



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

Transition Committee Open Session Minutes

Date: June 7, 2018

Start: 6:02 PM

Adjourn: 9:06 PM

Location:

Mount Greylock Library

Williamstown, MA

In Attendance:

| Committee Members: | Also Present: |
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| J. Bergeron D. Caplinger A. Terranova R. DiLego S. Miller C. Greene Absent: C. Dodig | Kim Grady, Interim Superintendent |

| Item | Comments | Motion | Second | Vote |
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| Meeting Called to Order | Open Session called to Order by J. Bergeron at 6:02 PM. | | | |
| Motion to adjourn to Executive Session | Motion to adjourn to Executive Session with intent to return to Open Session per MGL Chapter 30A Section 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel, LES Principal, WES Principal, WES Assistant Principal, MGRS Principal and Superintendent and Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (Teachers and Educational Support Personnel) and litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the Chair so declares. Roll Call Vote: Terranova – AYE, Miller – AYE, Bergeron – AYE, DiLego – AYE, Greene – AYE, Caplinger - AYE | Miller | DiLego | 6-0-0 |



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| | The Committee returned to Open Session at 7:29 PM with 5 members returning to Open Session (Miller absent). | | | |
| Public Comment | <p>Michelle Johnson from Lanesborough stated she still has concerns about next year's fourth grade class size. She was wondering if the positive vote from New Ashford would have an impact on next year's programming or how the committee felt about a class size of 25. She also asked in light of the upcoming town meeting on June 12 in Lanesborough if the assessment to each town was as low as it could be.</p> <p>John Spellman from Williamstown asked the committee how to access meeting documents on the website. John Spellman also wanted to know about the decision making process that goes into the school calendar specific to potentially changing the shortened day at WES on Wednesdays. J. Bergeron explained that this was a point of contract negotiations that are currently ongoing. Mr. Spellman asked if the committee could solicit community feedback regarding the Wednesday early release schedule.</p> | | | |
| Circulate Transportation Warrant for Approval | The latest transportation warrant was circulated for committee approval. | | | |
| Approval of Minutes | May 24, 2018: Motion to accept the minutes of May 24, 2018. Discussion: None. | DiLego | Caplinger | 5-0-0 |
| Report from the Interim Superintendent | <p>MGRS to participate in National Assessment of Educational Progress: Information was provided to the committee in the meeting packet regarding the National Assessment of Educational Progress. MGRS was randomly selected to participate and has participated previously. The assessment will take place between January and March of next year. Teachers and staff at MGRS have been notified and will receive directions as they are received. Updates will be provided to the committee throughout the process.</p> | | | |
| | <p>Acceptance of Gift – Alice Shaver Foundation: MGRS received \$5,000 from the Alice Shaver Foundation to assist in funding school trips. This is a gift that MGRS receives on an annual basis.</p> <p>MOTION to accept the gift as presented. Discussion: Thank you to the Trustees for making this gift possible. It is greatly appreciated.</p> | DiLego | Caplinger | 5-0-0 |
| | <p>2018-2019 Academic Calendar Discussion: K. Grady presented the proposed academic calendar for the 2018-2019 school year. The start date for PreK and K will be September 10. The start date for grades 1-12+ will be September 6. This proposed calendar was reviewed with Principal Brookner and Principal MacDonald. K. Grady reviewed the calendar in detail. The</p> | <p>MOTION I: Caplinger</p> <p>MOTION II: Terranova</p> | <p>DiLego</p> <p>DiLego</p> | <p>5-0-0</p> <p>1-4-0</p> |



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committee will need to decide if October 8th will be listed as Columbus Day or Indigenous People’s Day. Discussion regarding a potential change to the school calendar in which April break would be eliminated and instead there would be two long weekends with school closed on Monday April 15 and Friday, April 19, 2019. The last day of school would be June 13th with this proposed calendar. K. Grady explained that due to the late start of the school year, the changes were made in order to ensure that the correct number of learning hours could take place despite potential snow days. Some communities have had to make decisions to extend the school day in order to get the required number of days in. The District will continue to explore the possibility of using Blizzard Bags so that some snow days may be declared a school day. The committee decided to delay making a decision on the full-proposed calendar in order to gather feedback from the community on the proposed changes. However, the Interim Superintendent asked the committee vote to approve the start of school for PreK and K. **Motion** to approve Monday, September 10, 2018 as the start date for PreK and K for the 18-19 school year. Discussion: None. The committee noted that any public feedback regarding the full calendar could be submitted to the District Office Manager, Jonathan Nopper, at jnopper@mgrhs.org. **MOTION** to accept the 2018-2019 school calendar as presented. Discussion: The committee discussed waiting a week until the next Transition Committee meeting, which will allow the public to give their feedback to the District office for dissemination to the full committee prior to the next meeting. **MOTION FAILS.**



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District Office & MG 12-month employee move update: As of 2:00 PM on June 25, 2018, MGRS will be closed. School and District office personnel will be reachable at Williamstown Elementary School. Mail will go to 115 Church Street. Some personnel will be at LES. The Superintendent will split time between the elementary schools and will have a space at Williamstown Town Hall for confidential meetings. J. Bergeron spoke regarding a space in the Williamstown town library that could potentially be a space for District Office. Currently this option is being explored to determine if it is a feasible option. K. Grady commented that there is also space in the basement of the library that is fire-rated and could be used for storage needs. K. Grady recommends that the committee send a letter to secure this basement space for storage. The Friends of the Library have used both of these spaces. Dr. Michael Sussman spoke to the committee on behalf of the Friends of the Library regarding the spaces at the library, and how they are currently used, and he spoke regarding access; typically, permission will need to be sought from the library before accessing the space. Consensus from the committee that a letter can be sent to determine if the basement space can be used for storage. J. Bergeron went on to discuss the details of continuing to explore the space at the library for District office and what the potential next steps would look like and who it would involve.

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| <p>Lanesborough Elementary Principal Employment Contract: K. Grady is recommending Michelle Pete for hire as the next Lanesborough Elementary school Principal with an Employment Agreement for a term of three years. Ms. Pete has been the Assistant Principal in Chicopee, MA in two of their elementary schools. K. Grady gave a recap of the members of the search committee and the search process and is seeking the approval of the committee to finalize and complete the hiring process for the LES Principal by hiring Michelle Pete MOTION to approve. Discussion: Thank you to the search committee for all of your efforts.</p> | Caplinger | DiLego | 5-0-0 |
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Director of Pupil Services Update: K. Grady stated that some additional candidates may be available to be interviewed. The search committee is working hard and we may have a candidate to bring forward by the next meeting.

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| <p>FY19 Budget Discussion & Update:</p> | <p>New Ashford Budget Vote Impact: Both Hancock and New Ashford voted to approve their budgets. New Ashford voted to pass their Proposition 2 ½ override. This means that we should hopefully receive a signed Tuition agreement from them</p> | | | |
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| | <p>shortly. J. Bergeron discussed details relating to a recent Lanesborough Town Finance Committee meeting as it relates to the budget. The Town Finance Committee will move that a budget be approved that is \$112,000.00 less than the amount that they were assessed. This amount correlates with the tuition revenue that would be brought into LES from nine students. J. Bergeron recapped discussions that went into the decision-making during the budget process where the District's finance and transition committee decided to err on the side of caution when it came to tuition revenue. Currently, the tuition revenue, in the District's budget as it was assessed to the Town, would help to offset spending from the school choice accounts. J. Bergeron also explained that information in the Lanesborough Town Annual report is incorrect as it relates to assessed amount being requested from the Town by the District. As of right now, the RSD budget amount that will be voted on at Lanesborough Town Meeting will be \$112,000.00 less than the amount the Town was assessed by the District unless a Town resident makes a motion on the floor of town meeting to change the amount. That motion must be delivered in writing to the Town Moderator as well. Committee consensus is to make an amendment on the floor of town meeting so that the number voted on matches the number assessed to the Town (which is a -.86 assessment).</p> | | | |
| Tuition Agreements | No updates at this time. | None | None | N/A |
| Building Project Update | <p>Schedule Progress: In the packet was an update on progress as well as a 30-day outlook. Also, there is information on what is needed to clear the building areas for Temporary Certificates of Occupancy. K. Grady reviewed the packet items and</p> | Greene | Caplinger | 5-0-0 |



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| | <p>discussed the involvement of local authorities as it relates to clearing the building inspections and making progress toward opening the new building on time and the confidence level for moving forward with demo and abatement of the old building. Based on the current progress and schedule, we are confident that a temporary certificate of occupancy will be issued by mid-August. C. Greene and A. Terranova added to this discussion based on their participation at the School Building Committee. The project remains on budget at this time. The next SBC meeting will be on July 12th.</p> <p>Construction Team Update: MOTION to amend the slate, which includes Howard Mynard as Project Representative.</p> | | | |
| <p>Announcements / Upcoming Events of Interest</p> | <p>All Terranova spoke with the Lanesborough Town Clerk regarding the process of nomination papers – looking to clarify how to determine if an individual is running for a 2-year or 4-year term. Candidates must submit their nomination papers to each Town Clerk for certification of signatures from each Town. J. Bergeron will follow up on this and email the information out to the Town Clerks, District office, committee members and iBerkshires to make sure everyone has accurate information.</p> | | | |
| <p>Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated within 48 hours of meeting</p> | <p>None</p> | | | |
| <p>Upcoming Meetings</p> | <p>A. July TBD, 5:30 PM, School Building Committee - Location WES Cafeteria B. June 12, Lanesborough Town Meeting C. June 14, 6 PM, Transition Committee D. Williamstown School Committee Final Meeting TBD E. Mount Greylock Regional School Committee Final Meeting June 19, 2018 F. Lanesborough Elementary School Committee Final Meeting June 28, 2018, 6pm</p> | | | |
| <p>Motion to Adjourn</p> | <p>Meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM</p> | <p>Terranova</p> | <p>DiLego</p> | <p>5-0-0</p> |

Respectfully Submitted,
 Jonathan Nopper
 Mount Greylock Minutes Recorder

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