



# Mt. Greylock Regional School District

## Transition Committee Open Session Minutes

**Date:** February 8, 2018

**Start:** 6:30 PM

**Adjourn:** 9:24 PM

**Location:**

Mount Greylock Library

Williamstown, MA

**In Attendance:**

<b>Committee Members:</b>	<b>Also Present:</b>
J. Bergeron D. Caplinger A. Terranova R. DiLego S. Miller C. Dodig C. Greene  <b>Absent:</b> None	Kim Grady, Interim Superintendent Mary MacDonald, Principal MGRS Joelle Brookner, Principal WES Martin McEvoy, Principal WES

<b>Item</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Vote</b>
<b>Meeting Called to Order</b>	Open Session called to Order by J. Bergeron at 6:30 PM.			
<b>Public Comment</b>	<p>The Transition Committee heard Public Comment from five individuals regarding Tuition Agreements agenda item. Paul Sieloff spoke at the request of the Lanesborough Board of Selectmen and Town Finance Committee. Mr. Sieloff stated that the Board of Selectmen and the Town Finance Committee feel very strongly that there should be no to delay to raising the cost of tuition. Ray Jones, Chair of the Lanesborough Finance Committee, also spoke in favor of raising the cost of tuition within the next tuition agreement without delay and presented information on local tax rates for Lanesborough and neighboring towns. Jeff Welch, a Mount Greylock teacher, parent, and New Ashford resident, spoke to the committee regarding the importance of negotiating the tuition agreement through open dialogue with the neighboring towns while fully recognizing that the tuition agreement debate, discussion and outcome is currently effecting and will have a long-term impact on young people who are currently contributing members of our school community. Michelle Johnson, of Lanesborough, spoke about the potential impact of lost revenue if Hancock and New Ashford decided not to continue to tuition in their students and how that will impact the tax rate for residents of Lanesborough and Williamstown as well as the impact such an outcome would have on school programming. Michelle Fillio, parent of two current students and a resident of New Ashford addressed the committee as a concerned parent and spoke to how this decision would impact her family and her children.</p>			



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<p><b>Approval Of Minutes</b></p>	<p>Motion to approve the minutes of January 25, 2018.</p> <p>Discussion: R. DiLego asked that an edit be made to page 3 to include the specific membership discussed for the slate of the search committee. “to consist of two members of the transition committee, one principal, one representative chosen by the teachers union, one parent of a school member ( each of the last three members should be chosen so that there is a representative from each school), one town official, and one student recommended by the principal.” S. Miller accepted and moved that the minutes be approved as amended.</p>	<p>S. Miller</p>	<p>R. DiLego</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>
<p><b>FY 19 Draft Budget Presentations</b></p>	<p>K. Grady, Interim Superintendent, and school Principals, Martin McEvoy, Joelle Brookner, and Mary MacDonald presented a Power Point budget presentation for the FY 19 budget season and provided updates that included how the expanded regional budget is being constructed along with providing a review of school-specific goals and budget priorities. The committee and school administration discussed the budget process and timeline leading up to the March 20<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing. The committee also discussed the budget priorities presented and in particular, discussion centered on technology both as it related to costs and how technology was being integrated into the curriculum.</p>			
<p><b>Discussion &amp; vote on warrants signing authority (Finance Subcommittee)</b></p>	<p>J. Bergeron asked the committee to consider giving the Finance Subcommittee of the Transition committee authority to review and sign warrants with the expectation that the members of the subcommittee would then update the full committee of their actions during the following meeting. The warrants would require three signatures. The committee discussed applicable laws and policy. Current policy is to make sure there is at least one member from each town with signing authority. <b>MOTION:</b> to authorize the Finance subcommittee of the transition committee to sign warrants on behalf of the transition committee and to bring the results of those actions back to the full committee at the following meeting.</p>	<p>A. Terranova</p>	<p>C. Greene</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>
<p><b>Tuition Agreements Update</b></p>	<p>The committee was provided with documentation in their meeting packet from Hancock and New Ashford, which provided figures from each town to show how the increased tuition cost would impact the budgets in each town. The committee</p>	<p>No Vote</p>	<p>No Vote</p>	<p>N/A</p>



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	<p>discussed tuition costs and scenarios at length with Shaker Mountain School Union Superintendent, Dr. Peter Dillon including reviewing the tuition rates associated with Hancock students who attend school within other Districts. During this discussion, DiLegio mentioned that the Lanesborough Elementary School Committee had voted in Spring 2017 and made the vote known to the tuitioning towns that costs were going to rise to be in line with average cost. Miller mentioned that while he understands the arguments that can be made for charging either marginal or average cost, by having the tuitioning towns pay significantly less than average cost, that means there are less dollars in the district, which impact the educational opportunities available to all students. The committee deliberated and reviewed potential questions they had that may need to be reviewed with District Legal Counsel. The committee discussed possible next steps and decided not to make a motion or take any vote on this item during this meeting. C. Dodig and J. Bergeron will continue to be point people in continuing the dialogue with Hancock and New Ashford regarding this issue and the committee has asked that Dr. Dillon and representatives from Hancock and New Ashford work to complete and submit acceptable counter-proposals to the tuition rate that the transition committee previously voted.</p>			
<p><b>Master Calendar for the Remainder of FY18</b></p>	<p>J. Bergeron reviewed an updated Master Calendar for the Transition Committee for the remainder of FY18. Discussion regarding when to vote on School Choice based on the ongoing discussion regarding tuition and how it may impact the District's enrollment projections. The committee expects to vote on School Choice slots by the March 1 meeting at the latest. The committee decided to hold a budget workshop on 2/21 at 12:00 PM. <b>Motion</b> to approve.</p>	<p>D. Caplinger</p>	<p>S. Miller</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>
<p><b>Updated Business Manager Job</b></p>	<p>The committee reviewed an updated version of a Business Manager job description, which was updated to reflect the new region as opposed to</p>	<p>C. Greene</p>	<p>D. Caplinger</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>



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<b>Description Approval</b>	the Tri-District language. Requested Edits from the committee were as follows: Change Baccalaureate to Bachelors and change certifiable to eligible for certification. Edit language “Take the lead on negotiations for Building and Grounds and Cafeteria Contracts” and change to “Take the lead on negotiations for Cafeteria contracts and other areas of responsibility as the Superintendent will designate.” <b>Motion</b> to approve as amended.			
<b>Superintendent Search Committee Slate Approval</b>	A brochure was created and a position was posted online as well as an email address ( <a href="mailto:mgrsdsearch@gmail.com">mgrsdsearch@gmail.com</a> ). S. Miller is designated to check that account. The search committee will consist of S. Miller and D. Caplinger from the Transition Committee. Joelle Brookner will serve as the school Principal representative. Teacher and parent representatives are still pending. Jason Hoch, Town Manager of Williamstown will serve as the Town Official. Principal MacDonald will finalize and forward a recommendation for a student representative. An official vote to finalize the search committee slate will be postponed for a week.	No Vote	No Vote	N/A
<b>Distribution &amp; Signing of warrants (Bus warrant)</b>	The finance subcommittee representatives circulated and signed a warrant that contains the most recent bills pertaining to regional transportation costs.			
<b>Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated within 48 hours of meeting</b>	None			
<b>Motion to Adjourn</b>	Meeting adjourned at 9:24 PM	S. Miller	R. DiLego	7-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jonathan Nopper  
Mount Greylock Minutes Recorder

*A DVD recording of this meeting in its entirety is available at the District Office.*