



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

School Committee Open Session Minutes

Date: June 11, 2020

Start: 6:04 PM

Adjourn: 8:16 PM

Location:

Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, the public will not be allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting.

In Attendance:

Committee Members:	Also Present:
C. Conry, Chair A. Carter S. Miller R. DiLego J. Art A. Terranova C. Greene <u>Absent:</u>	Andrea Wadsworth, Asst. Superintendent for Business & Finance Joelle Brookner, Principal of WES Elea Kaatz, Asst. Principal of WES Mary MacDonald, Principal of MGRS Jake Schutz, Assistant Principal of MGRS Nolan Pratt, Principal of LES

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Item	Comments	Motion	Second	Vote
I. Call to Order	Meeting called to order by C. Conry at 6:04 PM			
II. Mission	At Mount Greylock Regional School District, our mission is to create a community of learners working together in a safe and challenging learning environment that encourages restorative based processes, respect, inclusive diversity, courtesy, integrity and responsibility through high expectations and cooperation resulting in live-long learning and personal growth.			
III. Public Comment	<p>Community members were asked to email public comment to schoolcommittee@mgrhs.org. The Chair will read any submitted public comments.</p> <p>Comment 1: S. Miller read an email sent in from Donna Durmire regarding the Phase II Capital Project and the Williams College Gift. Ms. Durmire urged the committee to not deplete the fund and, instead, borrow funds to complete the field renovations.</p> <p>Comment 2: Brian Drake gave comments read by C. Conry about the District's plan to re-open as it relates to the recent guidelines issued by the State and the impact of COVID-19 on students and end-of-year activities.</p> <p>Comment 3: Steve Miller read public comments from Ann O'Connor of Williamstown. Ms. O'Connor urged the committee to keep funds from the Williams Gift in an endowment fund instead of spending down the gift in order to complete capital projects.</p>			



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	<p>Comment 4: C. Conry read comments from Molly Polk regarding the recent news of budget and staffing cuts in neighboring districts and urged the committee to maintain educational standards and continue to fund initiatives that relate to student social and emotional health.</p> <p>Comment 5: S. Miller read comments from Stephanie Boyd. Ms. Boyd urged the committee to postpone decisions regarding capital improvements to the fields and instead focus on the educational needs and financial impacts relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Comment 6: C. Conry read public comment from Dan Caplinger. Mr. Caplinger volunteered to take part in the committee’s self-evaluation process as well as the evaluation of the Superintendent.</p> <p>Comment 7: S. Miller read public comments from Hugh Daly and shared a chart that Mr. Daly included with his comments. Mr. Daly urged the committee to commit \$1.5 million to a capital expense endowment or building maintenance fund.</p>			
<p>IV. Approval of Minutes (VOTE)</p>	<p>MOTION to approve the May 14, 2020 meeting minutes by R. DiLego, Seconded by S. Miller. VOTE: 7-0-0</p>	<p>R. DiLego</p>	<p>S. Miller</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>
	<p>MOTION to approve the June 4, 2020 meeting minutes by R. DiLego, Seconded by S. Miller. VOTE: 7-0-0</p>	<p>R. DiLego</p>	<p>S. Miller</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>
<p>V. Recognition of Retirees</p>	<p>Each of the building Principals spoke regarding each of their school’s 2019-2020 retirees. Happy Retirement to all of this year’s Retirees</p>			
<p>V. Principal Updates</p>	<p>Lanesborough Elementary: Principal Pratt spoke regarding handing out goodie bags and 6th grade graduation certificates. There will be a slideshow and virtual graduation event. The LES Reading Specialist is working virtually with all students to create Zen Gardens.</p> <p>Mount Greylock Regional School: Mary MacDonald spoke about this year’s graduation events and awards that were done in hybrid and/or virtual fashions. MGRS held a drive-thru graduation ceremony on site at MGRS and then proceeded down Route 7 in a graduation parade with community on the side of the road in support of students in socially distant clusters. Academics are wrapping up for the year. Summer reading assignments and end-of-year reminders have been distributed.</p> <p>Williamstown Elementary: J. Brookner and E. Kaatz will be distributing goodie bags and graduation certificates to all of their 6th grade graduates. WES just released a virtual all-school assembly which focus on Core Values within the Choose to Be Nice program at WES which now includes justice as a core value. E. Kaatz gave a special shout out to the Spirit Committee and Ms. Reali for all of their support. J. Brookner gave some special end-of-year housekeeping shout outs to the community.</p>			



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	C. Greene recognized J. Brookner and M. MacDonald for their service as Principal to WES and MGRS respectively.		
VII. Superintendent Updates	The Superintendent was unable to attend this meeting. No Superintendent Updates were discussed.		
VIII. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports (VOTE)	<p>Finance Subcommittee: J. Art stated the Finance Subcommittee has met several times to go over line item and budget transfers to clean up the books and represent where money was truly spent as work is done to close the books for FY20. The committee has also spend time reviewing warrants within the new process and that is going well. Subcommittee discussions have also focused on the Williams Gift and whether or not to spend that money down now, how best to move forward, and what questions remain that must be answered before moving forward. There has been discussion about possibly creating an advisory committee with a specific charge for a specific period of time to review and provide recommendations on this topic. C. Greene spoke regarding the specific purposes for this advisory group including community outreach and education regarding how the Committee plans to move forward with Phase II and the remainder of the Williams Gift Fund. Discussion regarding how this advisory committee would be formed if the committee chooses to vote in favor of creating said group. A. Terranova commented on the process for moving forward with the Gift funds and spoke to the original purpose for the Gift that was outlined by the legacy Mount Greylock school committee in 2016. S. Miller stated support for including students if any advisory committee is created. At the same time, S. Miller agreed with A. Terranova about the amount of time that has been spent on this topic and concurred with C. Greene about the need for community education. S. Miller asked if an accelerated timeline was still possible for capital improvements to the field. Further discussion about potential timelines for field improvements. The committee discussed costs associated with Phase II and current valuation of the gift including the process for getting an updated valuation; which should be finalized and received in October 2020. The Finance Subcommittee will further develop what the roles and responsibilities of an advisory group would be including expectations around timelines and deadlines.</p>		
	<p>MOTION to accept budget transfers totaling \$235,002.39 for FY20 as shown on sheet captioned LES-20-01 for the purposes of year-end reconciliation.</p>	J. Art	R. DiLego 7-0-0
	<p>MOTION to accept budget transfers totaling \$2,713,754.21 for FY20 as shown on sheet MG-20-01 for the purposes of anticipated year-end reconciliation</p>	J. Art	R. DiLego 7-0-0
	<p>MOTION to accept budget transfers totaling \$207,711.17 for FY20 as shown on WES-20-01 for the</p>	J. Art	R. DiLego 7-0-0



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	<p>purposes of anticipated year-end reconciliation</p>			
	<p>Education Subcommittee: The Education Subcommittee spoke about the re-opening plans while awaiting further guidance from the state. Simultaneous discussions are taking place regarding full re-entry, hybrid learning, and remote learning. S. Miller stated that there were some troubling numbers that came out regarding participation rates in this Spring’s remote learning which can be found in the minutes of the Education Subcommittee. S. Miller spoke regarding cost comparisons of each potential plan for the fall. S. Miller reviewed examples of what some socially distant classrooms would look like (elementary school example); full classes would not be able to be present under these configurations for 10 people. S. Miller spoke to looking at the data to see what the impact is of COVID-19 on children vs. the impact of remote learning. The next round of guidance is expected around June 15th. S. Miller stated that potentially MGRSD might have a different re-entry plan as compared to Boston schools.</p> <p>C. Greene asked S. Miller if he is aware of how much flexibility may be offered within the guidance from the State. S. Miller stated that currently there is uncertainty whether there will be directives or guidelines. J. Art asked if there has been consideration regarding what a remote learning component of a re-opening plan would look like within a hybrid or full remote learning scenario. S. Miller stated that right now, the Education Subcommittee has been setting the stage for the administrative groups that will complete the re-opening contingency plans in anticipation of further guidance that will be issued by the State. A. Wadsworth stated that there would be a DESE / Superintendent call on June 12th and potentially any concerns could be brought forward within that call. In addition to re-opening plans, the Education Subcommittee discussed recent events including the death of George Floyd and efforts within the District to address bullying and support diversity and equality.</p>			
	<p>Policy Subcommittee: <i>Policy first read:</i> C. Greene read Policy IHBHE: Remote Learning which would be a new policy for the District along with a remote learning addendum.</p> <p>Discussion: C. Conry asked if the District would have the capability to move quickly to remote learning on snow days. C. Greene stated that the committee could decide to use remote learning on snow days and not incur penalties as the policy includes weather emergencies. A. Wadsworth stated that she could investigate if remote learning on snow days would be acceptable. A. Carter stated a concern that the committee must recognize the dependent children that need someone to sit with them at home during times of remote learning to ensure children make progress through remote learning. There should be recognition of the additional steps that must be taken between what the District provides and what the students need to ensure everything is completed.</p>			



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IX. School Committee End of Year Evaluation Discussion	The school committee has set goals and initiatives and this will be an opportunity to discuss progress, further work that is needed, and new goals that will be set during the summer retreat for the 2020-2021 year. The committee will evaluate themselves individually and work to develop long-term actions and goals. There are guidelines on the process on the MASC website.
X. Upcoming Meetings	Negotiations Subcommittee Executive Session – June 12 th Finance Subcommittee – June 18 th School Committee meeting for Superintendent Evaluation – June 25 th – The Committee discussed the process for the Superintendent Evaluation.
XI. Other Business not anticipated by the Chair within 48 Hours of Meeting	M. MacDonald spoke to a \$2500 gift from Adams Community Bank that was made to support graduation exercises. MOTION to accept by A. Terranova, Seconded by C. Greene. Discussion: Thank you to Adams Community Bank for your generosity in supporting the MGRS Class of 2020. VOTE: 7-0-0
XII. Executive Session	Motion to move into Executive Session with no intent to return to open session per MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy in regards to contract negotiations with non-union personnel (Business Manager). Moved by R. DiLego, Seconded by S. Miller Art – AYE, Carter – AYE, Conry – AYE, DiLego – AYE, Greene – AYE, Miller – AYE, Terranova – AYE The committee moved to executive Session with no intent to return to Open Session at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jonathan Nopper
Mount Greylock Minutes Recorder

Approved 7.9.20