

Mt. Greylock Regional School District

Finance Sub Committee

Date: May 21 14, 2020

Location: via Zoom virtual meeting

Start: 8:00 AM

Adjourn: 8:59 AM

Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.c. 30A sec. 20, this meeting will take place virtually via ZOOM

- [Greene's requested edits to the minutes from discussion on 6/4/20 are made in blue.](#)

In Attendance :

Committee Members:

Jamie Art, Regina DiLego, Carrie Greene

Others: Supt Kim Grady, Asst Supt/Bus Mgr Andrea Wadsworth

- I. Call meeting to order at 8:00 am
- II. Approve meeting minutes
 - A. May 6, 2020 : Moved by DiLego seconded by Art. DiLego -aye, Art- aye- Greene- abstain
- III. Review of warrants: Art asked a procedural question regarding the warrants : he noted that previously when he had seen them they were already signed by the treasurer but these were not signed by her and he wondered why. Wadsworth explained that the Treasurer signs to certify that funds are being moved to cover the expenses contained in a warrant – not to approve the warrant itself. In the past when the warrants got to us at meetings they were “old” and the money had already been moved to cover. These warrants were just generated as part of our new expedited process so the Treasurer has not seen them yet, as she only works two days a week. Art then asked about invoices as back up documentation to match up what is being appropriated against what is being paid. Wadsworth stated that all back up documentation is in the office and can be reviewed if desired. The process in place for purchases has checks and balances. The department manager creates the purchase order, Wadsworth reviews, Rena posts , we review. The voucher feeds to the warrant. At a physically present meeting the back up could be present for review. DiLego asked about the reimbursements to officials. Wadsworth reviewed and it is a coding thing – the refunds are for athletic fees paid already that are being reimbursed but the fees share a coding line with officials. No officials have been paid for the spring and none are being reimbursed. DiLego then asked about the invoice from Casella (trash removal) and whether or not we have inquired about a reduced cost during the closure or suspending service for the elementary schools. Wadsworth stated it had not been done but she would reach out and inquire DiLego suggested that if cost reduction could not be realized then perhaps it is a good

opportunity to purge at the elementary schools. She also asked if this was the only supplier or if others had been explored. Wadsworth is not aware that anything else has been explored, but she will explore options.

- IV. Other business not anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of the meeting : Grady reviewed the Commissioner's position that Districts review their budgets and look at 1/12 scenarios and reductions. She requested a Finance meeting to do a "deeper dive" into budget planning and to review this year's budget and where the Region stands. It will be June 4th at 4 pm.

Greene then spoke and stated that she had put together a proposal regarding the fields issue (attached). She read her proposal to the Subcommittee. Kim noted that she, Art, and School Committee chair Conry had a similar discussion and discussed those very items over the weekend. Greene noted that she was not made aware that there had been a meeting. Grady stated that it was a discussion between the chair of Finance, the chair of School Committee, the Williamstown Town Manager and herself. It was not a committee meeting, and all that Greene provided in her proposal had been discussed. Greene responded that she had been speaking with Conry over the weekend and had put the proposal together after that. Grady commented that she had information that she could share: a survey which the architects had put together but that the previous chair would not allow to be sent out, data from her task force and questions and answers gathered in a google drive she could share. Greene responded that she already had received the- [google drive school committee questions/responses](#) document from both Conry and Committee member Miller. She stated that the fields are [now](#) a political issue and the Superintendent should not [have to](#) be involved- it is an issue ~~for~~ the Committee [should to](#) handle. Grady noted that she is involved and has been blamed for the delay, with which Greene disagreed. Grady responded that Greene's email from John Skavlem which she (Greene) shared with the full Committee states that Skavlem views the Superintendent as an obstacle to the fields. Grady stated that she is not an obstacle and has information to share. Art commented that the Superintendent has been very neutral in the fields discussion and has allowed the School Committee to handle it for better or for worse. Conversation returned to the budget review. DiLego asked if it would be possible to have a physical meeting to review documents. Grady responded it would be possible. Art did not support the idea. Grady reiterated that decisions needed to be made by June 9th as that was the Lanesborough Town Meeting date. Greene asked a procedural question – are we looking to reduce for town meeting based on less money from the state? Grady responded that we need to be prepared with scenarios to answer questions from the floor and to be able to respond to any reductions in state aid and grant funding. Contracts require notification by June 15th if there will be any reductions in force (RIF). There needs to be a plan in place. Art and Grady will meet with the two town managers to be prepared. Art noted that a [1/12 10%](#) reduction would be \$358,000 less in state aid. Grady noted that the number does not include loss of revenue from grants, transportation reimbursement or circuit breaker. Art and Grady will work scenarios to bring to the meeting . In the even that an offset is needed, a School Committee vote would be necessary for reallocation of funds, especially if more choice funds would be utilized. There was discussion regarding the length of a meeting on June 4th and the need for the School Committee to also vote. It was decided to have a Finance Subcommittee meeting on

June 1st at 4 pm to review the current and future budget and scenarios to bring forward to the full committee. June 4th would be a Finance Subcommittee meeting with a joint meeting with the full School Committee if possible to discuss/vote the budget and to discuss the fields. Grady noted that June 4th is a virtual Class night T 7 PM. It was agreed that the meeting would have a hard stop of 6:30 pm because of this.

Greene requested permission to continue gathering spreadsheets with questions regarding the fields. Art told her to go ahead. She noted that she was having difficulty google sharing with her MGRS account. Grady reached out to Director of Operations Wnuk to investigate the issue. Greene stated that she had tried to share a document with Conry and could not. Grady responded that she had notified Wnuk from the meeting.

- V. DiLego moved to adjourn at 8:59 am. Art seconded. Greene aye, DiLego aye, Art aye.

Respectfully submitted by Regina DiLego

proposal language

Greene, Carolyn

Reply

Thu 5/21, 8:41 AM

DiLego, Regina;

Art, James

Enterprise Vault

Proposal: To establish an Athletic Infrastructure task group to gather and review the initial gift committee and Phase II documentation, as well as community feedback, and to broaden the scope of the School Committee's conversation regarding the athletic infrastructure at Mt. Greylock.

Why do we need to do this now? The School Committee has a public relations challenge and needs to find a way toward resolution. The school committee can acknowledge the following two points:

1. The Phase II Subcommittee, established in 2018 to work with an architect hired by the SC to develop and design the plans for improvements to the athletic complex, did what it was asked to do.
2. The Phase II process was not adequate to ensure community support for the outcome. All school committee decisions are political and some require more community buy-in than others. This turned out to be a project that required more public vetting, more community outreach, and more political support than the School Committee had anticipated.

By stepping back and establishing an Athletic Infrastructure task group, we as a School Committee are acknowledging the public's investment in the outdoor athletic resources at Mt. Greylock. We are acknowledging that much of the work toward solving our infrastructure challenges has been done and that some work is still required before our community as a whole can support a School Committee decision on how to move forward with the gift money, whatever the outcome of that decision may be.