



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

School Committee Open Session Minutes

Date: April 11, 2019

Start: : 6:03 PM

Adjourn: : 11:38 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 Al Terranova Alison Carter <u>Absent:</u> Christina Conry	Kim Grady, Superintendent Mary MacDonald, Principal MGRS Joelle Brookner, Principal WES

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Item	Comments	Motion	Second	Vote
Call to Order	Meeting called to order by J. Bergeron at 6:03 PM			
Statement from the Chair	J. Bergeron informed the audience that someone would be recording the meeting. VI C and X Capital Gift will be moved to occur right after the Executive Session. J. Bergeron reviewed the procedure for Public Comment and asked that all those signed up keep their comments to within a 3 minute time frame.			
Public Comment	I. Jason P. speaking on behalf of Lanesborough Recreation Committee. Jason spoke to concerns regarding the costs of Phase I and how it will take away from the updates that are needed within the scope of Phase II which will update the athletic fields on campus. Mr. P also spoke to concerns regarding potentially contaminated soil that is on site. II. Jane Culnane, K teacher at Williamstown Elementary school spoke to concerns regarding the K start date. J. Bergeron asked Jane to email concerns to the committee as that item as not on the posted agenda. III. Marty Walter, teacher at MGRS, resident of Williamstown, and Union president. Marty spoke to a school climate survey. IV. Michelle Johnson, Lanesborough resident, spoke to the Capital Gift Phase I and inquired about potential space at Lanesborough Elementary school. Ms. Johnson spoke to school committee protocols and asked the committee to address how members of the community can address concerns with district administration. Ms. Johnson spoke to concerns about having all committee meetings at MGRS as she feels it puts Lanesborough residents at a disadvantage. Ms. Johnson spoke to			



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	<p>the committee to ask them how they would garner community feedback for the Superintendent’s evaluation.</p> <p>V. Rick Paris, Lanesborough resident, spoke to community concerns and ho those might be addressed within the committee protocols discussion. The community would like this to be a priority. Mr. Paris spoke to the committee regarding concerns over the cost of Phase I Capital Gift and implored them to consider alternatives as to not take away from Phase II improvements to the athletic fields. Mr. Paris listed some local real estate options that he researched himself.</p> <p>VI. Amy Hane, resident of Williamstown, JCL Trip to Hyannis, Ms. Hane implored the committee to approve the JCL field trip and spoke to her positive experience with JCL. Ms. Hane spoke to the Phase I & II Capital Gift items. Ms. Hane asked that the committee continue to work toward ADA accessibility with the fields and also work to support the District Administration.</p> <p>VII. Lindsey Von Holtz, Dir of Athletics and Co-Curricular activities spoke to support the Phase II capital improvements to the athletic fields.’</p> <p>VIII. Julius and Talia, MGRS students and members of Phase II Capital Gift Subcommittee spoke in support of the synthetic turf playing surface.</p> <p>IX. Brian Drake, Williamstown resident, spoke to the Capital Gift as it relates to Phase II and improvements to the athletic fields.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Public Comment closed at 6:29 PM</p>			
<p>Move to Executive Session</p>	<p>Motion to move into Executive Session with intent to return to Open Session for the following purposes: per MGL Chapter 30A Section 21(a)(2) to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations (Superintendent, Business Manager) and to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel (Superintendent); per MGL Chapter 30A Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (all units) and litigation (Facilities Coordinator, Director of Pupil Services) as an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the Chair so declares.</p>	<p>Miller</p>	<p>DiLego</p>	<p>6-0-0</p>



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	<p>J. Bergeron asked the committee to approve attorney Robert Kinzer be allowed to enter into part of the Executive Session (negotiations with non-union personnel Superintendent). There were no objections.</p> <p>Roll Call Vote: Terranova – AYE, Caplinger – AYE, DiLego – AYE, Bergeron – AYE, Carter – AYE, Miller – AYE.</p> <p>The committee entered executive session at 6:31 PM. The committee returned to Open Session at 8:03 PM</p>			
<p>Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>February 14, 2019, February 25, 2019, March 14, 2019 and March 21, 2019. Motion to approve. 2/14 page 9 typo on the word terms. 2/14 votes need to be adjusted to 6. Typo in the word article. Page 2. March 14th minutes will be removed from motion and reviewed next month.</p>	<p>Miller</p>	<p>DiLego</p>	<p>6-0-0</p>
<p>Building Project</p>	<p>Building Project Update: K. Grady reviewed the progress of the building project punch list and the items that are not yet done. There is a conference call early next week to go over remaining items on the punch list. K. Grady reviewed information from Turner Construction regarding the soil testing that occurred on site at MGRS during the building project. Test results were negative.</p> <p>MGRS Dedication Sign: M. MacDonald has been working on a dedication sign to go in front of the school. S. Miller commented that he would like Sheila Hebert, Wendy Penner and Gary Fuls</p>	<p>Caplinger</p>	<p>DiLego</p>	<p>6-0-0</p>



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	<p>included as they were on the legacy MG SC. MOTION to approve with the addition of legacy school committee members and to have M. MacDonald investigate how regional dedication plaques are completed. Caplinger/DiLego VOTE: 6-0-0. Short-term borrowing approvals: Donna Narey, Treasurer and Clark Rowell from UniBank spoke to the Committee about the District going out for a \$2million bond for funding that is needed to close out the building project. This is a very standard process for District's that are going through a building process while they await final project approvals from the Massachusetts School Building Authority. MOTION that the Treasurer is instructed to proceed with the competitive sale of a new money \$2,000,000 Anticipation Serial Loan – School Renovation, to be dated May 1, 2019, and be payable on August 4, 2020, and that the Treasurer is instructed to proceed with the competitive sale of a renewal \$3,000,000 Anticipation Serial Loan – School Renovation, to be dated June 3, 2019, and be payable on April 3, 2020, such renewal note to renew the currently outstanding \$3,000,000 Anticipation Serial Loan – School Renovation, payable June 3, 2019.</p>			
<p>Regional Structure Organizational Chart</p>	<p>K. Grady reviewed an updated regional structure organizational chart. The committee discussed removing the job description blurbs that were include for certain positions. MOTION to approve the Organizational chart as amended.</p>	<p>Caplinger</p>	<p>DiLego</p>	<p>6-0-0</p>



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<p>Report from the Superintendent</p>	<p>Strategic Planning Update: K. Grady reviewed updates on the strategic planning process and the work that is in process within the strategic planning committee.</p> <p>Last Day of School: K. Grady reviewed the current last day of school barring any additional snow days.</p> <p>Diversity & Inclusion Update: K. Grady will add this item to next month’s agenda. This will be worked on during the Strategic Planning meeting at the end of April.</p> <p>MCAS Update: K. Grady reviewed information in the packet surrounding a controversial MCAS question, how it impacted MGRSD, and how the State plans to deal with that question. There was no impact to any of the District schools. The English Department sent a letter to the DESE Commissioner which was signed by school Administration and the Association urging them to take action so that future situations such as this are not repeated in the future. K. Grady asked that the committee take their time individually to express their concerns over this issue to the Commissioner. The committee asked that the school administration defend the rights of any of the students that may have been negatively impacted by this controversial MCAS question. There are potential negative impacts based on the state’s decision not to grade this particular writing prompt.</p> <p>Overnight Field Trip Request (JCL Convention in Hyannis): M. MacDonald presented information regarding an overnight field trip request for an annual JCL conference that MGRS students typically participate in. MOTION to</p>	<p>Miller</p>	<p>Caplinger</p>	<p>6-0-0</p>
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	accept/approve the field trip request as presented.			
Report from Director of Operations	Development of a Regional Technology Committee: The Director of Operations and our Director of Academic Technology spoke to their plan to create a regional technology committee (which is part of the Regional Transitional Plan). All schools are now using the same lunch program, the same student management system (Power School), the same HRIS, payroll, AP, system in Budget Sense. A wide area network was installed so all schools can operate within the same network. E. Belastock spoke to academic alignment and alignment of programs to use regional licensing. Eileen also spoke to the types of members that are needed to participate in a regional technology committee. K. Grady stated that the school committee should assign a liaison / liaisons to this committee.			
Capital Gift	Phase I & 2 Discussion: John Skavlem spoke about updates to the proposed designs for Phase II of the Capital Gift. The subcommittee is prepared to go out for bids by the end of next week and those bids could come back by mid-May. Discussion regarding the process for approving a bid package. J. Skavlem spoke to the Phase II subcommittee's efforts to raise funds toward the athletic fields' capital improvements with at least one local company that would like to commit funds towards Phase II should the full committee vote to accept that gift. Discussion regarding the work that has gone into determining the best use of the allocation of funds for both Phase I and Phase II. The committee clarified that the costs associated with Phase I are more concrete because it has already gone out to bid. Phase II costs are still an estimation until such time that a bid package is created, approved and bids come in. The committee discussed the options that have been reviewed as possibilities for administrative offices. The committee discussed the requirements surrounding the use of the Gift. Requirements include ADA compliance, finding a permanent home for District office,	Miller	Carter	2-4-0 Motion Fails



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	<p>Facilities storage, Nordic Ski team waxing facilities and Title IX requirements. The low bidder for the Phase I project said they would hold the pricing and timeline through tomorrow morning, 4/12/19. The committee can have no vote, a vote to accept the building with the bathrooms, or a vote for the building without the bathrooms. The committee discussed the research into District office alternatives that have taken place so far. The committee discussed the procedure for and possibility of making a commitment on how these funds will be spent between Phase I and Phase II. The committee discussed that there would not be any large potential cost savings by re-combining the priorities of both Phase I and Phase II into one bid package. Discussion regarding the intended scope of use for the gift and if it was intended for school-use (MGRS) or District use (MGRSD). The College confirmed their intent is for the gift to benefit the District. MOTION: Move that the committee not accept the phase I bid and investigate alternatives including having the district hire inspectors to determine if alternative buildings would be useable and determine any costs associated with making those buildings useable. Miller/Carter Discussion: The funds used to hire inspectors would come from the Gift. Al Terranova urged the committee to move forward and asked about the non-admin uses for the multi-purpose building. Miller – Aye, Carter, - Aye, Terranova – No, Caplinger – No, DiLego – No, Bergeron – No. The committee discussed taking items out of order and returning to this item later in the meeting.</p>			
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	<p>Perkins Eastman Formal Proposal for Phase 2 Services: Motion to approve an actual amount of \$175,237 for all design work by Perkins Eastman for the Phase II Caplinger/DiLego 6-0-0</p> <p>Phase 1 Bid Results Decision: Move to approve 2.3 million for Phase II and 2.8 million for the Phase I with Funds taken from the capital Gift. Remaining money stays in the endowment, not to be touched for ten years.</p> <p>Terranova/DiLego. Discussion: S. Miller opposes putting a lock on the use of the remaining funds and asked if the motion could be amended so that additional funds could be used towards athletic field capital improvements. J. Bergeron reviewed current soft costs associated with the construction projects along with the current balance of the fund and stated that based on that math would not support this motion. K. Grady spoke to previous discussions regarding boiler tank replacements that will be needed sooner than in ten years' time. Re-stated Motion: to approve 2.3 for phase II and 2.8 for phase I out of the capital gift. MOTION WITHDRAWN.</p> <p>Move to reject the existing bids and re-bid the project as one project combining the building footprint as originally bid along with the synthetic turf field, driveway enhancements and baseball/softball improvements that were the recommendation of the athletic fields subcommittee.</p> <p>Caplinger/Miller Discussion: D. Caplinger stated that by doing this it will encourage the community to know that the committee is committed to the best possible end result while accounting for, as much as possible, any variables that may arise. S. Miller is opposed to</p>			
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	<p>spending 2.8 million on the multipurpose building and would like to bid both projects at once in order to see economies of scale. VOTE: 1-4-1. MOTION FAILS.</p> <p>MOTION to accept the phase I bid without bathrooms and allocate \$2.75 million towards the athletic fields, including the track and \$500,000 in anticipated soft costs out of the capital gift. Caplinger/Miller. Discussion: \$5.7 million in total costs within this motion. Discussion regarding the funding mechanics of fundraising as it relates to phase II and if any money raised could then be added to the endowment funds. VOTE: 2-3-1. MOTION FAILS.</p> <p>MOTION to accept the phase I bid without the bathrooms in the amount of \$4.75. Discussion: Clarification that R. DiLego supports spending money out of the Capital Gift toward the athletic field improvements. 2-4-0.</p>			
<p>Policy</p>	<p>Building Use / Rental Fee Schedule: Discussion regarding the proposed fee schedule in the packet as well as how any revenue made would be recorded; specifically would the District create revolver accounts for each given area within the District that is creating revenue. K. Grady will send all feedback from the administrative team to the committee to be considered before a final Building use / Rental Fee Schedule and related process can be voted on. Discussion regarding the need to follow up on a request for facility use with Williamstown Theater Festival. The committee will likely hold a special meeting to address this item prior to the regular meeting in May.</p> <p>School Committee Protocols Discussion: School Committee Protocols are</p>			



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	<p>recommended by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees to determine how the school committee operates within certain parameters and how agenda items are added.</p> <p>Remote Participation in Meetings Discussion: The committee will vote on this at the next meeting. Within the packet are documents from the state that outline the procedures for Remote participation. Discussion regarding the District's capability</p>			
Business Manager Position	Motion: to authorize D. Caplinger and R. DiLego to enter into negotiations with the business manager candidate.	Miller	Terranova	4-0-2 Miller and Bergeron Abstain
Union Contract - Cafeteria	<p>Motion to approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement between the Mount Greylock Educators Association Cafeteria Workers Unit and the Mount Greylock Regional School Committee</p> <p>Thank you to all the cafeteria workers.</p>	Miller	DiLego	6-0-0
MASC Workshop regarding School Council best practices and to start FY19 Superintendent Evaluation (5/2 or 5/7)	J. Bergeron reviewed this item at the same time as the Workshop for the Superintendent Evaluation. Dorothy Presser is available to come out to conduct a best practices workshop for both the School Councils and the Superintendent Evaluation. Dorothy Presser would be potentially available on either 5/2 or 5/7. Two of the school councils already have a meeting scheduled for 5/7 so that is the preferred date. May 7 th from 3-6 PM. J. Bergeron will arrange 5/7 with Dorothy Presser from MASC.			
Other Business	M. MacDonald reviewed a donation from General Dynamics to MGRS in the amount of \$2,000.			
Upcoming Meetings:	MASC Workshops on 5/7: Regular Meeting 5/9 at 6 PM			
Motion to Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 11:38 PM.			

Respectfully Submitted,
Jonathan Nopper
Mount Greylock Minutes Recorder