



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

School Committee Open Session Minutes

Date: March 14, 2019

Start: 6:01 PM

Adjourn: 9:42 PM

Location:

MGRS Meeting Room A109

1781 Cold Spring Road Williamstown, MA 01267

In Attendance:

Committee Members:	Also Present:
Joe Bergeron, Chair Regina DiLego, Vice-Chair Steven Miller, Secretary Dan Caplinger Christina Conry Alison Carter <u>Absent:</u> A. Terranova	Kim Grady, Superintendent Chris Desjardins, Business Consultant (TMS) Mary MacDonald, Principal MGRS Martha Wiley, Principal LES Joelle Brookner, Principal WES

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Item	Comments	Motion	Second	Vote
Call to Order	Meeting called to Order by Joe Bergeron, Chair, at 6:01 PM			
Public Comment	<p>Public Comment I: Lyndon Moors, Speaking to FY20 Budget, Lanesborough resident and music teacher at MGRS. Mr. Moors spoke against reducing the LES music teacher to .6 FTE.</p> <p>Public Comment II: Jennifer Szymanski, Speaking to FY20 Budget, Ms. Szymanski spoke to a lack of communication at LES in the budget preparation process which has led to concern and confusion among staff. Ms. Szymanski would like the committee to clarify intentions within the proposed budget changes for FY20.</p> <p>Public Comment III: Jaqueline Vinette, Music Teacher at LES, spoke to current concerns within the music program and further concerns within the proposed budget.</p> <p>Public Comment IV: Marsha Vinette, employee of LES, speaking to the FY20 Budget. Ms. Vinette spoke to concerns at LES with the unfilled position of a .6 FTE Media Specialist position going unfilled and spoke to the impact it has had on the music program, the library program, and future impact to the MGRS music program.</p> <p>Public Comment V: Rick Paris, Speaking to FY20 Budget. Resident of Lanesborough, Mr. Paris spoke to concerns within the proposed budget which would eliminate a position and reduce the music teachers FTE from .8 to .6.</p> <p>Public Comment VI: Michelle Johnson, Parent and resident of Lanesborough, mirrored concerns to the budget, and asked the committee to explain the process for opening school choice slots at LES. M. Johnson expressed concerns over the number of positions</p>			



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	<p>that are being created in this year’s budget. M. Johnson asked if the district has considered combining and having one regional summer program.</p> <p>Public Comment VII: Ray Jones, resident of Lanesborough, spoke to the proposed FY20 Budget as it relates to the current socio-economic climate in the Berkshires.</p> <p>Public Comment VIII: Marty Walter, speaking to the FY20 Budget, MGRS teacher and resident of Williamstown. Mr. Walter inquired about how long music lessons are at WES as compared to music lessons at LES. Mr. Walter asked if the committee could clearly state if there are any planned eliminations or reductions in force in the proposed budget being presented. Mr. Walter wished to re-iterate the importance of equalization between the two elementary schools. Mr. Walter concluded by stating that has greatly enjoyed his ten years of employment with MGRS and asked if the committee could respond to the following items: How long music lessons are at WES compared to LES; if there are any plans for reductions in force at LES; M. Walter spoke to the importance of equalizing the opportunities for students at both elementary schools.</p>			
<p>Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>February 14, 2019 – Postponed February 25, 2019 March 1, 2019 March 6, 2019 Motion to approve en masse, 2/25, 3/1, and 3/6. Discussion: R. DiLego spoke to a missing portion of discussion regarding ADA Compliance. D. Caplinger noted a typo on page 3 in the misspelling of the name ‘Talia.’ The committee requests that the Secretary re-do 2/25 and re-submit for approval. The motion was amended to approve 3/1 and 3/6 only.</p>	<p>Caplinger</p>	<p>DiLego</p>	<p>6-0-0.</p>
<p>MGRSD FY20 Budget Presentation</p>	<p>K. Grady and C. Desjardins reviewed a power point presentation that outlined proposed changes within the proposed FY20 Budget. Principals Martha Wiley, Joelle Brookner and Mary MacDonald spoke to the slides for their individual schools. S. Miller mentioned that the WES School Council is in support of the proposal for a school social worker and he asked if the LES School council is in support of or what conversations have taken place regarding the proposed changes in the budget to the music program at LES. Discussion regarding the Specialist schedule at LES. D. Caplinger asked for a recap on how the proposed budget was developed. M. Wiley spoke to the steps that went into the budget development process at LES. S. Miller spoke to the possibility of asking the Town of Lanesborough for additional funding if the people of the Town are</p>			



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	<p>willing to support it. K. Grady explained the rationale behind the budget changes based on the projected decrease in enrollment and the number of teaching blocks that will be put forward in next year's schedule based on that projected enrollment. This would be a change from the current number of 14 teaching blocks. Discussion regarding the difference in cost if the music program was kept at a .8. Discussion regarding student enrollment in the program and length of blocks / scheduling for next year.</p>			
<p>School Choice Openings for 2019-2020</p>	<p>J. Bergeron stated that the committee had voted previously to be a region of choice but has not yet taken a vote on the slots to open for next year. J. Brookner stated that there are five siblings of current choice students that are coming of age for Kindergarten. Ms. Brookner's current proposal is to take 3 new choice students in Kindergarten and 2 new choice students in 1st. Discussion regarding projected enrollment, potential for incoming students that may register late at either school. Total enrollment at the elementary schools as it relates to the number of sections and ultimately the total enrollment numbers in each class and how that would impact MGRS. Discussion regarding changing the school choice process so no slots would be opened in Kindergarten. J. Brookner spoke to the positives of accepting school choice students from K and keeping them in District throughout grade 12. MOTION to open 3 choice slots in K and 2 slots in first grade at WES. Discussion: Regarding K at WES as it relates to the school choice decisions and the budgeted sections.</p> <p>Move to amend the motion to change number of open choice slots from 3 to 5 Caplinger/Carter. Discussion regarding if this amendment would set a precedent. VOTE: 3-3 Motion Fails.</p> <p>Vote on original motion: 6-0-0. Motion passes.</p>	<p>Miller</p> <p>Miller</p>	<p>Conry</p> <p>DiLego</p>	<p>6-0-0</p> <p>4-2-0</p>



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	<p>Lanesborough Elementary: The committee discussed uncertainty around the projected Kindergarten numbers as it relates to opening choice slots and could result in the need for another teacher if more students register than originally anticipated. MOTION to approve the Principal's recommendation of opening no additional choice slots at LES or MGRS. VOTE: 4-2-0. Caplinger and Conry Against. Motion Passes.</p>			
<p>FY20 Budget</p>	<p>FY20 Budget Discussion: D. Caplinger asked if both Towns had been met with and discussed this proposed budget. A meeting took place with Williamstown but Lanesborough was not able to schedule a meeting prior to the public hearing. S. Miller proposed moving the LES music teacher from .7 to .8 in the proposed budget. Discussion regarding the lines in the budget that proposal would impact and at what cost (approximately \$6,000). Miller/Conry. Discussion: The Committee discussed the process of what the committee would need to do if this motion passed but failed at Town meeting. Discussion of the option to make a motion of the floor of town meeting vs. making the motion now. VOTE: 6-0-0.</p> <p>Discussion regarding E&D funds and how those funds are being spent as it relates to the proposed budget and the FY20 assessments to the Towns. Discussion regarding coaching as it relates to baseball at MGRS. Next year, JV will hold tryouts for grades 7-12. The number of students who may be cut based on the projected number of students expected to try out would be between 4-6 students. Move to approve a</p>			
	<p>FY20 Net Budget Subject to Appropriation: Motion to approve an amended net budget subject to appropriation \$ 17,931,394.00</p> <p>Carter - AYE, Miller - AYE, Bergeron - AYE, DiLego - AYE, Caplinger - AYE, Conry - AYE</p>	<p>Caplinger</p>	<p>Miller</p>	<p>6-0-0</p>
	<p>FY20 Total Budget: Move to approve a gross capital budget as amended in the amount of \$24,419,314.00</p> <p>Roll Call Vote: Carter - AYE, Miller - AYE, Bergeron - AYE, DiLego - AYE, Caplinger - AYE, Conry - AYE</p>	<p>Caplinger</p>	<p>DiLego</p>	<p>6-0-0</p>
<p>Capital Gift Phase II Updates</p>	<p>D. Caplinger and S. Miller provided an updates on the Capital Gift Phase II Subcommittee regarding the proposed turf for the athletic fields. The subcommittee</p>			



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	received input from several members of the athletic fields regarding playability and suitability. The subcommittee is hoping to take a look at potential cost savings should the phase I and phase II projects get going at the same time.			
Building Project Update	MGRS has received a verbal Certificate of Occupancy during February break and the auditorium is officially open.			
Subcommittee Updates	Finance: Warrants are circulating. (S. Miller Exits)			
	Capital Gift Phase I: Perkins Eastman Fire & Alternate Design Fee: J. Bergeron reviewed an add-service request from Perkins Eastman in the amount of \$10,800 as it relates to the multipurpose building. The majority of this cost is related to the fire alarm. Minimal cost is associated with the alternates. Motion to approve the add-service request as presented.	DiLego	Caplinger	5-0-0
Move to Executive Session	<p>Move to Executive Session with intent to return to Open Session per MGL Chapter 30A Section 21(a) (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel (Business Manager / Business Office Services. Moved by Caplinger, Seconded by DiLego</p> <p>Roll Call Vote: Carter – AYE, Bergeron – AYE, DiLego – AYE, Caplinger – AYE, Conry – AYE.</p> <p>The committee enters Executive Session at 9:14 PM</p>			
Discuss/Approve path forward for Business Manager / Business Office Services	The committee returns to Open Session at 9:40 PM. J. Bergeron recused himself from this discussion. MOTION to approve the path forward for Business Manager / Business Office services Invitation for Bids as written in the document provided.	Caplinger	Carter	4-0-0
Other Business	None			
Upcoming Meetings, events of interest and agenda requests for next meeting.	Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 6PM.			
Motion to adjourn	Adjourned at 9:42 PM.	DiLego	Caplinger	5-0-0



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Respectfully Submitted,
Jonathan Nopper
Mount Greylock Minutes Recorder