

Mt. Greylock Regional School District

Finance Sub Committee

Date: June 11, 2020

Location: via Zoom virtual meeting

Start: 5:07 PM

Adjourn: 5:55 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: Asst Supt/Bus Mgr Andrea Wadsworth, Stephanie Boyd, Hugh Daley, Stephen Dravis- iBerkshires

- I. Call meeting to order at 5:07 pm
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - A. Revised May 21, 2020 minutes: Greene moved, DiLego seconded. Greene aye, DiLego aye, Art aye
- III. Discussion of how to proceed with an athletic infrastructure discussion: Greene reviewed the document she put together :

**Fin Com June 11, 2020**

**What does Fin Com want to recommend to SC for consideration on decision-making process? I had recommended an advisory group but I've gone ahead and done the following**

1. Collected questions from SC and some dedicated community members in "Athletic Infrastructure Questions" spreadsheet
2. Requested Phase II members enter responses in spreadsheet
3. Now have feedback from community members commenting on Phase II responses, seeking more information (forwarded to Fin Com earlier today, from Stephanie Boyd, Molly Polk, Anne O'Connor, Bridget Spann)
4. Also have feedback from several community members asking that we set this aside (as the Fin Com had recommended) so the SC can focus on other pressing issues, not spend money right now, etc..
5. I have heard from others and anticipate we will get feedback from those who support moving forward with a fields project at this time as well.
6. Developed a feedback form to go with the spreadsheet but the Sheet is really intended for those with knowledge of the project.
7. Would need to set up an educational site with documentation before soliciting more input or doing a survey, comment section

**Questions:**

1. How much money was spent and what is left in the fund?

- a. \$6.1 million as confirmed Oct 2019 minus \$3.3 million committed Phase I = approx \$2.8 million balance after multi-purpose building
- 2. Should the SC should vote now on establishing a maintenance and renewal fund (with 1 million)
  - . Wait until the fund is valued June 30 - and then what? Preserve 2.2mil?
  - a. Updated number won't be available until mid-late October 2020
- 3. If preserving 1 mil (or more), should remaining funds be committed to fields or saved for spending elsewhere?
- 4. Is it ok to spend funds now or should the SC wait until after the economy stabilizes?
- 5. Can the SC support the recommendation of the Phase II subcommittee for synthetic turf? Would the SC support putting out an RFP for natural fields (organic or not)?
- 6. Should the SC fund ADA/Title IX compliance now or in the fall (and invest in the current fields) and reserve the rest indefinitely?
- 7. What more does the SC need to figure out how to best support our students with these funds now and in future
- 8. If money were not the issue (fundraising), what would be the better investment for the community

A lot of information in this spreadsheet  
 Not make sense to circulate or open up to wide discussion  
 Looked at potential survey - not advise

Advisory Committee to the School Committee - set time, assignment, resources  
 Jamie - pause project right now, wait until economy stabilizes, better understanding of gift value  
 Alternative - committee start to address remaining issues

Regina - focus education, kids, plan for Sept, not want lose momentum  
 Advisory group could pull away from SC concerns, set aside until get school open

What is charge, timing, members

Community education, outreach, political, financial  
 (End Greene document)

After reading the document she noted that we do not know which questions are still out there and which ones have been answered adequately. She reviewed athletic infrastructure questions; Responses she received from Phase II non school committee members gave varying opinions regarding moving forward or holding off. The spreadsheet she created is dense with information. The feedback sheet is developed but perhaps not deep enough considering all the information. She reviewed her questions document from the 6/4/20 meeting. She pondered – is the turf the political issue? Should it be taken out of the equation? Art clarified that he had more information on the gift valuing. It is valued as of June 30, 2020 but because of the nature of the investments, and the process to compile, audit and release the information, we will not have the number until mid-October. This is consistent with when we received the 2019 valuation. Art shared his thought that the School Committee has a lot on its plate right now, especially from now until September. He likes the consideration of a task force to take this up to free up the School Committee. Policy BDF governs the formation of advisory committees to the school committee, with an included process. The advisory group needs clear instructions, a timeline, available resources, reporting guidelines, a charge, and who they report to and who will release information to

the press etc. He is still most comfortable with where he was several months ago; pause the project right now until we have a better understanding of the economy and the fund balance. DiLego agrees with this position but feels back burning the project too long will take away momentum. She also notes that the School Committee needs to focus on September, education and school opening over the coming months. If Greene is running this advisory group she will possibly be too tied up to focus on this important area. Art feels the School Committee wants us to move forward even in the current circumstances and he is sensitive to that. Three Committee members support pausing and four support moving forward. DiLego noted that Greene was one of the four and asked where she is at this moment. Greene responded that she thinks the advisory group could work on this and accomplish things. She agreed with DiLego regarding the Committee's need to focus on education and school opening, and her ability to be more engaged if she were not involved with this. She also felt that if the advisory committee could move things forward for the Committee that would be beneficial as well sine it is important to move towards resolution on this in order to avoid disservice to the project itself. Art conceded that the advisory committee is the best way to not lose track of the project without it becoming a distraction to other School Committee topics of importance. He asked what would be the charge, the timeline, or the membership? It is worth time at the School Committee meeting to discuss. Greene asked Wadsworth if she had any comment pertaining to timing. Is there more value to putting it on hold for a few months and taking it up anew, or is it better to plug away at the underlying issues now? Wadsworth noted that there are two lanes: a political side – there could be more public input and dialogue. She noted the breadth of data already collected and recommended a comment section; a financial side- contractors are very busy right now coming out of COVID restrictions and prices will not be that great right now- will that look better in the fall? Greene asked DiLego to weigh in. DiLego was of two minds. Normally, summer is a bad time to ask people to give up time to volunteer for something like this, so normally she would not recommend doing this over the summer. Right now, however, people are restricted and can't or won't travel so more people are going to be around and able and eager to focus on a meaningful project this summer. Art asked how we decide the charge, the timing, and the composition. Wadsworth asked the composition of Phase II. Greene stated that we don't want to repeat their work. She proposed taking people who are really invested in this who share different opinions and engaging them in the material. She mentioned a few possible people. It is important to make sure that everyone knows what the questions are that are needing to be answered. The timeline would be mid-July to mid-October. Art tasked Greene with framing up the structure, the tasks and the time frame to bring to the School Committee. DiLego asked if the full School Committee supports this, who could we have interested individuals reach out to regarding this advisory committee. Art delegated this to Greene. Our next meeting is set for June 18<sup>th</sup> and Greene will bring a plan forward then.

- IV. Other business not anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of the meeting : none
- V. Greene moved to adjourn at 5:55 pm. DiLego seconded. Greene aye, DiLego aye, Art aye.

Respectfully submitted by Regina DiLego

## **BDF - ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

The following general policies will govern the appointment and functioning of advisory committees to the School Committee other than the student advisory committee, which is governed by the terms of the Massachusetts General Laws.

1. Advisory committees may be created by the School Committee to serve as task forces for special purposes or to provide continuing consultation in a particular area of activity. However, there will be no standing overall advisory committee to the School Committee.
2. If an advisory committee is required by state or federal law, its composition and appointment will meet all the guidelines established for that particular type of committee.
3. The composition of task forces and any other advisory committees will be broadly representative and take into consideration the specific tasks assigned to the committee. Members of the professional staff may be appointed to the committee as members or consultants, as found desirable.
4. Appointments to such committees will be made by the Committee; appointment of staff members to such committees will be made by the School Committee upon recommendation of the Superintendent.
5. Tenure of committee members will be one year only unless the member is reappointed.
6. Each committee will be clearly instructed as to:
  - a. The length of time each member is being asked to serve.
  - b. The assignment the School Committee wishes the committee to fulfill and the extent and limitations of its responsibilities.
  - c. The resources the School Committee will provide.
  - d. The approximate dates on which the School Committee wishes to receive major reports.
  - e. School Committee policies governing citizens, committees and the relationship of these committees to the School Committee as a whole, individual School Committee members, the Superintendent, and other members of the professional staff.
  - f. Responsibilities for the release of information to the press.
7. Recommendations of committees will be based upon research and fact.
8. The School Committee possesses certain legal powers and prerogatives that cannot be delegated or surrendered to others. Therefore, all recommendations of an advisory committee must be submitted to the School Committee.
9. Advisory committees created under this policy are subject to the provisions of the Open Meeting Law.

The Committee will have the sole power to dissolve any of its advisory committees and will reserve the right to exercise this power at any time during the life of any committee.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [30A:18-25](#)

CROSS REF.: [JIB](#), Student Involvement in Decision-making