



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

Transition Committee Open Session Minutes

Date: April 5, 2018

Start: 6:04 PM

Adjourn: 9:24 PM

Location:

Mount Greylock Library

Williamstown, MA

In Attendance:

Committee Members:	Also Present:
J. Bergeron D. Caplinger A. Terranova R. DiLego S. Miller C. Dodig C. Greene Absent: None	Kim Grady, Interim Superintendent John Vosburgh (Exited at 6:58 PM)

Item	Comments	Motion	Second	Vote
Meeting Called to Order	Open Session called to Order by J. Bergeron at 6:04 PM.			
Superintendent Finalist Interviews	The Transition Committee conducted interviews with finalist candidates for the position of Superintendent of Schools for Mount Greylock Regional School District. The finalist candidates were John Vosburgh, Principal of Taconic High School in Pittsfield, MA and Kimberley Grady, Interim Superintendent of Mount Greylock Regional School District.			
Circulate Transportation Warrant for Approval	An accounts payable warrant for transportation costs associated with the District was circulated for approval.			
Approval Of Minutes	Motion to approve the minutes of March 27, 2018. Discussion: Edits: Identify Chris Kapiloff as the individual who spoke during public comment. Add adjournment time to the top heading. Add all entry and exit times for C. Greene. D. Caplinger was absent from the meeting; remove his name from list of present members.	Caplinger	Greene	7-0-0
Tuition Agreements (Amended Signatory Only)	J. Bergeron went back to Legal Counsel and it was advised to change the signatory back to the school committees for Hancock and	C. Dodig	S. Miller	7-0-0



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	<p>New Ashford. The content is unchanged.</p> <p>MOTION to approve the tuition agreements as presented in the packet.</p>			
<p>Discussion regarding staff request for leave of absence</p>	<p>K. Grady spoke to the committee regarding a MGRS Latin teacher’s request (Amy Turner) to take a one-year unpaid leave of absence. The request is supported by the teachers’ union and would be permissible under the current Mount Greylock Teachers contract under Discretionary leave. The Principal and Interim Superintendent are in support of the leave. D. Caplinger asked if there would be any other costs to the District. There are no other costs. If approved, the teacher’s placement would freeze during her leave of absence. C. Greene asked about if the leave were to be extended beyond the year. K. Grady said that she would not be able to grant the extension from this initial request and any extension would need to come back before the school committee for review.</p> <p>MOTION to accept Amy Turner’s request for an unpaid leave of absence per the current Mount Greylock contract for a period of one year.</p>	<p>Caplinger</p>	<p>DiLego</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>
<p>Building Project Update / Building Project Legal Counsel Retainer</p>	<p>J. Bergeron noted that the School Building Committee had not met since the Transition Committee met jointly with them. J. Bergeron reviewed the action items that came out of that joint meeting. J. Bergeron reached out to several different parties to determine what type of legal counsel would be most appropriate to assist the committee with the legalities of amending or not amending the building project contract. Several parties recommended Christopher Strang out of Boston, MA. J. Bergeron reached out to Mr. Strang for a retainer agreement. The agreement is forthcoming and is expected to be in the amount of \$5,000. That retainer would then be used at the rate of \$275 per hour. J. Bergeron is hoping that we can execute a retainer</p>	<p>Dodig</p>	<p>Miller</p>	<p>7-0-0</p>



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	<p>agreement with this counsel with the goal of figuring out how to proceed with the building project contracts and the updated schedule and timeline. Discussion of the process and next steps. MOTION to authorize J. Bergeron, as Chair of the Transition Committee, to enter into a retainer agreement with legal counsel, Christopher Strang, for the purpose of understanding what the committee needs to be doing in terms of the building project contracts in the amount of \$5000 with further reporting if we expect to exceed that amount. Discussion regarding why the committee is seeking legal counsel outside of the counsel that has been serving on the project and the reason is because of the specific situation and challenges presented by the new timeline and how it relates to protecting the interests of the District as we work to close out the project. Discussion regarding any conflicting relationships that the legal counsel may have; Mr. Strang often represents municipalities and others who are in a similar situation as MGRSD. He does not have any conflicting relationships with stakeholders of our building project.</p>			
<p>Announcements/Upcoming Events of Interest</p>	<p>K. Grady announced that Perkins Eastman would like to present at the 4/26 Transition Committee meeting to show where they are in the schematic design process. Also, Trooper Canata would like to attend the 4/26 meeting to give a brief school safety presentation.</p>			
<p>Discussion regarding Superintendent finalist interviews and deliberation on candidate selection</p>	<p>J. Bergeron gave some points of order from the MASC for committee members to keep in mind during the deliberation process. J. Bergeron asked that committee members be mindful of evaluating each candidate in terms of their fit for the position and not to compare the candidates. In terms of electing a candidate, the committee will use a ballot followed by motion method. J. Bergeron read information from the MASC about each step that would be taken if the committee followed the ballot followed by</p>	<p>Miller</p>	<p>Terranova</p>	<p>6-0-1, Miller Abstains</p>



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	<p>motion method and asked if someone would move a motion to accept the ballot followed by motion method of electing a Superintendent. MOTION to accept by D. Caplinger, SECONDED by C. Greene. A simple majority is what is required for someone to be elected Superintendent. VOTE: 7-0-0.</p> <p>The committee decided to speak regarding each of the finalist candidates fit to the position one at a time in order to avoid comparing candidates. Each committee member spoke one at a time regarding the strengths of each candidate and their fit to the position. At the conclusion of deliberations, J. Bergeron asked each committee member to voice their support for a particular candidate or abstain. Dodig – Grady; Terranova – Grady; Caplinger – Grady; DiLego – Grady; Bergeron – Grady; Miller – ABSTAINS; Greene – Grady. MOTION to appoint Kimberley Grady Superintendent of Schools for Mount Greylock Regional School District subject to the successful negation of a contract of employment mutually agreeable to the candidate and the school committee and signed by other parties or their designees. VOTE: 6-0-1, Miller Abstains. MOTION PASSES.</p> <p>After the vote the committee briefly discussed the process for the Superintendent contract negotiations; consensus was that the full committee would participate in the negotiations.</p>			
<p>Upcoming Meetings</p>	<p>.Upcoming Meetings</p> <p>A. April 10, 5:30 PM School Building Committee</p> <p>B. April 26, 6 PM Transition Committee</p>			



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Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated within 48 hours of meeting	Al Terranova suggested that he would like to have committee members and staff members within the District report out to the committee when they go to meetings and conferences to give feedback on what they learned.			
Motion to Adjourn	Motion to adjourn at 9:24 PM.	Terranova	DiLego	7-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Jonathan Nopper
Mount Greylock Minutes Recorder

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