



# Mt. Greylock Regional School District

## School Committee Education Sub-Committee Minutes

**Date:** February 12, 2020

**Start:** 1:01 PM

**Adjourn:** 2:25 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, Superintendent Mary MacDonald, MGRHS Principal Eileen Belastock, Director of Academic Technology Keith Jones, MG School Social Worker Lucy McWeeney, student (at 1:44 pm)

<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 1:01 PM			
<b>Public comment</b>	None requested			
<b>Approval of minutes</b>	January 24 meeting	Conry	Carter	3-0-0
<b>Update from Diversity Inclusion Task Force</b>	<p>Group continues to meet regularly to discuss diversity and inclusion in all three schools. Kim held phone conference with Jude Higdon-Topaz, Elea Kaatz, Joelle Brookner specific to elementary school ages to start discussing how to help parents begin to address related topics. Planning parent forum on how to begin hard conversations, possibly at offsite location. Also planning panel discussion related to several topics in diversity and inclusion, and what are we doing as a community to address the issues. Will include others in county and may host outside of schools in neutral location (one of the colleges?). Looking at panelists and a moderator. Aiming for mid-spring. Group helped with HR documents, helping fix district webpage. Library of interview questions that can be adapted. Subcommittee thanks the group for the work they are doing. Kim doing outreach to find Lanesborough reps for the TF.</p>			
<b>Discuss Student Opportunity Act</b>	<p>Governor has sent out their guidance. We have a short form to do. Expecting around \$15K. Looking at software for benchmarking, creating 3-4 stipended positions to collect data consistent among the three schools, tying to district improvement plan and strategic plan. Kim will put on agenda for a full SC meeting in March to solicit feedback from community members. Hoping to send survey out to solicit community input in advance. Overall idea is to look at data deeper and ensure we have appropriate assessment tools in order to track kids using same standards and in same domains. Kim will begin to write plan.</p>			
<b>Discuss program of study</b>	<p>Still in draft form, will be formatted in later versions. Mary prepared summary of changes to requirements. Revised scoring bands starting with class of 2021, some curriculum changes. Dept of Ed is phasing out MCAS chemistry test – MG flipping classes so that bio is taken in 10th grade,</p>			



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	<p>chem in 11th (= for one year there will be two grades taking bio). Steve: Is removing chemistry from MCAS going to affect science offerings at MG? Mary: Has never been an issue for us. Kim noted that MassCore is not up for discussion at this time; we are focusing on current requirements. Kim wants to add math and ELA intervention offerings for middle schoolers, equal to one whole FTE combined. Two semester-long computer science classes being added to provide continuum for computer science. Steve: Do we have a list of requirements vs recommendations? P 11 of program of study. Foreign languages are recommended, not required. Ali: Why no art or language requirement? Mary: Students were taking language to be attractive to colleges, but difficult for some students or they didn't want to. Approx 90% of students currently take two years of a foreign language. American Sign Language approved as foreign language; add ASL as second language offering? Would like to add a quarter of personal finance for 9th grade. Math and science have become more robust with the addition of new faculty. Business program has dwindled as more students taking AP classes. In preparing for years to come, review alternative pathways - survey faculty/staff/student interests and needs.</p>			
<p><b>Discuss middle school programming</b></p>	<p>A large group of current 6th graders have been receiving interventions at elementary schools that aren't in place at MG. MG schedule not currently very accommodating for addressing social-emotional needs for such a large group. Need to come up with a new plan - alternate courses or interventions will be important, additional social-emotional supports. Need to create opportunities for proactive and meaningful check-ins and outreach. Doing more research on middle school models and seeing how others service kids within the confines of their day and also ensure academic needs are being met. Keith: We need a better, consistent block of time. Kim: Continuing to look at options for modifying middle school schedule to fully address safety, health, and welfare of all kids. Kim will provide cleaned up one-pager so new programming is more clear and SC can discuss budget impacts.</p>			
<p><b>Discuss schedule</b></p>	<p>Lucy McWeeney doing research and student outreach on school start time and sleep needs. Discussing potential of shifting MG 30-60 mins later. Most students support changing start time because they are not getting enough sleep, but are concerned about impacts on sports due to having less light after school. Research on sleep and academic performance supports later start time. Science says it makes sense; it's a matter of logistics. Would elementary school start times need to be pushed back? Busing logistics situation - elementary buses would have to go earlier but school would get out sooner. Some families need older children to come home first. Christina noted that a comprehensive analysis of issues around shifting start time is available online from Dover Sherborn HS.</p>			
<p><b>Discuss possible liaison for Parent Advisory Council</b></p>	<p>Need a point of contact for the PAC. Steve volunteered. Kim suggested someone with understanding of special ed laws and regulations, in order to help flag any complaints that arise. Not resolved.</p>			
<p><b>Business not anticipated</b></p>	<p>None</p>			
<p><b>Adjourn</b></p>	<p><b>MOTION</b> to adjourn at 2:25 PM.</p>	<p>Conry</p>	<p>Carter</p>	<p>3-0-0</p>

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Alison Carter  
 Education Sub-Committee Secretary