

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
LANESBOROUGH - WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Mount Greylock Regional School Committee
Tuesday, November 2, 2004
6:00 P.M.

The nine hundredth ninetieth meeting of the Mount Greylock Regional School Committee was held on Tuesday, November 2, 2004 in the Bruce R. Carlson Library of the Mount Greylock Regional High School, Williamstown, MA.

Those in attendance were:

Mr. Bradburd	Dr. Piechota	Student Advisory Council
Mr. McHugh	Ms. Mellor	Ms. Strizzi, MGEA Rep
Mr. O'Brien	Ms. Kaiser	Ms. DeSomma
Mr. Petricca	Ms. Manners	Ms. Murray
Mr. Tinkham		Mr. Livernois
Ms. White		Community Members
		Mr. Dushaney, TV Camera

School Committee Malloy arrived at 7:00 pm.

I. The Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chairman Petricca.

II. Certificate Award

Sarah Hirsch was awarded the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendent's Certificate for Academic Excellence by Dr. Piechota. The certificate is given to the senior student who combines scholarship, leadership, service and character. Sarah displays all of the qualities of a responsible citizen, doing so to an exceptional degree. Sarah has excelled academically while being very active in the National Honor Society, SMILE Club, chorus, band and pit orchestra. Sarah has written her own musical, which she will produce and direct the performance this coming December.

III. Approval of Warrants

IV. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Tinkham and seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the Minutes of the meeting held October 5, 2004, and the Executive Session Minutes of October 5, 2004 as written.

Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Petricca, Mr. Tinkham and Ms. White voted in the affirmative.
Mr. Bradburd and Mr. McHugh abstained.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0-2

It was moved by Mr. Tinkham and seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the Minutes of the meeting held October 10, 2004.

Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Petricca, Mr. Tinkham, and Ms. White voted in the affirmative.
Mr. Bradburd and Mr. McHugh abstained.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0-2

It was moved by Mr. Tinkham and seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the minutes of the meeting held October 18, 2004. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- V. Agenda Requests from Attendees – None
- VI. Agenda Requests from Student Advisory Council – None
- VII. Public Comments – None

A. Accolades – Dr. Piechota

Hats off to:

- . Kim Chapman who retired last week after 34 years of service
- . Junior Classical League who hosted the JCL Celebration
- . Massachusetts Department of Education, which is funding our proposal for \$286,000 to connect the school to a town water line.
- . Middle School teachers and parents who took all seventh and eighth graders on hikes up our namesake, Mt. Greylock
- . The class of 2005, which has completed the first stage of the senior project program
- . Sixty seven high school students who participated in the first of six New England Math League contests
- . Middle School student recognition program called “Penna’s Pride”
- . October 27th Get Acquainted Concert
- . Twenty SMILE Students who dressed in costume and made a Halloween visit to the Williamstown Commons
- . Tom Ostheimer and Tom Murray who organized a Mock Election held on October 28th
- . The senior class who staged an outstanding homecoming dance in the gymnasium for close to 300 students
- . Our fall athletic teams, who distinguished themselves with their competitiveness and sportsmanship. Our soccer teams and cross country teams are entering tournament play.
- . Thank you to Thomas McHugh who has served eight years on the Mt. Greylock Regional School Committee, and Ralph Bradburd serving six year. Both are leaving the Committee.

- B. The Regional School Committee wished to go on record as being in support of the town water line being extended along Route 7 as far as the high school.

It was moved by Mr. Bradburd and seconded by Mr. Tinkham to put the Mount Greylock Regional School Committee on record that the best alternative to get water to the high school was in favor of the water line being extended along Route 7 as far as the high school.

Mr. Bradburd, Mr. McHugh, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Petricca, and Mr. Tinkham voted in the affirmative.

Ms. White abstained

MOTION CARRIED 5-0-1

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C. Department Reports

- A. Strengths and needs of the Visual Arts Department – Jane-Ellen DeSomma
 - . Printmaking and painting courses offered last two years
 - . Curriculum
 - . More students want to take Art – can't fit in to their schedule
 - . Combined classes are difficult
 - . Slide Presentations – slide library antiquated
 - . Monitors connected to the computer
 - . Need longer teaching periods
 - . Time needed to set up and clean up – not much time to paint
 - . Would like a larger space for classes
 - . Need of more storage areas

- B. Strengths and needs of the World Language Department – Susan Murray
 - . Purposes of studying a foreign Language
 - . Two new Spanish teachers, both are MG graduates, they continue to study Spanish and are both fabulous role models for our students
 - . New French teacher and a new .6 FTE Latin teacher
 - . Number of MG students studying languages is very high
 - . MG Graduates report great success at the college level.
 - . Need language lab facilities
 - . New French textbooks, present one very outdated
 - . Must offer French 1 and Latin 1 to high school students
 - . Need time and money for professional development specific to languages

- C. Strengths and needs of the Wellness Department – David Livernois
 - . Students take PE every day
 - . Length of units
 - . Developmentally sound scheduling of grades
 - . Bleachers are in disrepair and create safety issues
 - . Locker rooms – space for changing, especially the girls; no shower space for girls; secure areas for student clothes and valuables
 - . Security of entire gym area during the day as well as after school and weekends
 - . Budget is insufficient, losing ability to maintain curriculum
 - . Class sizes
 - . Student – teacher ratios

- D. Class Size/Teacher Load Report
 - . We have lost 36 students from October 1, 2003; 7 students to BarT School; 20 went to private school (10 more than usual) and 14 students to McCann (9 more than usual)
 - . Middle School class size is large – high school classes relatively small
 - . Number of School Choice students
 - . Number of students in Orchestra
 - . Numbers of students in Chorus and Band

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- . SAT scores
- . Number of preps
- . Science Labs – chemistry labs at Williams College
- . Honors courses
- . AP Courses

VIII. Questions and Suggestions

- . Jazz Band

IX. Financial Report – None

X. Reports – None

XI. Discussion Item – None

XII. Action Items

A. School Committee Goals

- . #3 – Take steps in planning building renovations
- . Look at finances for building renovations
- . Water for sprinklers
- . Bond Issue
- . State Requirements

It was moved by Mr. Tinkham and seconded by Mr. McHugh to approve the School Committee goals for 2004/2005 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Acceptance of Grant

It was moved by Mr. Tinkham and seconded by Mr. O'Brien to accept a grant of \$286,000 from the Foundation Reserve . This grant would finance a water line of 1,500 feet across school property to connect to the town water line, if accepted at Town Meeting, and install the necessary interior piping modification.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Dr. Piechota asked for Grant Endorsement from the Committee for a grant we are seeking of \$3,745 from the Mass Foundation for the Humanities to fund an 8th grade field trip to the Lowell Historic Park; and we are seeking \$27,500 from the Braitmayer Foundation to provide additional support for the senior project program.

C. Masters Degree Approval

It was moved by Mr. Tinkham and seconded by Ms. White to approve the Masters Degree earned by Jacqueline Fisher from Western New England College, effective February 1, 2005.

D. Fuel Oil Bid

It was moved by Mr. Tinkham and seconded by Mr. O'Brien to accept the Fuel Oil Bid from Sprague Energy of 1.3197 fixed price per gallon, delivered. Our current supplier, Sprague Energy is the lowest responsible and responsive bidder for option A and option B.

XIII. Other Business – None

XIV. Administrative Reports – None

- XV. School Committee Comments and Observations – Mr. Tinkham
- . Lanesborough received a Department of Education Grant of \$15,000
 - . Feasibility study for K-12 regionalization
 - . Put a hold on a superintendent search for Mount Greylock?
 - . Study could take a few years to complete

XVI. Time, Place and Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Mount Greylock Regional School Committee will be held Tuesday, November 16, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bruce R. Carlson Library of the Mount Greylock Regional High School, 1781 Cold Spring Road, Williamstown, MA 01267.

XVII. Executive Session – None

XVIII. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. McHugh and seconded by Mr. Bradburd to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mark M. Piechota
District Secretary

Joan U. Manners
District Recorder