

Mt. Greylock Regional School District

Finance Sub Committee

Date: June 4, 2020

Location: via Zoom virtual meeting

Start: 4:05 PM

Adjourn: 6:00 PM

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

In Attendance :

Committee Members:

Jamie Art, Regina DiLego, Carrie Greene

Others: Superintendent Kim Grady ,Asst Supt/Bus Mgr Andrea Wadsworth, Elea Kaatz, Jake Schutz, Hugh Daley, Brenda Rondeau, Reena Sharma, Stephen Dravis- iBerkshires

- I. Call meeting to order at 4:05 pm As there is a joint meeting posted with the School Committee but with no common business, the School Committee meeting occurs and then the Finance meeting is resumed at 4:32 pm.
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - A. May 21, 2020: Dilego moves and Greene seconds to approve. Discussion follows. Greene was concerned about the minutes in agenda IV. She did not believe that a questionnaire had been discussed – Grady confirmed that she had discussed it as the minutes stated, she felt it was not clear that the google drive piece was a separate item from the questionnaire, and she was concerned that the paragraph made her sound hostile and that had not been her intent. Art asked what change she wished to see. She was not sure but was not comfortable voting the minutes as they are. Content was fine but tenor was not. DiLego noted that the colon in the section regarding the additional information Grady has was to indicate that those items are separate from anything Greene might already have received. She offered to tweak that a bit for clarity. Art again inquired how the minutes needed to be amended and Greene asked to think about it. Art suggested she rework the paragraph and bring it back for review. For Art's part, he noted an error in the fraction regarding the possible state reduction in funding. The minutes state 1/12 and the reduction discussed and the resulting amount of \$358,000 is 1/10<sup>th</sup>. DiLego stated she would correct this. The minutes are set aside to revisit at the next meeting.
  - B. June 1,2020 DiLego moves, Greene seconds to approve. Greene notes that Jason Hoch's name, though spelled correctly at the start of the minutes, is incorrect later – a possible auto correct issue. DiLego states she will correct this. Vote: DiLego aye, Art aye, Greene aye

- III. Review Warrants: Warrants were presented electronically and reviewed by the committee. DiLego asked about the WB Mason charge in the WES Maintenance Contracted Services line. Grady responded that it was for COVID related supplies. Art asked about the large purchase of chrome books and if the additional purchase was to meet the needs of students during this time. Grady responded that it was indeed to meet the needs of the District's children and outfit the District.
- IV. FY20 Budget and recommended line item transfers: Wadsworth reviewed the recommended transfers in the FY20 budget. Since this was only our second year with a regional budget she waited until now to make transfers to get a clear picture of where things landed. With these transfers she feels we will have a good base going forward to build future budgets. There is a set of transfers for each school with an accompanying motion at the bottom. Greene asked about the "20-01" included in each motion. Wadsworth explained that this names the transfer for auditing purposes. As this is the first transfer it is 01. Had we made other transfers during the year it would have the next number in sequence. Greene asked if the motion was a recommendation to the full School Committee. Finance could vote it or just bring it all forward. Art will propose the transfers under the Finance Subcommittee update. Wadsworth stated that she is cleaning up the budget accounts to give two years of actual data to inform FY21
- V. FY21 Budget Revisions: The 1/12 budget required by the state was submitted. There is nothing needing to be voted or approved from that. Art commented that he is comfortable with the 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget. Greene agreed, pointing out that Wadsworth had noted that 1/12<sup>th</sup> of FY21 for a month is fairly equal to FY20 anyway. Grady mentioned the budget discussions which occurred before the last meeting. Wadsworth and the principals looked at the lines of the budget. There was a 10% reduction to various lines but the assessments to the towns remained the same. Art asked her if she was receiving feedback from the towns that there is a request to reduce the budget assessments. Grady said that there had been a request for narrative around the budget, which was shared that day, but there was no response from either town manager. Greene asked that it be shared with us as well. Lanesborough's town meeting is June 9<sup>th</sup>. Greene asked the plan for attendance. Grady said that the School Committee chair and the Finance chair usually attend. Art stated he would be there. DiLego noted she would also be there as it is her town's meeting. Art asked protocols. DiLego noted that she had received them as a registered voter in town and would forward them to Art, Grady and District office.
- VI. Field Discussion: Art noted the numerous letters that have been received by the School Committee regarding the fields, including one that he had just received from Dan Caplinger, which he forwarded to the subcommittee. He then disclosed that he is personally having a little trouble with the amount of time we are spending on the fields considering what is going on in the world, but it is the will of the Committee, so with that, he turned the discussion over to Greene. Greene noted that her position prior was before seeing all of the emails that have been received by the Committee from the community, before COVID and before the issues with the economy. She read her Athletic Task Force proposal (see minutes from 6/1/20), and requested that it go to the full School Committee for discussion along with the google sheet she has

put together. She feels this is the first stage of this process. The sheet has multiple tabs identifying different area of need/concern. Her goal is to help the School Committee get to where it feels it can make a decision on this. She composed seven questions which she read through and discussed. They are:

**Questions:**

- 1. How much money was spent and what is left in the fund?**
- 2. Whether SC should vote now on establishing a maintenance and renewal fund with 1 million**
- 3. whether remaining funds should be committed to fields or saved for spending elsewhere**
- 4. whether funds should be spent now or after economy stabilizes**
- 5. whether we should support synthetic or natural fields, if at all**
- 6. Whether we need to do another needs assessment to figure out how to best support all students now and in future**
- 7. Whether SC should fund compliance now and assess other needs separately**

There was discussion of the questions as they were read. Grady stated that 3.3 million is known to have been spent/committed to date. Greene wondered if the Feb 13<sup>th</sup> vote of the Finance Subcommittee was more intended to preserve 1.5 million, or to give 2.1 million to the fields. Art said it was to preserve 1.5 million and our best estimate was that 2.1 million would be left for the fields. There was a high level of uncertainty regarding the balance but no uncertainty about preserving the 1.5 million. Greene commented that that was the sense she had gotten in reviewing minutes. She stated that there is opportunity now to set some money aside. Some issues are highly charged and political, and this is one. The establishment of a maintenance fund is very important and makes a great deal of sense she stated. Art thanked her for all of the work she has done and felt that the Committee was seeing better data than it has in the past with more real numbers. Greene then asked how we can help the School Committee frame a discussion about this. Miller put together a phase II calculator at one point she noted, and it calculates the rate of growth of the money left aside. She agreed that we do not need to agree on a number right now although she had crafted a motion which she presented to preserve 1 million.

**Motion to set aside 1 million from the Williams College capital gift for building and grounds maintenance and renewal.** Conservative estimates indicate this will double in 10 years. Reasonable calculations indicate growth to 2.4 million in 10 years

Carrie Greene

Mt. Greylock Regional School Committee

She asked if it was better to have discussion as a full committee or to develop a task force. Art said he wanted to get concrete value numbers for the gift since we are already in June and it is valued on June 30<sup>th</sup>. He feels the School Committee and not the Subcommittee should determine how much to preserve, how much to spend on fields, and whether or not a task force should be created. DiLego asked if the School Committee can create a task force or only subcommittees. No one knew for sure. Art said that the School Committee will need to give a clear charge to a task force or subcommittee and the process needs to be transparent. Greene noted that the School Committee needs to make a decision at some point of some kind. Art said the process

needs to be aimed at generating community goals, have a true sense of the money available, and a discussion regarding whether or not there will be more money available if we wait to proceed. It is a School Committee decision what the charge is. It is difficult to pull it together on the fly. Greene feels there needs to be a lengthy discussion. Art stated that the Finance Subcommittee should put together a full charge and bring it forward to the full School Committee. DiLego agreed. She noted that the Committee is looking to us to do this. Greene asked the timeline. Art suggested Greene put together the charge and the task force idea to bring forward to discuss. He does recommend waiting for the fund balance. Greene asked when she should have this ready. Art said we could meet Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup> before the School Committee meeting to formulate. DiLego asked – to bring forward to the full Committee that night. Greene responded yes. Art said it would be the process for the school committee to approve for us to move forward that we would present. He feels we need a vote in the not too distant future with better information to have a vote on the amount to preserve. Greene asks Grady how best to make the google sheet available to the public. Grady responded on the School Committee page of the District website with a header and a link. Greene requested a comment section as well.

VII. Other business not anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of the meeting : Grady wanted to recognize the Class of 2020 and reviewed graduation details and events. She requested an agenda item on the June 11<sup>th</sup> School Committee agenda to recognize retirees. Lastly, she noted that the District is hosting a collective community conversation discussing relevant topics on Monday June 8 broadcast live, with both town’s police chiefs, town managers and members of the Administrative team.

VIII. DiLego moved to adjourn at 6:00 pm. Greene seconded. Greene aye, DiLego aye, Art aye.

Respectfully submitted by Regina DiLego