



# Mt. Greylock Regional School District

## Transition Committee Public Budget Hearing & Open Session Minutes

**Date:** March 20, 2018

**Start:** 6:01 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 (Exits 8:02 PM) C. Dodig C. Greene  <b><u>Absent:</u></b> None	Kim Grady, Interim Superintendent Mary MacDonald, Principal MGRS Joelle Brookner, Principal WES Martin McEvoy, Principal LES Andy Paquette, TMS

<b>Item</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Vote</b>
<b>Public Budget Hearing Called to Order</b>	Public Hearing called to Order by J. Bergeron at 6:01 PM.			
<b>MGRSD FY19 Budget Presentation</b>	K. Grady along with Principals MacDonald, Brookner and McEvoy gave a public presentation on the FY 2019 proposed budget.			
<b>Public Q&amp;A Session</b>	<p>Discussion from the committee regarding use of E&amp;D funds.</p> <p>The District spent \$245,000 in funds from E&amp;D in '18 and proposing use of \$240,000 in '19 leaving a balance of \$444,309. The District will be seeking another bond note on the building project in early July and this is the rationale for not using more E&amp;D funds to lower the town assessments, as the higher balance will favor the District when it comes time to take out the bond.</p> <p>C. Greene: Clarification on using more from grants and revolver accounts. K. Grady explained that we would be using 100% of the grants we receive and there would be some additional revolver accounts that will be coming into the Regional District from the elementary schools that used to be maintained by the Towns.</p> <p>Public Comments: Michelle Johnson from Lanesborough: Explain how the New Ashford Tuition costs are being factored into the budget. Clarifications on how contract negotiations will impact town assessments. Discussion on class size, particularly at LES.</p>			



## Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	<p>Jennifer Szymanski, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at LES. Discussion about 4<sup>th</sup> grade class size. Ms. Szymanski proposed / asked the committee to consider splitting fourth grade into two sections and accepting school choice into the grade to make up two smaller classes.</p> <p>Anna Mello, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade at LES, came in support of Ms. Szymanski splitting the fourth grade into two sections to make up two smaller sections.</p> <p>Jen Deschaine, Lanesborough, Discussion about school choice slots and how it relates to the potential impact regarding on going New Ashford Tuition discussions.</p>			
<b>Close Public Hearing</b>	Public Hearing Closed at 6:36 PM			
<b>Call Open Session to Order</b>	Open Session Called to Order by J. Bergeron at 6:37 PM			
<b>Approval Of Minutes</b>	<p>Motion to approve the minutes of March 15, 2018</p> <p>Discussion: None</p>	Miller	DiLego	7-0-0
<b>Farewell to Sheila Hebert</b>	The Transition Committee and School Administration recognized Sheila Hebert for her many years of service to the District(s) as she served on both the LES School Committee and MG School Committee.			
<b>School Choice Openings for 2018-2019</b>	<p>Dr. McEvoy reviewed the recommendations of the school council for target class size. Principal McEvoy proposes to open 2 choice slots in grade 2, 2 slots in grade 5, and 2 slots in grade 6 at LES. Principal Brookner proposes opening 4 choice slots in K, 3 slots in grade 1, 2 slots in grade 4 and 3 slots in grade 6. <b>MOTION:</b> Move to accept choice slots as recommended by the Principals</p>	Greene	Dodig	7-0-0
<b>FY19 Budget</b>	<p><b>Discussion regarding Public Hearing:</b> D. Caplinger asked for clarification about another bond for the building project. C. Greene commented that it is a “clean-up” bond, which is a short-term borrowing to pull the District through the rest of the project as we await for final reimbursement from the MSBA, which could take up to two years to receive. The school committee had made a decision earlier to phase in the construction costs over two years and this is the last year we expect to have a change due to that reason. Further discussion around the nature of borrowing to cover the costs of the project.</p>			
	<p><b>Motion</b> to accept the <b>net operating assessment to member towns subject to appropriation</b> in the amount of \$15,640,144.</p> <p><b>Roll Call Vote:</b> Terranova - Aye, Dodig - Aye, Miller - Aye, Bergeron - Aye, DiLego – Aye, Greene - Aye, Caplinger - Aye</p>	Caplinger	Terranova	Unanimous Roll Call Vote



## Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	<p><b>Motion</b> to accept a gross Capital Budget of \$1,957,325</p> <p><b>Roll Call Vote:</b> Terranova - Aye, Dodig - Aye, Miller - Aye, Bergeron - Aye, DiLego – Aye, Greene - Aye, Caplinger - Aye</p>	Miller	Caplinger	Unanimous Roll Call Vote
	<p><b>Motion</b> to accept the Net Budget subject to appropriation of Operating and Capital combined in the amount of \$17,597,469</p> <p><b>Roll Call Vote:</b> Terranova - Aye, Dodig - Aye, Miller - Aye, Bergeron - Aye, DiLego – Aye, Greene - Aye, Caplinger - Aye</p>	Dodig	DiLego	Unanimous Roll Call Vote
	<p><b>Motion</b> to accept the budget as presented in its entirety.</p> <p><b>Roll Call Vote:</b> Terranova - Aye, Dodig - Aye, Miller - Aye, Bergeron - Aye, DiLego – Aye, Greene - Aye, Caplinger - Aye</p>	DiLego	Miller	Unanimous Roll Call Vote
<b>Discussion regarding staff request for leave of absence</b>	Postponed	N/A	N/A	No Vote
<b>Superintendent Search Next Steps (w/ update from Search Committee)</b>	<p>The Search committee has recommended two strong candidates to be advanced to the Transition Committee, Kimberley Grady, Interim Superintendent and John Vosburgh, Principal of Taconic High School in Pittsfield, MA. The search committee sought guidance from MASC on potential next steps and were informed that the committee could move forward with interviews and site visits; they could choose to just do interviews; or they could vote with the information they have available. Discussion regarding next steps. <b>Motion</b> to interview the candidates Questions will be developed by the Committee and compiled by the Chair. J. Bergeron will follow-up in scheduling interviews as soon as possible.</p>	Terranova	Caplinger	5-2-0
<b>Announcements / Upcoming Events of Interest</b>	None			



## Mt. Greylock Regional School District

<b>Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated within 48 hours of meeting</b>	None			
<b>Upcoming Meetings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- March 27, 2018, 6 PM Transition Committee</li> <li>- March 28, 7 PM Williamstown Finance Committee</li> <li>- April 5, 6 PM, Transition Committee</li> <li>- April 26, 6 PM Transition Committee</li> </ul>			
<b>Motion to Adjourn</b>	Motion to adjourn at 8:42 PM.	DiLego	Terranova	6-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Jonathan Nopper  
 Mount Greylock Minutes Recorder

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