



# Mt. Greylock Regional School District

## School Committee Education Sub-Committee Minutes

**Date:** January 24, 2020

**Start:** 1:03 PM

**Adjourn:** 2:22 PM

**Location:**

MGRS Meeting Room A109

1781 Cold Spring Road, Williamstown, MA 01267

**In Attendance:**

<b>Committee Members:</b>	<b>Also Present:</b>
Steve Miller, Chair Christina Conry, Vice Chair Alison Carter, Secretary  <b><u>Absent:</u></b>	Kimberley Grady Mary MacDonald Joelle Brookner (by phone) Elea Kaatz (by phone) Nolan Pratt (by phone)

<b>Item</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Vote</b>
<b>Call to Order</b>	Meeting called to order by Steve at 1:03 PM			
<b>Subcommittee organization</b>	<b>MOTION</b> to appoint Christina as vice chair	Carter	Miller	3-0-0
	<b>MOTION</b> to appoint Ali as secretary	Conry	Miller	3-0-0
<b>Public comment</b>	None requested			
<b>Discussion about upcoming subcommittee meetings</b>	<p>Have not had an education subcommittee for nine years; need to define what this subcommittee focuses on, who is at the meetings, what information is needed. Discussed importance of keeping school/department updates as part of full school committee meetings. Subcommittee to focus on how to close achievement gaps, aligning programming at the schools, identifying issues, discussing options, reviewing budget impacts of new positions. Getting a better sense of what are we providing and would like to provide academically - so we are well-informed and can help make the case to the full committee when we need to spend money for things.</p> <p><b>TO DO:</b> Send Kim mission and goals for the subcommittee. Principals can send thoughts by email to Kim and Kim can circulate with 'do not reply all.'</p>			
<b>Student Opportunity Act spending plan outline</b>	Joelle and Andrea met with rep from state on what we have to do. Deadline for plans is April 1. This is challenging as the SC votes the budget on March 5. We may need a separate meeting to discuss the SOA Act so the public can weigh in. Overall is small dollars over three years. Increase in Chapter 70 funds, but will depend on how we need/want to use the money.			



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Kim and Joelle believe our existing strategic plan is well-aligned to SOA goals; we are in a good place. Will be able to write SOA plan based on our existing strategic plan and goals.

### Closing the achievement gap:

SOA dollars can be used to address achievement gaps. We should not be seeing declines in achievement. We especially need to address declines in special needs and free/reduced lunch subgroups.

### Targeted assistance based on needs:

Currently using MCAS data as well as Track My Progress to identify needs (the latter only at the elementary schools). Need additional interventions in reading and math – determine what are the best supplementals. Rolling out learning plans in 5th and 6th grades to address gaps before middle school. Steve noted concerns about binary testing, standardized tests.

Math: Do we need more math assistance in elementary school? WES only has it for three grades now, want to expand. Need additional support for high-needs kids. LES saw numbers improve with the addition of the Everyday Math curriculum.

ELA: Joelle feels that WES has enough resources for ELA. WES may need additional online resources, etc. LES needs Foundation and reading materials.

Teacher Training: Need more intense professional development - differentiated instruction, classroom management - to reduce deferrals and strengthen skills. WES had great training in the past but had a lot of turnover, want to do again.

Social-Emotional: Mary noted importance of social-emotional health – want students to be in a position to take MCAS in a strong and effective way. Ali suggested looking at the whole-child data to determine what are the root causes of declines, help identify what interventions are needed. We have discussed adding specialists, teacher training, social emotional support - what will truly address the issues? Group discussed better data collection and analysis to review whole child data and devise most effective interventions. Increased specialist support at WES has not improved scores drastically. However, together, school-wise character building and increased specialists have led to a 25% decrease in office visits. Need to continue tracking. LES hiring half-time social worker.

Steve wondering if some data is missing from MCAS summaries. Kim will check DESE site. Might have to do with size of cohort.

### New positions:

District curriculum coordinator position: Not new, but unfunded.



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	<p>WES math intervention: Currently have a 0.6 position. Joelle wants a 1.0; School Council advocating for 1.5. Curriculum coordinator would help address part of the 1.5, so 1.0 is sufficient. Christina: Is current curriculum working? Worth reviewing Everyday Math? Kim: lots of pieces to Everyday Math and we need to dissect the data to figure out what is being applied and what's not working/who it's not working for.</p> <p>Reading: Possibly add a reading position at MG. Had one until 6 years ago.</p> <p>Professional Development: Are kids getting what they need in the classroom? Teachers need PD, training on differentiated instruction. We have been putting money in interventions because it's the best bang for the buck for increasing MCAS scores, but we need to start encouraging PD and encouraging people to leave district for it (for expanded options). Curriculum director will be able to help with rollout and debriefs.</p> <p>Data Collection and Analysis: Add data teams at elementary schools? Would need new stipend/position additional to current contracts. Currently meet quarterly and focus on reading more than math. Kim to follow up. Curriculum leads at MG look at data when lead department meetings, so have stipends for these already. Mary could use professional development for better analysis of data; will follow up.</p> <p><u>New programming:</u>          Can't create additional online courses that risk eliminating teaching positions, but can increase use of web platforms. Need a path for students to be successful. Kim and Mary have been discussing. May need additional funding for programming needs. Kim: don't want kids at MG pigeonholed because we don't have something for them. BCC has been great about additional offerings, also MCLA and Williams - but difficult to fit in daily schedule.</p>
<p><b>Curriculum and programming at WES and LES</b></p>	<p>Break out additional programming into social-emotional and cognitive at elementary schools. Need a behavioral program shared between the two elementary schools to address issues, and before students go to Mt. Greylock.</p>
<p><b>Program of study at MG</b></p>	<p><u>MassCore alignment for graduation programming:</u>          MassCore established in 2007, amended in 2018. MG adopted MassCore in 2007-2008, but MG's graduation requirements are not currently aligned. Need to recommit to MassCore or to current graduation requirements (or revise). Kim reaching out to MASC to discuss. If MassCore adopted, this year's freshman class would be the first to have to follow. We aren't required to adopt. Also have the option of doing more than MassCore ('MassCore plus') or reducing requirements in some areas. Will need further discussion.</p> <p>Foreign language requirement would be hard - would need additional staff. May need to do a language assessment and add something other than Spanish and Latin. Add a complementary sunrise program at elementary schools? Joelle loved having Mandarin</p>



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	<p>but was not accessible to a large number of kids. Could one of the specialists rotate through on this? Potentially conduct a survey to identify what people are interested in. Spanish most likely best for elementary school students – would want it to be a dual effort at both elementary schools.</p> <p>Mary would like to have meetings with parents and students at end of February to introduce the program of study.</p> <p><b>TO DO:</b> Subcommittee to look at program of study at MG and send questions to Kim for Mary to address. Mary will put together budget needs for if MassCore were implemented.</p> <p><u>Next meeting:</u> February 7 at 1:00 PM</p>			
<b>Business Not Anticipated</b>	None			
<b>Adjourn</b>	<b>MOTION</b> to adjourn at 2:22 PM.	Carter	Conry	3-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Alison Carter  
 Education Sub-Committee Secretary