



# Mt. Greylock Regional School District

## Transition Committee Open Session Minutes

**Date:** March 15, 2018

**Start:** 6:03 PM

**Adjourn:** 8:42 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 LES

<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 6:03 PM.			
<b>Public Comment</b>	Jodi Szczepaniak-Locke from Lanesborough spoke to the committee regarding the Tuition Update from New Ashford agenda item. Jodi implored the committee to continue working toward a favorable outcome for a new tuition agreement so that the children from New Ashford would not be uprooted and unable to attend school at LES next year. Jodi also spoke to the potential loss of revenue if the New Ashford students were to leave LES and how it would impact programming for the student body of the elementary school.			
<b>Approval Of Minutes</b>	Motion to approve the minutes of March 1, 2018. Discussion: Edits: Remove the "Check exact motion" on page 3. District typo. Standard term of tuition agreements is three years. Adjourn time in the header. McEvoy Principal of LES	Greene	Miller	7-0-0
<b>Circulate Transportation Warrant for Approval</b>	Warrant #19T: An accounts payable warrant for transportation costs associated with the District in the total amount of \$63,476.95 was circulated for approval.			
<b>Superintendent Report</b>	J. Bergeron prefaced the Tuition Update from New Ashford agenda item by informing the audience that no vote would be taken during this evening's meeting. Instead, the agenda item was intended for the committee to discuss the latest information from the New Ashford			



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School Committee meeting that occurred the night before on 3/14. K. Grady reported that she immediately reached out to Superintendent Peter Dillon after reading the iBerkshires article that was published which focused on tuition discussions during the New Ashford School Committee meeting on 3/14. K. Grady read an email from Superintendent Dillon. The New Ashford School Committee voted to accept the 7-12 tuition agreement with two questions; Why is transportation included in the cost if New Ashford covers the cost of its own bus? Could a sentence be included that all students will be accepted? K. Grady thought that the sentence regarding transportation costs had already been removed and will follow up. K. Grady stated that that she would need to have further conversations with Peter Dillon and Brenda Frye as students with IEPs have never been turned away from Mount Greylock. For K-6 students, the New Ashford School committee made a motion to offer a three year phased in increase starting with \$12,477 (38% increase). In the second year of New Ashford's proposal, the rate would increase to \$14,442, and in the third year, the rate would be the DESE rate.

Discussion regarding whether the committee is amenable to continuing dialogue with the New Ashford School Committee regarding Tuition. C. Dodig and J. Bergeron will continue to be point people in reaching out to the New Ashford School Committee on this issue. J. Bergeron will reach out to propose a joint meeting of both the Transition and New Ashford committees. **Motion** to have J. Bergeron and C. Dodig represent the transition committee in continued dialogue with New Ashford School Committee Greene/Caplinger VOTE 7-0-0. MOTION PASSES Unanimously.

K. Grady asked that each of the principals address the committee with updates from their school. K. Grady would also like to request that after the Public Budget Hearing, we begin inviting the Student Representative from Mount Greylock to attend the transition committee meetings as he would previously attend and give updates from the student body at the MG (7-12) Committee. Principals J. Brookner, M. McEvoy and M. MacDonald all gave updates on upcoming and recent happenings at each of the three schools. **At WES:** Recently announced the recipients of the annual citizenship award (Renzi Award). This year's recipients were Noelle Dravis, Julia Goh, Caleb Lowe and Judge Martin. The Renzi award is named after longtime Principal and Superintendent Helen Renzi. Fourth Graders are preparing to perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as part of this year's residency with Shakespeare & Co. Their performance is open to the public and will occur on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 6PM. The Elementary school band will be having a performance on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 PM; the event is open to the public. Student Author Night will be April 5 at 6:30 at WES. **At LES:** 2/26, Annual Dental Sealant Program; 3/5, Spring Musical performance of *Annie*. 3/6, March mini-courses started up. On 3/16, BTF comes to Lanesborough to perform at LES Arts & Humanities Program: *Billy Budd in the Breadbox*; 3/20 Williams students coming to work with LES students during the college students' spring break; 3/20, PK, 1 & 2 visit The Colonial Theater for *My Father's Dragon* performance; 3/22, Grade 6 Open House at MGRS. 3/24, Berkshire Robotics Challenge at Lenox MS/HS 7:45 AM-1:30 PM. **MGRS:** Students performed *Once Upon a Mattress* at '62 CTD. MG recently held a Credit for Life fair for ninth graders. Boys won the Nordic State Championship and Girls took second place. MG students organized a walk out which was



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	<p>student driven to coincide with the National Walkout; it was a short 17 minute program before the students went back to class; League of Women Voters will be on site on 3/16 to assist students who wish to register to vote. J. Brookner gave an update regarding Kindergarten registration. All Principals concluded with a reminder about the FY19 Public Budget Hearing that is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 6 PM.</p> <p>Rural Schools: K. Grady and A. Terranova attended a rural school forum presented by Senator Hinds to discuss the results of a state report on the fiscal challenges facing rural schools.</p> <p>K. Grady reviewed “Blizzard Bags” with the committee and let them know that there would be a plan in place to launch a Blizzard Bag program at MGRSD. Blizzard bags are a DESE approved process where teachers assign work to students to do during a snow day and if a certain percentage of students satisfactorily complete the work, the day does not have to be counted as a snow day.</p>			
<p><b>School Choice Openings for 2018-2019</b></p>	<p>Discussion regarding class size and number of class sections as it relates to the current proposals for choice slots to open for the FY19 school year. The committee will postpone the vote until 3/20. The committee requested that the number of sections and target enrollment be added to the projected enrollment sheet.</p>	<p>No Vote</p>	<p>No Vote</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>FY19 Preliminary Budget Presentation</b></p>	<p>J. Bergeron and K. Grady gave a preliminary FY19 Budget presentation and answered questions regarding the structure of the new expanded regional budget. K. Grady reviewed the draft Power Point presentation that will be finalized and presented to the public during the Public Hearing on Tuesday, 3/20. The numbers presented this evening will remain the same and be presented during Tuesday’s public hearing. C. Dodig asked about money that is being reimbursed through Berkshire Health Group. K. Grady responded that any reimbursement would affect the FY18 budget, as the money would be received prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>. C. Dodig asked that administrators give thought to the language in the Power Point in the “Implications of proposed budget” slide. Discussion from the committee about wanting to see everyone’s wish list as if there were not any budget constraints to contend with.</p>			
<p><b>Subcommittee, Liaison and Working Group Reports</b></p>	<p><b>Building Project Subcommittee:</b> M. Schiek presented an update to the committee regarding the building project. The SBC and Transition committee are planning to hold a joint meeting on 3/27 at 6 PM. The Building Project OPM is finalizing the recovery schedule. Discussion of the schedule and recent alterations to the schedule will be discussed at that joint meeting. Mark presented a recommendation from the SBC (made during their 3/6/16 meeting) to accept a change order request #27 to accept the parking lot into the project. Quotes for the work have been</p>	<p>Miller</p>	<p>DiLego</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>



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	<p>received and some elements of the design work are still ongoing (finalizing lighting). The vote was to add the parking lot into the project at a cost not to exceed \$975,000. The parking lot would be a non-reimbursable from the MSBA. C. Greene commented that the Facilities Manager thinks this is a good design that will work well and be easier to maintain than some of the other designs that included islands. The SBC feels that there are enough contingency funds to cover the cost of the parking lot. The biggest remaining unknown in the project is the demo and abatement process and the OPM and construction team feels that there are not going to be any major unexpected expenses from the remaining demo and abatement. The discussion to put the parking lot into the project has been discussed for several months and the motion to make this recommendation to the transition committee received a unanimous vote from the SBC. <b>Motion</b> to amend the contract through Change Order #27 for an amount not exceed \$975,000.00 at the recommendation of the School Building committee. C. Dodig asked M. Schiek to elaborate further regarding the timing issues that led to the changes in the project timeline. C. Dodig also had some questions regarding the OPM that he would like to address and it was decided to postpone that discussion to the joint meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup>. M. Schiek concluded by thanking everyone who is currently “living through the building project.”</p>			
	<p><b>Negotiations:</b> C. Dodig gave an update regarding ongoing negotiations. The team is continuing to make progress and feels there is no need to have an executive session meeting this evening.</p>			
	<p><b>Williams College Capital Gift:</b> The committee retained Perkins Eastman to assist in the architectural needs for the Williams Gift as it relates to new administrative offices, ADA Compliance, and athletic fields updates. The committee as provided with an amended and restated description of the Fund for Mt. Greylock Regional School District Capital Projects</p>			
	<p><b>MGRS Summer &amp; Fall Planning (Fields, Summer Use, and Building Transition):</b> The committee discussed the need for this subcommittee with (for now) a very long name and the duties that this subcommittee would be working to achieve. J.</p>	<p>Caplinger</p>	<p>Miller</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>



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	<p>Bergeron and C. Greene have volunteered. C. Dodig will also assist and the committee will reach out to W. Penner. Motion to create a MGRS Summer Fall Planning (Fields, Summer Use, Building Transition) Subcommittee consisting of Joe Bergeron, Carrie Greene, and Chris Dodig.</p>			
	<p><b>Policy:</b> The updated/new policy manual will be brought forward for review beginning in July and once fully approved it will be hosted by MASC on their website. K. Grady will be meeting with Pat Correia on 3/26 to finalize. Per DESE, the committee cannot approve the policies until 7/1/18</p>			
	<p><b>Superintendent Search:</b> S. Miller read a report from the Superintendent Search Committee. The search committee met on 3/14 and voted to recommend 2 candidates to the Transition Committee for consideration for the position of Superintendent. The search committee voted 5-2 to advance two names without doing any preliminary interviews of the candidates. The Chair will contact the two candidates to make sure they are interested in moving forward and once confirmation is received, their names will be released. There was a question and discussion around if candidates could be encouraged to apply for other central office positions that may become open in the future. J. Bergeron will reach out to legal counsel to get proper wording for letters that will go out to candidates.</p>			
<p><b>Business Manager Services RFP</b></p>	<p>J. Bergeron led discussion on a redline edited Business Manager Services RFP. The presented RFP reflects the change from “tri-district” to a single District and would allow the District to enter into an agreement for up to three years with the ability to review and exit the agreement if needed. This RFP does not preclude us from hiring an individual if a suitable candidate is found. <b>Motion</b> to accept the business management services IFB as presented.</p>	<p>DiLego</p>	<p>Terranova</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>
<p><b>Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated within 48 hours of meeting</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The committee discussed potential follow-up that is needed for a possible snow date for the public hearing based on the current weather forecast which is predicting another nor’easter that would impact Tuesday, 3/20.</li> <li>- Agenda request to publicly thank Sheila Hebert within the 3/20 agenda.</li> <li>- Carrie was elected/appointed as the Vice-Chair of the Berkshire County Education Task Force 2.0</li> <li>- C. Greene encouraged everyone to attend the Western Massachusetts Forum with DESE Commissioner-Designate, Jeff Riley and MASC President-Elect, Devin Sheehan on March 29, 2018 at the Delaney House in Holyoke.</li> <li>- Day on the Hill is an upcoming MASC sponsored legislative advocacy day for school committee members, Superintendents, and student leaders. Students are encouraged to attend and their participation is free, but they must register. This will take place on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 from 8:30am – 2:00pm at the Grand Lodge of Masons in Boston.</li> </ul>			



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<b>Motion to Adjourn</b>	Motion to adjourn at 8:42 PM.	Terranova	Dodig	7-0-0
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Respectfully Submitted,  
Jonathan Nopper  
Mount Greylock Minutes Recorder

*A digital recording of this meeting in its entirety is available on the District website.*