chair. All bills will then be brought forward and reviewed with the Finance Subcommittee once a month for a vote. There is no warrant for this process as the bill will be submitted directly to the college for reimbursement. The public review and vote are to maintain public transparency . Motion : Caplinger moves and DiLego seconds To have all Phase 1 requisitions processed to be handled through the Finance Subcommittee, assigning signing authority to Jamie Art as chair along with Kim Grady as Superintendent. All in favor.
- IV. Tierney Construction Requisition #1: Requisition #1 detail is included in the packet. It is the deposit for the Lester building, to get drawings going and the building systems developed, and to secure the bond. The total requisition amount is \$56,806.20. Motion by DiLego seconded by Caplinger to approve Tierney Construction Requisition #1 as presented. All in favor. Grady requests that Tierney provide a signature box on requisitions going forward and they agree.
- V. Review and discuss OPM bids: DiLego asks about the clerk of the works portion of the vote by the School Committee. Wadsworth explains that a public project over 1.5 million, whether funded privately or publicly, must have an OPM by law. The title may be assigned to someone as well. Discussion regarding assigning the title or hiring an OPM ensues. Consensus is that admin is overstretched now with the existing building project and building issues at both elementary schools. Hiring an OPM is the option decided. OPM qualification submittals were reviewed – four were submitted. The packets are quite extensive. Wadsworth requests that the subcommittee rank assessment criteria in order of importance

to each member. She provides a couple of different scoring sheets. The subcommittee chooses the one to go with and discusses whether or not these should be completed outside of the meeting and submitted electronically, or completed and discussed at another meeting. It is decided that members will review documents and complete the sheets to bring back to a meeting on Dec 30th and discuss.

- VI. PreK fee discussion: Grady reviews revenue to date: \$1722 at Lanesborough and \$8245 at Williamstown. With the sliding scale and mandatory free spots, only two families in Lanesborough and 8 families in Williamstown are paying anything for the program. It is not self supporting at all. The billing process and collection are more time consuming than the process is worth. The major concern is that cost is prohibiting some families who just miss qualifying for financial assistance from sending their children – there is a decline in enrollment at both schools. There is a definite decline in pre kindergarten school exposure resulting in increased interventions in the lower grades. Grady proposes a waiting list model, and notes that the schools need to provide a program and a teacher anyway for children requiring services. A universal model is not being proposed as the Region is not there yet with resources and space, and can not provide for expanded days. Grady also notes that by not charging, the prek students would be counted as part of the child count for reimbursement and would count for transportation reimbursement, potentially bringing into the Region more money than not charging would “cost”. Grady proposes that special education students would have first priority as law dictates, then 4 year old cusp students, free and reduced 4 year olds, other 4 year olds and then non-needs three year olds. Motion:L Caplinger moves, DiLego seconds to recommend to the full school committee that the District offer free prek as outlined beginning in FY21. All in favor.
- VII. Other Business: none
- VIII. Caplinger moves to enter into Executive Session with no intent to return to open Session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel (Director of Pupil Services). DiLego seconds. Caplinger – aye, Art – aye, DiLego- aye at 10:11 am