

Mount Greylock Regional School District School Committee

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Time: 2:30 pm

Location: Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, the public will not be allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting.

You can watch live on MGRSD YouTube Channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLR0nrLhpZHyPFUhaMxPSg> or watch the TV broadcast on Willinet TV channel 1302 in Williamstown.

Open and Executive Session Agenda

- I. Call to order
- II. Motion to move into **Executive Session** with intent to return to Open Session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2) to conduct collective bargaining session with the collective bargaining unit (Mount Greylock Education Association)
- III. MISSION: At Mount Greylock Regional School District, our mission is to create a community of learners working together in a safe and challenging learning environment that encourages restorative based processes, respect, inclusive diversity, courtesy, integrity and responsibility through high expectations and cooperation resulting in life-long learning and personal growth.
- IV. Public Comment -members of the public are invited to address the Committee at this time. Issues raised will normally be referred to the administration or a sub-committee of the School Committee. In the interest of time, we ask that you limit your comments to 3 minutes. Public Comments will be taken via phone, please use 413-652-5767
- V. Discussion of MOA **VOTE**
- VI. Approval of minutes **VOTE**
 - A. March 31, 2020
- VII. Superintendent overview
- VIII. School Calendar 2020-2021 school year **VOTE**
- IX. Reschedule Date for Joint Meeting to fill School Committee Vacancy
- X. Other business not anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of meeting
- XI. Motion to Adjourn



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

School Committee Open Session Minutes

Date: March 31, 2020

Start: 4:47 PM

Adjourn: 4:55 PM

Location:

Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, the public will not be allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting. Please use the following link to join the meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/367092989?pwd=NkFYbDBCaFFWVjRlTGpoK2VLU0JoUT09>

In Attendance:

Committee Members:	Also Present:
C. Conry, Chair A. Carter S. Miller R. DiLego J. Art A. Terranova 1 Vacant Seat at this time <u>Absent:</u>	Kimberley Grady, Superintendent Andrea Wadsworth, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance Nolan Pratt, Principal of LES

do

Item	Comments	Motion	Second	Vote
I. Call to Order	Meeting called to order by C. Conry at 4:47 PM			
II. Mission	At Mount Greylock Regional School District, our mission is to create a community of learners working together in a safe and challenging learning environment that encourages restorative based processes, respect, inclusive diversity, courtesy, integrity and responsibility through high expectations and cooperation resulting in live-long learning and personal growth.			
III. Public Comment	As posted on the agenda: Members of the public were invited to address the Committee at this time. Issues raised will normally be referred to the administration or a sub-committee of the School Committee. In the interest of time, we ask that you limit your comments to 3 minutes. Comments were taken via Zoom chat or through 413-652-5767. No Public Comment			
IV Approval of Minutes (VOTE)	A. March 19, 2020 B. March 25, 2020 (Emergency Meeting) MOTION to approve the minutes from March 19 and March 25, 2020	S. Miller	A. Terranova	6-0-0



Mt. Greylock Regional School District

	as presented by S. Miller, SECONDED by A. Terranova. No Discussion. VOTE: 6-0-0. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.			
V. MOA for Teachers discussion (VOTE)	Negotiations are ongoing. There is no agreement at this time.			
VI. MOA for Paraprofessionals discussion (VOTE)	Negotiations are ongoing. There is no agreement at this time.			
VII. Bus Contract Discussion (VOTE)	J. Art stated there was a discussion with the District's Legal Counsel. Review is taking place regarding the Federal Stimulus legislation to see how that might impact ongoing negotiations with the bus company.			
VIII. Other Business Not Anticipated by the Chair within 48 Hours of Meeting	K. Grady gave a quick administrative update including changes to the Grab & Go Lunch program and delivery process which will be going to a Monday / Wednesday / Friday delivery schedule although the program itself will continue to provide food for five days per week. Zoom chats are taking place daily with Superintendent's office staff. K. Grady has been calling staff personally to check in and feels we are in a good place to move forward on next steps as we continue to work through the closure.			
IX. Motion to adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM	Terranova	R. DiLego	6-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Jonathan Nopper
Mount Greylock Minutes Recorder

Mt Greylock Regional School District

2020-2021

School Year Calendar



August 20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

October 20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

21 days (42)

November 20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

16 days (58)

December 20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

17 days (75)

February 21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

15 days (109)

March 21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

22 days (131)

April 21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

17 days (148)

June 21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

12 days (180)

September 20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

21 days (21)

January 21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

19 days (94)

May 21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

20 days (168)

DRAFT

Important Dates

Aug. 26-27	New Teacher Orientation
Aug. 28-31	PD Days, No School for Students
Sept. 1	First Day for Students (1-12)
Sept. 3	First Day for Students (Pre-K and Kdg)
Sept. 3 & 4	1/2 days for LES and WES Kindergarten
Sept. 7	No School, Labor Day
Oct. 12	No School, State Holiday
Nov. 3	No School, Election Day
Nov. 11	No School, Veterans Day
Nov. 18	1/2 Day LES/WES students only, Parent/teacher conferences
Nov. 25-27	No School, Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 23-Jan. 1	12/23 half day, 12/24-1/1 Winter Break
Jan. 18	No School, Martin Luther King Day
Jan. 19-20	MGRS only, Half Day for Mid-terms
Feb. 15-19	No School, February Break
Mar. 19	PD day, No School for Students
April. 19-23	No School, April Break
May. 31	No School, Memorial Day
June. 12	MGRS Graduation Ceremony
June TBD	MGRS only, Two Half Days for Finals
June. 16	Anticipated Last day, 1/2 day
June. 23	1/2 Last day with 5 snow days

Academic Quarters

Qtr. 1.	Monday, November 2, 2020
Qtr. 2.	Wednesday, January 20, 2021
Qtr. 3.	Friday, April 2, 2021
Qtr. 4.	Wednesday, June 16, 2021
LES	Main Office (413) 443-0027 Office Hours: 8 am - 4 pm
WES	Main Office (413) 458-5707 Office Hours: 8 am - 4 pm
MGRS	Main Office (413) 458-9582 Office Hours: 7 am - 3 pm

KEY:

	Possible Snow Day Make Ups
	Holiday/ No School
	School Break
	Half Days



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906

Telephone: (781) 338-3000
TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

Jeff Wulfson
Acting Commissioner

November 30, 2017

Kimberley Grady, Interim Superintendent
Mt. Greylock Regional School District
1781 Cold Spring Road
Williamstown, MA 01267

Dear Superintendent Grady:

I am pleased to approve the expansion of your regional school district to encompass all grades PreK through 12. The amendment, recently approved by the voters of both towns, will add grades PreK through 6 to the existing 7-12 regional school district. In accordance with CMR 41.03, the effective date of the agreement change will be July 1, 2018.

I am also approving your plan, as outlined in the regional agreement, to have a period of transition from January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018 in order to provide for an orderly conversion to a full PreK-12 regional structure.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and the members of the regional and local school committees and all those within your two communities who worked so hard to make this reorganization possible. If I or any member of this Department can be of assistance to you, please contact us at any time. Congratulations and my best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

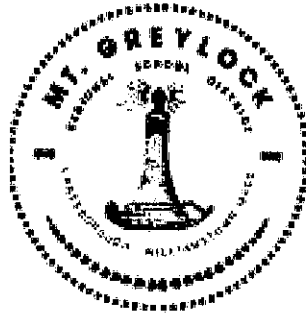
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Wulfson".

Jeff Wulfson
Acting Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

c: Sheila Hebert, Chair, Mt. Greylock School Committee
Regina DiLego, Chair, Lanesborough School Committee
Joe Bergeron, Chair, Williamsburg School Committee
John W. Goerlach, Chair, Lanesborough Board of Selectmen
Hugh Daley, Chair, Williamstown Board of Selectmen

A Regional Agreement

The Towns of Lanesborough and Williamstown Massachusetts



The Mount Greylock Regional School District

Formed: 1958
Modified: TBD

REGIONAL DISTRICT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE TOWNS OF
LANESBOROUGH AND WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS
WITH RESPECT TO THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ORIGINALLY FORMED IN 1958

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This AGREEMENT is entered into pursuant to Chapter 71 of the General Laws of Massachusetts between the towns of Lanesborough and Williamstown, hereinafter sometimes referred to as member towns. This Agreement represents the final agreement between the member towns and supersedes all prior agreements and amendments of agreements between the member towns.

SECTION I – TYPE OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The regional school district shall be called the Mount Greylock Regional School District (herein District) and shall consist of grades pre-kindergarten through twelve, inclusive. The regional district school committee (herein Committee) is hereby authorized, in its discretion, to establish and maintain state-aided vocational education in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 74 of the General Laws of Massachusetts.

SECTION II – LOCATION OF REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOLS

- A. The District schools shall be the Mount Greylock Regional High School located in Williamstown; the Williamstown Elementary School located in Williamstown; and the Lanesborough Elementary School located in Lanesborough.
- B. Any new schools constructed within the district shall be located at a site or sites determined by the Committee. In order to close any school within the District, the process contained in Section XII – Amendments must be followed. In the event that a new school building is being constructed to replace one of the current buildings, an amendment to the Regional Agreement is not required.

SECTION III – LEASE OF SCHOOLS IN MEMBER TOWNS

- A. The Town of Williamstown is hereby authorized to lease to the District all the premises and the building presently known as the Williamstown Elementary School. The Town of Lanesborough is hereby authorized to lease to the District all the premises and the building presently known as the Lanesborough Elementary School. Each of the leases authorized above shall be for a term of twenty years and the term shall commence on the date when the Committee assumes jurisdiction over the pupils in the elementary schools. Each of the leases shall contain a provision or provisions for the extension of the term thereof for an additional term not in excess of twenty years, renewable at any time during the term, at the option of the Committee. Each of the towns of Williamstown and Lanesborough shall separately charge the District rent in the amount of \$1.00 for each fiscal year commencing with the fiscal year next following the year in which the Committee assumes jurisdiction of the pupils in pre-kindergarten through grade six.
- B. Each of the leases shall contain provisions for shared use of the building with the Town for Town events and/or Town sanctioned events with priority being given to school events; and provisions authorizing the regional school district to insure the building, and make emergency repairs, and ordinary repairs, as required. Plans to improve, alter or remodel the leased buildings will be subject to negotiations between the Committee and the building owner-of-record Town. The District will only be responsible for ordinary

repairs up to \$5,000 for each separate repair. The Town that owns the building will be responsible for any additional amount beyond \$5,000, and will be assessed said amount through the process contained in Section VIII.

- C. Each of the leases shall contain provisions for the local town to provide mowing, landscaping and snow removal services to the outdoor property of the leased buildings, with insurance for those services covered by the local town.
- D. Outstanding bond issue for the Williamstown Elementary School is the responsibility of the Town of Williamstown. Outstanding bond issue for the Lanesborough Elementary School is the responsibility of the Town of Lanesborough.

SECTION IV – PUPILS

- A. Pupils Entitled to Attend the Regional School District
 - 1. The District shall accept all children who reside in the District.
 - 2. Students legally entitled to attend a pre-school program pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws shall have the right to attend the program in their town of residence. Children in grades kindergarten through six shall have the right to attend schools in their town of residence. Should parents/guardians of children in grades kindergarten through six wish to send their children to schools not in their town of residence (but within the District), intra-district choice may be made available contingent upon consistent with District policy. Intra-district choice requests shall be considered prior to allowing inter-district choice requests. The District policy will address the location of special education programs. Damage to the school building which would make a facility unusable for intended purposes would be the circumstance under which the Committee would make an exception under the process outlined in subsection 3.
 - 3. Additional exceptions may be made for specialized educational programs on the recommendation of the Superintendent and by majority vote of the Committee.
- B. Vocational and Trade School Pupils
 - 1. Any pupil residing in a member town who is desirous of attending a trade or vocational school outside the District shall have all the privileges of attending such a school as are now or may be hereafter provided for by law and the cost of tuition for attending such a school and the cost of transportation, when necessary, shall be borne by the member town wherein the student resides.
- C. Admission of Pupils Residing Outside the District
 - 1. The Committee may accept for enrollment in the District pupils from towns other than the member towns on a tuition basis and upon such terms as it may determine.

SECTION V – THE REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

- A. Composition

The powers and duties of the District shall be vested in and exercised by a District committee (herein Committee). The Committee shall consist of seven members, four (4) who are to be residents of the Town of Williamstown and three (3) who are to be residents of the Town of Lanesborough.

B. Transition Period: A transition period will be in place during January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018.

1. Appointment and Organization of the Transition Committee: Effective January 1, 2018, a seven (7) member Regional Transition School Committee, (herein Transition Committee) will be established. The Chair of the Mount Greylock Regional School Committee shall appoint four (4) members from its own membership with two (2) members from Williamstown and two (2) members from Lanesborough. The Chair of the Williamstown School Committee shall appoint two (2) members from its own membership, and the Chair of Lanesborough School Committee shall appoint one (1) member from its own membership.
 - a. The Superintendent will post and call to order the first meeting of the Transition Committee at which time the Transition Committee will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. At the same meeting or at any other meeting, the Committee shall appoint a Treasurer and a Secretary who may be the same person but who need not be members of the Transition Committee. The Committee shall fix the time, place for its regular meetings, and provide for the calling of special meetings.
 - b. Each member of the Transition Committee will have one (1) vote, which shall not be weighted.
 - c. Any vacancies during the Transition Period will be filled in accordance with Section V(D).
2. Powers of the Transition Committee
 - a. During the Transition Period the Transition Committee shall possess all powers, subject to the availability of funds necessary for the exercise of such powers, necessary for the planning and implementation of the pre-K-12 District to be effective July 1, 2018, including but not limited to the following:
 - b. The power to receive funds from the Commonwealth as well as appropriations, grants, and gifts from other sources. This is not intended to alter the fact that during the Transition Period other funds from the Commonwealth will continue to flow to the member towns and their individual school departments.
 - c. The power to establish and adopt policies for the District.
 - d. The power to employ a Superintendent, Treasurer, Business Manager and Director of Pupil Personnel Services, as well as the power to authorize the Superintendent to employ other personnel as needed.
 - e. The power to contract for and/or purchase goods and services, as well as the power to enter into leases and other agreements with the member towns, collaboratives, vendors, and other agencies and parties, with all of these powers being able to be exercised on behalf of the District.
 - f. The power to adopt budgets for the District for the Transition Period and for the first year of the District, and to assess the member towns for these budgets.
 - g. The power to negotiate and to enter into collective bargaining agreements, which will take effect no sooner than the inception of the District.

- h. The power to appoint a Regional School Building Committee.
 - i. The power to develop and adopt a strategic plan for the District.
 - j. The power to appoint subcommittees.
 - k. The responsibility for transportation for the regular education students pre-K through 12 commencing January 1, 2018.
 - l. The power to determine a name and logo for the District.
 - m. All the powers and duties conferred by law upon school committees in accordance with Chapter 71, Section 16.
3. With the exception of transportation, the Transition Committee's authority as described above relates to matters which are to be effective July 1, 2018. The current 7-12 District Committee, Lanesborough Committee, and Williamstown Committee will continue to make decisions for their respective schools in regard to matters that are effective prior to June 30, 2018. Effective July 1, 2018 and until the next biennial state elections, the Transition Committee will exclusively make all decisions related to the District.
 4. The Transition Committee members will serve until the next biennial state election, and will assume full jurisdiction over the pre-K-12 District effective July 1, 2018.

C. Elections

At the first biennial election after July 1, 2018, all seats on the Transition Committee shall be considered vacant. Two (2) of the Williamstown vacancies will be for a four (4) year term, and two (2) of the vacancies will be for a two (2) year term. Two of the Lanesborough vacancies will be for a four (4) year term, and one (1) of the vacancies will be for a two (2) year term. Thereafter, all positions will be for a four (4) year term. The members shall be sworn in the next business day after the biennial state election.

Thereafter, at the biennial state elections as the term of office of the members expire, there shall be elected the required number of Committee members who are residents of the appropriate town to serve for a term of four (4) years and thereafter until their respective successors have been duly elected and qualified pursuant to M.G.L. c. 71, § 14E(3), which provides for electing members with residency requirements in district-wide elections. Each elected member shall have one (1) vote, which shall not be weighted.

D. Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs among the Committee members elected under Section V(C) or appointed under Section V(B)(1), the selectmen from both Lanesborough and Williamstown will meet together at the Mount Greylock Regional School within thirty (30) calendar days with the remaining Committee members to fill such vacancy by roll call vote. A majority of the votes of the elected officials entitled to vote shall be necessary to such election. The newly appointed Committee member will serve until the next biennial state election, at which election a successor shall be elected to serve for the

balance of the unexpired term, if any. This joint meeting will be chaired by the town moderator of the town of residence for the new appointee, and the joint meeting's chairperson will vote only to resolve tied votes.

E. Organization

The Committee shall organize and elect a chairperson and a vice chairperson from its own membership annually at the first committee meeting to be held within thirty (30) calendar days after the second Tuesday of November. At that same meeting or at any other meeting, the Committee shall appoint a treasurer and a secretary who may be the same person but who need not be members of the Committee, choose such other officers as it deems advisable, determine the terms of office of its officers (except the chairperson and the vice chairperson who shall be elected annually as provided above) and prescribe the powers and duties of any of its officers, fix the time and place for its regular meetings, and provide for the calling of special meetings.

F. Powers and Duties

The Committee shall have all the powers and duties conferred and imposed upon school committees by law and conferred and imposed upon it by this agreement, and such other additional powers and duties as are specified in §§ 16 and 16I, inclusive, of Chapter 71 of the General Laws and any amendments thereof or additions thereto, now or hereafter enacted, or as may be specified in any other general law or in any applicable special law.

G. Quorum

The quorum for the transaction of business shall be a majority of the full membership of the Committee with at least one Committee member present from each member town, except a number less than a majority may adjourn the meeting.

H. Reports

The Committee shall submit an annual report to each of the member towns, containing a detailed financial statement, and a statement showing the method by which the annual charges assessed against each member town were computed, together with such additional information relating to the operation and maintenance of the District schools as may be deemed necessary by the Committee or by the selectboard of any member town. This report shall be submitted in sufficient time to be included in the annual town reports of the member towns.

SECTION VI – TRANSPORTATION

A. The District shall provide school transportation and the cost thereof shall be apportioned to the member towns as an operating cost.

B. The member towns are hereby authorized to transfer without cost to the District any school transportation vehicles or equipment, owned by the member towns that the Committee may require for the purpose of operating and maintaining the schools.

C. During the Transition period, the Transition Committee will be responsible for regular transportation for district students according to Chapter 71, Section 16C.

SECTION VII – BUDGET

A. Tentative Maintenance and Operating Budget

The principal of each school building shall submit to the Superintendent and the Committee a proposed budget for such school. Each such school building budget shall be prepared with the participation of a school council established as required by M.G.L. c. 71 sec. 59C. The principal shall certify to the Superintendent that such school council is established as required by M.G.L. c. 71, sec. 59C, that the council has participated in the preparation of the school building budget and that the budget is necessary and appropriate to implement the school improvement plan prepared pursuant to M.G.L. c. 71, sec. 59C and the curriculum accommodation plan required by M.G.L. c. 71, sec. 38Q1/2 and any other applicable requirements. The Committee shall consider the submitted proposed school building budgets in its preparation of a draft district budget and shall not act upon a draft district budget until it has considered input from the school councils, school principals, the Superintendent and the public at a public meeting or regularly scheduled Committee meeting.

The said budget shall be in reasonable detail, including the amounts payable under the following classifications of expenses or such other reasonable detailed classifications as the Committee may determine to be necessary.

1. Administration
2. Instruction
3. Other School Services
4. Operation and Maintenance of Plant
5. Fixed Charges
6. Community Services
7. Acquisition of Fixed Assets
8. Debt Service and Debt Retirement
9. Programs with Other Districts

Copies of such tentative budget shall be mailed to the chairperson of the finance committee of each member town, within seven days from the time said tentative budget has been prepared and tentatively approved by the Committee.

B. Final Maintenance and Operating Budget

Not later than forty-five (45) days prior to the first annual town meeting among the member towns, the Committee shall in each year adopt a maintenance and operating budget for the ensuing fiscal year, said budget to include debt and interest charges and any other current capital costs and shall apportion the amounts necessary to be raised in order to meet the said budget in accordance with the provisions of Section VIII. The amounts also apportioned for each member town shall, prior to thirty (30) days after the

adoption of said budget preceding the fiscal year to which said budget relates, be certified by the District treasurer to the treasurers of the member towns and each member town shall appropriate the amounts so certified to it by a two-thirds vote of the member towns.

- C. In the event that any member town has its town meeting after May 15 of any year, then the Committee shall consider A. and B. in Section VII as if said meeting was to be held on May 14.

SECTION VIII – APPORTIONMENT AND PAYMENT OF COSTS INCURRED BY THE DISTRICT

A. For the purpose of apportioning assessments, costs shall be divided into two categories: capital costs and operating costs.

B. Capital costs shall include all expenses in the nature of capital outlay such as the cost of acquiring land, the cost of constructing, restructuring, and adding to buildings, and the cost of remodeling or making extraordinary repairs to a school building or buildings, including without limitation the costs of the original equipment and furnishings for such buildings or additions, plans, architects' and consultants' fees, grading and other costs incidental to placing school buildings and additions and related premises in operating condition. Capital costs shall also include payment of principal of and interest on bonds, notes or other obligations issued by the District to finance capital costs.

C. Operating costs shall include all costs not included in capital costs as defined in Section VIII B. but including interest on temporary notes issued by the District in anticipation of revenue. School transportation shall be provided to and from the district schools by the District for all resident eligible students as provided by law, and the cost thereof shall be apportioned to the member towns as an operating cost.

D. Apportionment of Capital Costs

1. Grades 7-12

Capital costs shall be apportioned by using each of the member town's equalized valuations and each of the member town's resident pupil enrollment in the District schools serving grades 7-12. Each town's share of the capital cost is determined by adding together the ratio that its equalized valuation bears to the total equalized valuations of all the member towns and the ratio that its resident pupil enrollment in the District schools serving grades 7-12 bears to the total resident pupil enrollments in grades 7-12 of all the member towns in the District schools and dividing this sum by two. For all capital costs consisting of the payment of principal of and interest on bonds, notes and other obligations issued to finance such capital costs, this ratio shall be calculated annually and shall be based upon the five (5) year rolling average of each of the member town's equalized valuations and the five (5) year rolling average of each of the member town's resident pupil enrollment in the District schools serving

grades 7-12 during the period in which such bonds, notes or other obligations are outstanding. For the purpose of this Section VIII D, equalized valuation shall mean the valuation of the towns as determined by the General Court for the purpose of establishing the basis of apportionment of state and county taxes (Chapter 559 of the Acts of 1945) or any such later equalized valuation enacted by the General Court; and resident pupil enrollment shall mean each member town's resident pupil enrollment in the District schools serving grades 7-12 on October 1.

2. Grades Pre-K-6

Capital costs related to District schools serving grades pre-K-6 shall be apportioned to the member town where the building is located.

E. Apportionment of Operating Costs

The District shall apportion operating via the following process:

1. Each member will be assigned the minimum required local contribution to the District as determined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
2. Each member's share of that portion of the District's operating costs that exceeds the total required local contribution for all members is allocated via the following series of calculations:
 - a. The District budget will be separated into three parts: a Lanesborough Elementary School building budget, a Williamstown Elementary School building budget and a Mount Greylock School building budget. Each building's budget will be considered net of Chapter 70 Aid, Regional Transportation Aid, Grants and other District funds as apportioned by the District per Section VIII E. 3. – Apportionment of Funds/Revenue.
 - b. The District's Foundation Enrollment as reported to the state for the purpose of determining Chapter 70 for the given fiscal year will be segmented by town and age group (PreK-6 and 7-12).
 - c. An above minimum required local contribution for each building will be calculated by subtracting the building's portion of the minimum required local contribution from the building's budget as presented in (a.) above. The building's portion of the minimum local required contribution will be calculated as follows:
 - i. Each elementary school's portion of the minimum required local contribution will be determined by the member town's minimum required local contribution multiplied by the town's PreK-6 Foundation Enrollment divided by the town's total Foundation Enrollment.
 - ii. Mount Greylock School's portion of the member towns' minimum required local contribution will be determined by calculating the sum of: each member town's minimum required local contribution multiplied by the town's 7-12 Foundation Enrollment divided by the town's total Foundation Enrollment.

- d. The above minimum required local contribution for each building will be apportioned as follows:
 - i. Each member town will be apportioned 100% of its local elementary school building's above minimum required local contribution.
 - ii. Each member town will be apportioned a percentage of Mount Greylock School's above minimum required local contribution as determined by each town's average ratio of pupil enrollment in grades seven through twelve for the preceding five years. Each town's ratio of pupil enrollment shall mean the ratio that each member town's pupil enrollment in grades seven through twelve bears to the total pupil enrollment in grades seven through twelve of all the member towns in grades seven through twelve for that year on October 1. Average ratio of pupil enrollment shall mean the average of the annual ratios for each member town over the preceding five years.
 - e. Each member's minimum required local contribution shall be added to its total above minimum required local contribution to determine its Annual Operating Assessment.
 - f. In the event of a district-wide meeting, the operating assessment will be calculated in accordance with the statutory method. Each member town will be required to meet its minimum local contribution. Any above minimum contribution required to meet the budget approved by the school committee will be apportioned to each member town consistent with the percentage of the above minimum contribution from each town in the most recent fiscal year. In the event that a district-wide vote occurs in preparation for the first fiscal year of this amended regional agreement, Lanesborough will be allocated 40.5% and Williamstown 59.5% of the above minimum contribution.
3. Apportionment of Funds/Revenue:
- a. Chapter 70 Aid and Regional Transportation Aid will each be applied to each school's budget according to the formula supplied in Appendix I.
 - b. All grant and all other District funds shall be apportioned to school budgets by the District at the District's discretion.

F. Times of Payment of Apportioned Costs

Each member town shall pay to the District in each year its proportionate share, certified as provided in Section VIII, of the capital and operating costs. Except as otherwise provided in Section VIII, the annual share of each member town shall be paid in such amounts and at such times that at least the following percentages of such annual share shall be paid on or before the dates indicated, respectively:

Lanesborough

Jul 31	10%
Aug 31	20%

Sep 30	30%
Oct 31	40%
Nov 30	50%
Dec 31	60%
Jan 31	70%
Feb 28	80%
Mar 31	90%
Apr 30	100%

Williamstown

Sep 1	25%
Dec 1	50%
Mar 1	75%
Jun 1	100%

SECTION IX – INCURRING OF DEBT

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 71, § 16(d), not later than seven (7) days after the date on which the Committee authorizes the incurring of debt, other than temporary debt in anticipation of revenue to be received from member towns, written notice of the date of said authorization, the sum authorized, and the general purpose or purposes for authorizing such debt, shall be given to the board of selectmen in each member town.

SECTION X – ADMISSION OF ADDITIONAL TOWNS TO THE DISTRICT

By an amendment of this agreement adopted under and in accordance with Section XII below, any other town or towns may be admitted to the District upon adoption as therein provided of such amendment and upon acceptance by the town or towns seeking admission of the agreement as so amended and also upon compliance with such provisions of law as may be applicable and such terms as may be set forth in such an amendment. The admission of an additional town may only occur on July 1 of any given year. The petitioning town must notify the District at least twelve (12) months prior to the requested admission date.

SECTION XI – WITHDRAWAL

A. Limitations

The withdrawal of a member town from the District may be affected by an amendment to this agreement in the manner hereinafter provided by this Section. Any member town seeking to withdraw shall, by vote at an annual or special town meeting, request the Committee to draw up an amendment to this agreement setting forth the terms by which such towns may withdraw from the District, provided (1) that the town seeking to withdraw shall remain liable for any unpaid operating costs which have been certified by

the district treasurer to the treasurer of the withdrawing town, including the full amount so certified for the year in which such withdrawal takes effect and (2) that the said town shall remain liable to the District for its share of the indebtedness including, but not limited to, Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) and/or pension liabilities of the District outstanding at the time of such withdrawal, and for interest thereon, to the same extent and in the same manner as though the town had not withdrawn from the District, except that such liability shall be reduced by any amount which such town has paid over at the time of withdrawal and which has been applied to the payment of such indebtedness.

B. Procedure

The clerk of the town seeking to withdraw shall notify the Committee in writing at least twelve (12) months in advance of the requested withdrawal date that such town has voted to request the Committee to draw up an amendment to the agreement (enclosing a certified copy of such vote.) Thereupon, the Committee shall draw up an amendment to the agreement setting forth such terms of withdrawal as it deems advisable, subject to the limitation contained in Section XI A. The secretary of the Committee shall mail or deliver a notice in writing to the board of selectmen of each member town that the Committee has drawn up an amendment to the agreement providing for the withdrawal of a member town (enclosing a copy of such amendment.) The selectmen of each member town shall include in the warrant for the next annual or a special town meeting called for the purpose an article stating the amendment or the substance thereof. Such amendment shall take effect upon its acceptance by all member towns, acceptance by each town to be by a majority vote at a town meeting as aforesaid, and subject to the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education's (herein Commissioner) approval. Any withdrawal may only take place at the end of a fiscal year.

C. Cessation of Terms of Office of Withdrawing Town's Members

Upon the effective date of withdrawal, the terms of office of all members serving on the regional district school committee from the withdrawing town shall terminate and the total membership of the Committee shall be decreased accordingly.

D. Money received by the District from the withdrawing town for payment of funded indebtedness and interest thereon shall be used only for such purpose and until so used shall be deposited in trust in the name of the District with a Massachusetts bank or trust company having a combined capital and surplus of at least \$5,000,000.

SECTION XII – AMENDMENTS

A. Limitation

This agreement may be amended from time to time in the manner hereinafter provided, but no amendment shall be made which shall substantially impair the rights of the holders of any bonds or notes or other evidences of indebtedness of the District then outstanding, or the rights of the District to procure the means for payment thereof, provided that

nothing in this Section shall prevent the admission of a new town or towns to the District and the reapportionment accordingly of capital costs of the District represented by bonds or notes of the District then outstanding and of interest thereon.

B. Procedure

Any proposal for amendment, except a proposal for amendment providing for the withdrawal of a member town (which shall be acted upon as provided in Section XI), may be initiated by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the Committee or by a petition signed by 10% of the registered voters of any one of the member towns. In the latter case, said petition shall contain at the end thereof a certification by the town clerk of such member town as to the number of registered voters in said town according to the most recent voting list and the number of signatures on the petition which appear to be the names of registered voters of said town and said petition shall be presented to the secretary of the Committee. In either case, the secretary of the Committee shall mail or deliver a notice in writing to the board of selectmen of each of the member towns that a proposal to amend this agreement has been made and shall enclose a copy of such proposal and amendment (without the signatures in the case of a proposal by petition.) The selectmen of each member town shall include in the warrant for the next annual or a special town meeting called for the purpose an article stating the proposal and amendment. Such amendment shall take effect upon its acceptance by all of the member towns, acceptance by each town to be a majority vote at a town meeting as aforesaid, and subject to the Commissioner's approval.

All amendments to this regional agreement must be presented to the Commissioner in a timely manner prior to scheduled town votes. All amendments, including an amendment to add a new member town or to provide for the withdrawal of an existing member town, are subject to the approval of the Commissioner after the member towns' approval. A new member town may be admitted to, or an existing member town may withdraw from, the District as of July 1 of any fiscal year, provided that all requisite approvals for such admission or withdrawal, including the Commissioner's approval, shall be obtained no later than the preceding December 31. The authorizing votes may provide for the deferral of said admission or withdrawal until July 1 of a subsequent fiscal year.

SECTION XIII – RETIREE COSTS

For those employees who retired from the the Town of Lanesborough or the Town of Williamstown prior to the effective date of this agreement, the employer's share of the applicable retiree health insurance premiums and pension will be paid for by the employer of record as of the date of retirement (i.e., the Town of Lanesborough or the Town of Williamstown). If an employee worked for the Lanesborough Elementary School or Williamstown Elementary School prior to the formation of the Pre-K - 12 region and subsequently retirees from the Pre-K – 12 region at a later date, the employer's share of the applicable retiree health insurance premiums and pension will be paid for by the District.

This Agreement was approved at Annual or Special Town Meetings held by:

Town of Lanesborough on the 14th Day of November, 2017

As Certified by the Town Clerk of Lanesborough on this

and the

Town of Williamstown on the 14th Day of November, 2017

As Certified by the Town Clerk of Williamstown on this.

Signed:

Town of Williamstown

Mary Courtney Kennedy
Town Clerk

H D G
Board of Selectmen, Chairperson

Sheila Hebert

Mount Greylock Regional School Committee Chairperson

Jeff Wilson
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Town of Lanesborough

Ruth A. Knapp
Town Clerk

J. S. Gould
Board of Selectmen, Chairperson

11/30/2017
Date

From: [Conry, Christina](#)
To: [Art, James](#); [DiLego, Regina](#); [Carter, Alison](#); [Terranova, Al](#); [Miller, Steven](#)
Cc: [Vigiard, Stacie](#); [Grady, Kimberley](#)
Subject: Fw: meeting to appoint a school committee member
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 6:59:18 PM

Please do not reply all.

Hello,

As of right now, our joint session to vote for the open School Committee member position in Williamstown, has been delayed. Please see below for further information as submitted by the Lanesborough Town Manager.

I've been working to try and resolve this, but we seem to be at a standstill as of right now. I'm continuing to reach out to the Town of Lanesborough to find a mutually agreed upon date/time for this important vote. I've been seeking guidance from counsel, as well as MASC and have additional calls scheduled for tomorrow.

This is a regrettable situation to be in during this time in which we should be focused purely on the health and well being of our students.

My apologies for any inconvenience this has caused in your schedules.

Sincerely,

Christina Conry
cconry@mgrhs.org

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lanesborough Town Manager** <town.manager@lanesborough-ma.gov>
Date: Tue, Mar 31, 2020 at 2:05 PM
Subject: meeting to appoint a school committee member
To: Kim Grady <kgrady@williamstownelementary.org>
Cc: John Goerlach <selectboard.200@lanesborough-ma.gov>, Gordon Hubbard <selectmanhubbard@gmail.com>, Henry Sayers <selectboard.300@lanesborough-ma.gov>

Dear Superintendent Grady,

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Lanesborough respectfully decline your request to attend a School Committee meeting to appoint a new member to the that Committee.

The current mandate of the Commonwealth is to cease activities that are not crucial to Essential Functions as outlined in Governor Bakers emergency order, last updated on March 23, 2020. This mandate does not include appointing members to committees. Further

evidence of this being non-essential is demonstrated by the fact the Legislature enacted an emergency law allowing postponement of elections in the Commonwealth. *See Chapter of the Acts 2020, An Act Granting Authority to Postpone 2020 Municipal Elections in the Commonwealth and Increase Voting Options in Response to the Declaration of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19. Enacted and Signed March 23, 2020.*

The Board of Selectmen is busy continuing to perform the work necessary for the Town of Lanesborough within those guidelines, as it's essential function. This is currently not one of those essential functions.

As this is, in no way an essential meeting and in order to comply with the Governor's Order, the Board of Selectmen of Lanesborough request the meeting be postponed until a later date. The Board will attend a future meeting for this purpose when the Governor's Order has been lifted or amended to allow such a meeting.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board of Selectmen of Lanesborough.

Helli A. Robbins Esq.

Town Manager

Lanesborough

Newton Memorial Town Hall
83 N. Main Street, P.O. Box 1492
Lanesborough, MA 01237
(413) 443-5811 [fax]
(413) 442-1167, ext. 21 [telephone]

Local Government is the mechanism we use to make and to carry out community decisions. - Reinventing Government (1992)

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--

Kimberley A. Grady

Superintendent
413-458-9582 x 4009

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Dupere Law Offices

94 North Elm Street, Suite 307
Westfield, Massachusetts 01085
Tel: (413) 562-3300 Fax: (413) 562-3301

Fernand J. Dupere, Esq.
Russell J. Dupere, Esq.
Adam J. Dupere, Esq.
Kimberly M. Roche, Esq.

April 3, 2020

Kim Grady
Superintendent
Mount Greylock Regional School District

RE: Committee Vacancy

Dear Ms. Grady:

It is my understanding that a legal opinion is being requested regarding the filling of a School Committee vacancy under the Regional Agreement.

The Regional Agreement for Mount Greylock Regional School District provides in Section V, D, Vacancies in relevant part:

If a vacancy occurs among the Committee members elected under Section V(C) or appointed under Section V(B)(1), the selectmen from both Lanesborough and Williamstown will meet together at the Mount Greylock Regional School within thirty (30) calendar days with the remaining Committee members to fill such vacancy by roll call vote. A majority of the votes of the elected officials entitled to vote shall be necessary to such election.

The language is clear that the selectmen from both towns and the Mount Greylock Regional School Committee are needed for this meeting. This means there must be a posting by each entity for the meeting, and a quorum for each entity must be present.

It is my understanding that the Town of Lanesborough declined to attend a meeting for this purpose at this time. The Lanesborough Board notes that the current mandate of Commonwealth is to cease activities that are not crucial to Essential Functions as outline in Governor Baker's emergency order. The Board notes they are currently engaged in work necessary for the Town of Lanesborough. The Board notes at the end that the Board will attend a future meeting when the Governor's Order has been lifted or amended.

The Regional Agreement does provide that the Towns and Regional School Committee will meet within 30 calendar days. The Agreement does not provide for what

occurs if there is no such meeting. More specifically, it does not provide that the Town of Williamstown and the Mount Greylock Regional School Committee can decide this issue, if Lanesborough is not available within 30 calendar days.

I would further note that the "majority vote" provision applies only when there is a properly constituted meeting, which cannot occur at this time since all entities are not available for the meeting.

Based on the above, it is my legal opinion that, a meeting cannot occur until a quorum of the Lanesborough Board of Selectmen, the Williamstown Board of Selectmen, and the Mount Greylock Regional School Committee are available to meet. In the interim the seat would remain vacant.

Sincerely,
Fred Dupere, Esq.

From: [Steven J Miller](#)
To: [Conry, Christina](#); [Vigiard, Stacie](#); [Miller, Steven](#)
Subject: special meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 1:03:02 PM

Greetings, just seeing if we have confirmed the date and time for the special meeting of the three boards to fill the vacant seat.

Thanks

From: [Conry, Christina](#)
To: [Miller, Steven](#)
Cc: [Vigiard, Stacie](#)
Subject: Re: special meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 1:15:13 PM

Hi Steven,

We have been informed by the Lanesborough Board of Selectmen, that they decline our request for a joint meeting to appoint a new member to the committee. They indicate the current mandate from the Commonwealth to cease activities that are not crucial to "essential functions" as outlined by Governor Baker.

They have asked to further postpone the meeting for a later date.

I have a call scheduled with Adam today to determine our next steps at this time.
I will communicate next steps with the entire School Committee when I have the details.

Christina Conry
School Committee
cconry@mgrhs.org

From: Steven J Miller <sjm1@williams.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 1:02 PM
To: Conry, Christina; Vigiard, Stacie; Miller, Steven
Subject: special meeting

Greetings, just seeing if we have confirmed the date and time for the special meeting of the three boards to fill the vacant seat.

Thanks

From: [Miller, Steven](#)
To: [Conry, Christina](#); [Miller, Steve-WC](#)
Cc: [Miller, Steven](#); [Vigiard, Stacie](#)
Subject: Re: special meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 1:19:43 PM

To me this is unacceptable

This is giving them not only a pocket veto, but it changes the balance of the committee between the two towns, it violates the spirit of the agreement, and furthermore this is not a hardship -- we have one candidate who is completely qualified.

could you ask adam the following: the way the regional agreement is written do we NEED all three committees to convene, or do we just NEED a majority of eligible voting members to vote for a candidate? If the latter, we can schedule the meeting and they are welcome to come or not come.

On Wed, Apr 1, 2020 at 1:15 PM Conry, Christina <cconry@mgrhs.org> wrote:

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To: [Conry, Christina](#); [Miller, Steve-WC](#)
Cc: [Miller, Steven](#); [Vigiar, Stacie](#)
Subject: Re: special meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 1:27:06 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

actually, took a moment to look at the agreement

https://www.wlschools.org/uploaded/Tri_District/Resources/Tri_District_Documents/Mt_Greylock_approval_letter_and_approved_agreement.pdf

D. Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs among the Committee members elected under Section V(C) or appointed under Section V(B)(1), the selectmen from both Lanesborough and Williamstown will meet together at the Mount Greylock Regional School within thirty (30) calendar days with the remaining Committee members to fill such vacancy by roll call vote. A majority of the votes of the elected officials entitled to vote shall be necessary to such election. The newly appointed Committee member will serve until the next biennial state election, at which election a successor shall be elected to serve for the

6

balance of the unexpired term, if any. This joint meeting will be chaired by the town moderator of the town of residence for the new appointee, and the joint meeting's chairperson will vote only to resolve tied votes.

If the Lanesborough Selectboard does not wish to vote, they are welcome to stay home. I hope they will phone in / zoom in, but the language is clear.

It does NOT say that we need a quorum of each

It is common courtesy to try to get a quorum of each, even better to find a day that works for all.

But if the Lanesborough board does not want to have any input in terms of who represents Williamstown, that is fine.

We have 6 school committee members, 5 select from Williamstown, 3 select from Lanesborough for 14

You need a majority of votes of the number of people ABLE to vote. Thus you need 8 votes (even if you say the school committee should be counted as 7 and not 6, that would only change 14 to 15 and a majority is still 8)

Thus the threshold number of votes needed to confirm a candidate does NOT change just because fewer people are at the meeting

I believe we had this with Jamie -- my recollection was he had a majority of votes but not 8 in the first round, and thus was not elected at that point; in the second round the voting switched and he was elected.

Thus I suggest we set a date that works with the members of the school committee and the Williamstown select board. I suggest we reach out to Lanesborough and ask that they join us, but if they choose not to it is their choice; they do not have the right to prevent us from having a meeting to fill a vacancy, and as I have elaborated on at great length in the past there are many reasons why it would be good to be at full strength.

Thanks

(If needed I might be able to add a bit more details around this, as I was one of the people involved in the drafting of the regional agreement)

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To: Conry, Christina; Vigiard, Stacie; Miller, Steven
Subject: special meeting

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Thanks

From: Conry, Christina
To: Miller, Steven
Cc: Vigliard, Stacie
Subject: Re: special meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 2:08:36 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Hello Steven,

I received your request to go forward with a vote to fill the vacancy without the Lanesborough Board of Selectmen present for the vote. The District has offered remote participation to the Lanesborough Board of Selectmen for the meeting scheduled on April 6th, and they have declined to participate due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor. I've consulted with legal counsel who has advised me that the Regional Agreement requires all three municipal bodies to be present for the vote to fill the School Committee vacancy. For this reason the vote will not go forward on April 6th.

Be well. Sincerely,

Christina Conry
School Committee
cconry@mgrhs.org

From: Miller, Steven <sjm1@williams.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Conry, Christina; Miller, Steve-WC
Cc: Miller, Steven; Vigliard, Stacie
Subject: Re: special meeting

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cconry@mgrhs.org

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To: Conry, Christina; Vigiard, Stacie; Miller, Steven
Subject: special meeting

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Thanks

From: [Steven J Miller](#)
To: [Conry, Christina](#)
Cc: [Miller, Steven](#); [Vigiard, Stacie](#); [Miller, Steve-WC](#)
Subject: Re: special meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 2:15:46 PM

I strongly oppose this

I would like to see the details of legal counsel on this

the regional agreement does NOT state that all three boards must convene

if they wish not to participate that is their choice

we should have the meeting, if they do not come then they do not come

I have had disagreements with counsel in the past which we have taken to the state AG, and they have ruled in my favor

the regional agreement does NOT state all three boards must convene

I feel very strongly on this, and I am not happy with a town board refusing to do their duty

if it would expedite things please have legal counsel talk to me; my cell is 617-835-3982

are the lanesborough board of selectmen meeting for any other reasons? if yes, why can they not meet for this?

also, how did they decide not to participate? did they discuss this at an open meeting? there are only three members of their board; if any two of them talked about it then they have violated open meeting law; I am thus considering inquiring for all correspondence from them and asking the state to investigate. I do not wish to do this, but they are failing to do their duty as elected members.

I thus suggest we have the meeting and make sure 8 members are able to participate, and have a vote. if the lanesborough board joins that is wonderful, but my reading is that it is NOT required that they be present. it is good policy to try to find a time that fits for all, but if they refuse to meet they do NOT have that right.

I apologize for making your life difficult, but I will send an inquiry to the state about their behavior, and to the press, if this is not resolved as I feel strongly about this. If you would like to be point on such emails and coordinate with me, happy to do that.

On a related note, has anyone reached out to Carrie and informed her of the situation? While I can talk to her as she is not on the committee, I have not done so; if no one has called her I am happy to do so.

On Wed, 1 Apr 2020, Conry, Christina wrote:

> Hello Steven,
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> I received your request to go forward with a vote to fill the vacancy
> without the Lanesborough Board of Selectmen present for the vote. The
> District has offered remote participation to the Lanesborough Board of
> Selectmen for the meeting scheduled on April 6th, and they have declined
> to participate due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor.
> I've consulted with legal counsel who has advised me that the Regional
> Agreement requires all three municipal bodies to be present for the vote
> to fill the School Committee vacancy. For this reason the vote will not
> go forward on April 6th.
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> Be well. Sincerely,

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> Christina Conry
> School Committee
> cconry@mgrhs.org
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> _____
> From: Miller, Steven <sjm1@williams.edu>
> Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 1:26 PM
> To: Conry, Christina; Miller, Steve-WC
> Cc: Miller, Steven; Vigiard, Stacie
> Subject: Re: special meeting
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> actually, took a moment to look at the agreement
>
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> https://www.wlschools.org/uploaded/Tri_District/Resources/Tri_District_Documents/Mt_Greylock_approval_letter_and_approved_agreement.pdf
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> If the Lanesborough Selectboard does not wish to vote, they are welcome to stay home. I hope they will phone in / zoom in, but the language is clear.
>
> It does NOT say that we need a quorum of each
>
> It is common courtesy to try to get a quorum of each, even better to find a day that works for all.
>
> But if the Lanesborough board does not want to have any input in terms of who represents Williamstown, that is fine.
>
> We have 6 school committee members, 5 select from Williamstown, 3 select from Lanesborough for 14
>
> You need a majority of votes of the number of people ABLE to vote. Thus you need 8 votes (even if you say the school committee should be counted as 7 and not 6, that would only change 14 to 15 and a majority is still 8)
>
> Thus the threshold number of votes needed to confirm a candidate does NOT change just because fewer people are at the meeting
>
> I believe we had this with Jamie -- my recollection was he had a majority of votes but not 8 in the first round, and thus was not elected at that point; in the second round the voting switched and he was elected.
>
> Thus I suggest we set a date that works with the members of the school committee and the Williamstown select board. I suggest we reach out to Lanesborough and ask that they join us, but if they choose not to it is their choice; they do not have the right to prevent us from having a meeting to fill a vacancy, and as I have elaborated on at great length in the past there are many reasons why it would be good to be at full strength.
>
> Thanks
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> (If needed I might be able to add a bit more details around this, as I was one of the people involved in the drafting of the regional agreement)
>
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> This is giving them not only a pocket veto, but it changes the balance of the committee between the two towns, it violates the spirit of the agreement, and furthermore this is not a hardship -- we have one candidate who is completely qualified.
>
> could you ask Adam the following: the way the regional agreement is written do we NEED all three committees to convene, or do we just NEED a majority of eligible voting members to vote for a candidate? If the latter, we can schedule the meeting and they are welcome to come or not come.
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> They have asked to further postpone the meeting for a later date.

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> I have a call scheduled with Adam today to determine our next steps at this time.
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> I will communicate next steps with the entire School Committee when I have the details.
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> School Committee
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> From: Steven J Miller <sjm1@williams.edu<<mailto:sjm1@williams.edu>>>
> Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 1:02 PM
> To: Conry, Christina; Vigiard, Stacie; Miller, Steven
> Subject: special meeting
>
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> Greetings, just seeing if we have confirmed the date and time for the
> special meeting of the three boards to fill the vacant seat.
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> Thanks
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From: [Miller, Steven](#)
To: [Conry, Christina](#); [Miller, Steve-WC](#)
Cc: [Miller, Steven](#); [Vigard, Stacie](#)
Subject: Re: special meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 2:20:11 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

one last thought:

D. Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs among the Committee members elected under Section V(C) or appointed under Section V(B)(1), the selectmen from both Lanesborough and Williamstown will meet together at the Mount Greylock Regional School within thirty (30) calendar days with the remaining Committee members to fill such vacancy by roll call vote. A majority of the votes of the elected officials entitled to vote shall be necessary to such election. The newly appointed Committee member will serve until the next biennial state election, at which election a successor shall be elected to serve for the

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balance of the unexpired term, if any. This joint meeting will be chaired by the town moderator of the town of residence for the new appointee, and the joint meeting's chairperson will vote only to resolve tied votes.

I read this again carefully

It does NOT say the three committees meet

It says the individuals of the three committees meet

Thus if the lanesborough BOS do not want to come to the meeting, that is their right, but it does NOT say the three committees meet

each person is coming as an individual, and we need 8 total votes for a new member to be successfully elected

thus, I respectfully disagree with the interpretation

the language does not specify the lanesborough board must meet

it just says there is to be a meeting and it is populated by the people from these three committees and it is run by the moderator of the town with the vacancy

On Wed, Apr 1, 2020 at 2:15 PM Steven J Miller <sjml@williams.edu> wrote:

I strongly oppose this

I would like to see the details of legal counsel on this

the regional agreement does NOT state that all three boards must convene

if they wish not to participate that is their choice

we should have the meeting, if they do not come then they do not come

I have had disagreements with counsel in the past which we have taken to the state AG, and they have ruled in my favor

the regional agreement does NOT state all three boards must convene

I feel very strongly on this, and I am not happy with a town board refusing to do their duty

if it would expedite things please have legal counsel talk to me; my cell is 617-835-3982

are the lanesborough board of selectmen meeting for any other reasons? if yes, why can they not meet for this?

also, how did they decide not to participate? did they discuss this at an open meeting? there are only three members of their board; if any two of them talked about it then they have violated open meeting law; I am thus considering inquiring for all correspondence from them and asking the state to investigate. I do not wish to do this, but they are failing to do their duty as elected members.

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> Subject: Re: special meeting

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> School Committee

> cconry@mgrhs.org<mailto:cconry@mgrhs.org>

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> From: Steven J Miller <sjm1@williams.edu<mailto:sjm1@williams.edu>>

> Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 1:02 PM

> To: Conry, Christina; Vigiard, Stacie; Miller, Steven

> Subject: special meeting

>

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> Greetings, just seeing if we have confirmed the date and time for the

> special meeting of the three boards to fill the vacant seat.

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> Thanks

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From: [Miller, Steven](#)
To: [Conry, Christina](#); [Viguard, Stacie](#); [Miller, Steven](#); [Miller, Steve-WC](#); [Terranova, Al](#); [AlTerranova](#)
Subject: request for a special meeting to fill the vacant seat
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 9:26:20 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Greetings.

Al and I jointly request a special meeting, as soon as possible, to fill the vacant Williamstown seat. While the governor has extended the 30 day requirement, we are still obligated to discharge our responsibilities in a timely manner. Given that we have just one candidate, who is highly qualified (years of experience, statewide awards), this should not be contentious or a long meeting; I will almost surely spend more time composing this email than the meeting will take!

There are many reasons to do this; one important one (which I have not mentioned till now) is that if we lose one more person we go down to five, and then we can no longer have any sub-committees with three people.

You wrote on Wed, 1 Apr 2020 18:08:04 +0000

I received your request to go forward with a vote to fill the vacancy without the Lanesborough Board of Selectmen present for the vote. The District has offered remote participation to the Lanesborough Board of Selectmen for the meeting scheduled on April 6th, and they have declined to participate due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor. I've consulted with legal counsel who has advised me that the Regional Agreement requires all three municipal bodies to be present for the vote to fill the School Committee vacancy. For this reason the vote will not go forward on April 6th.

Be well. Sincerely,

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School Committee
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As I wrote earlier, I disagree strongly with counsel's analysis, and I would be happy to discuss it with them (my cell is 617-835-3982). The regional agreement can be found here:

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If a vacancy occurs among the Committee members elected under Section V(C) or appointed under Section V(B)(1), the selectmen from both Lanesborough and Williamstown will meet together at the Mount Greylock Regional School within thirty (30) calendar days with the remaining Committee members to fill such vacancy by roll call vote. A majority of the votes of the elected officials entitled to vote shall be necessary to such election. The newly appointed Committee member will serve until the next biennial state election, at which election a successor shall be elected to serve for the

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It does not say the three committees meet. It says the MEMBERS of the committees meet. If people do not show up that is their choice, and the number of people needed to confirm a nomination is a majority of all eligible voters, not all voters who show up. Thus a quorum is 8 people, and 8 are needed to confirm. If 10 people show up and only 7 vote in favor, then the nomination fails.

Given how disruptive the coronavirus is to our communities, especially the challenges parents face with children now at home and juggling their responsibilities and schooling at home, we feel it sends a terrible signal of how education is valued for the Lanesborough Board of Selectmen to say they do not deem this important; however, if they do not wish to participate that is their choice.

We hope the April 6th time works and can be done; if you would like I am happy to set up a doodle poll or a google sheet where people can place

their availability, or if you would prefer district staff to do so I completely understand.

Thank you.

From: [Conry, Christina](#)
To: [Miller, Steve-WC](#)
Cc: [Terranova, Al](#); [Vigiard, Stacie](#)
Subject: Re: request for a special meeting to fill the vacant seat
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 2:25:13 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Hello Steve and Al,

I am reaching out to the Lanesborough Board of Selectmen to see if there is a later date they would be available. Thank you for your patience in this matter.

Christina Conry
School Committee
cconry@mgrhs.org

From: Miller, Steven <sjm1@williams.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 9:26 AM
To: Conry, Christina; Vigiard, Stacie; Miller, Steven; Miller, Steve-WC; Terranova, Al; Al Terranova
Subject: request for a special meeting to fill the vacant seat

Greetings.

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We hope the April 6th time works and can be done; if you would like I am happy to set up a doodle poll or a google sheet where people can place their availability, or if you would prefer district staff to do so I completely understand.

Thank you.

From: [Steven J Miller](#)
To: [Conry, Christina](#)
Cc: [Terranova, Al](#); [Vigiard, Stacie](#); [Miller, Steve-WC](#); [Miller, Steven](#)
Subject: Re: request for a special meeting to fill the vacant seat
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 2:31:34 PM

With all due respect, we are way past a later date, and I am no longer patient in the matter.

They have had plenty of opportunities.

They explicitly stated they are not interested in a meeting. I am curious how that decision was reached, as if two of them talked about it outside a public meeting that is an open meeting law violation. Have they told you how they reached the decision they did not want to participate?

They have obstructed us and wasted valuable time.

I would say we send out a doodle poll today, now, to find times that work for people on the 6th, and if we can find a time where many (at least 8 but preferably 9 or 10) can do it, let's have it then.

We are talking about what should be a five minute meeting to vote on a qualified candidate from a field of one.

This should not be a big deal or controversial.

I thus strongly oppose working with them to find a more convenient date. We could have had this a week or two ago, but they said they had issues doing the technology. They had a meeting yesterday and one of their members remotely called in; others can call in to our meeting if they wish. We are talking about a phone call.

We should not be down a committee member for this long, and thus I would like us to set a time for the 6th. Otherwise I fear Lanesborough's selectmen are going to continue to stall and delay.

While we have been relieved of doing things within 30 days, that does not mean our new mode of operations should be to stall and delay. We should try to discharge our responsibilities promptly, and we are not doing so. Thus let's choose a time and post the meeting.

Also, has anyone reached out to Carrie to inform her of the situation? I am happy to do so, but if you would like to do so as Chair I will defer to you.

On Thu, 2 Apr 2020, Conry, Christina wrote:

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> To: Conry, Christina; Vigiard, Stacie; Miller, Steven; Miller, Steve-WC; Terranova, Al; Al Terranova
> Subject: request for a special meeting to fill the vacant seat
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From: [Terranova, Al](#)
To: [Miller, Steve-WC](#); [Conry, Christina](#)
Cc: [Vigiard, Stacie](#); [Miller, Steven](#)
Subject: Re: request for a special meeting to fill the vacant seat
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 3:19:06 PM

Christina, I am with Steve on this, is this something of which the whole committee should be made aware. Al

From: Steven J Miller <sjm1@williams.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 2:31 PM
To: Conry, Christina
Cc: Terranova, Al; Vigiard, Stacie; Miller, Steve-WC; Miller, Steven
Subject: Re: request for a special meeting to fill the vacant seat

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> To: Conry, Christina; Vigiard, Stacie; Miller, Steven; Miller, Steve-WC; Terranova, Al; Al Terranova

> Subject: request for a special meeting to fill the vacant seat

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> Greetings.

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>

> There are many reasons to do this; one important one (which I have not mentioned till now) is that if we lose one more person we go down to five, and then we can no longer have any sub-committees with three people.

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> You wrote on Wed, 1 Apr 2020 18:08:04 +0000

> I received your request to go forward with a vote to fill the vacancy without the Lanesborough Board of Selectmen present for the vote. The

> District has offered remote participation to the Lanesborough Board of Selectmen for the meeting scheduled on April 6th, and they have

> declined to participate due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor. I've consulted with legal counsel who has advised me that

> the Regional Agreement requires all three municipal bodies to be present for the vote to fill the School Committee vacancy. For this reason

> the vote will not go forward on April 6th.

>

> Be well. Sincerely,

>

> Christina Conry

> School Committee

> cconry@mgrhs.org<<mailto:cconry@mgrhs.org>>

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> As I wrote earlier, I disagree strongly with counsel's analysis, and I would be happy to discuss it with them (my cell is 617-835-3982). The regional agreement can be found here:

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> Here is the relevant part.

>

> [image.png]

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>

> Thank you.

>

From: [Conry, Christina](#)
To: [Miller, Steven](#)
Cc: [Vigiard, Stacie](#)
Subject: Re: request for a special meeting to fill the vacant seat
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 4:24:07 PM

Steve,

Carrie has been notified of the delay.

Christina Conry
School Committee
cconry@mgrhs.org

From: Steven J Miller <sjm1@williams.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 2:31 PM
To: Conry, Christina
Cc: Terranova, Al; Vigiard, Stacie; Miller, Steve-WC; Miller, Steven
Subject: Re: request for a special meeting to fill the vacant seat

With all due respect, we are way past a later date, and I am no longer patient in the matter.

They have had plenty of opportunities.

They explicitly stated they are not interested in a meeting. I am curious how that decision was reached, as if two of them talked about it outside a public meeting that is an open meeting law violation. Have they told you how they reached the decision they did not want to participate?

They have obstructed us and wasted valuable time.

I would say we send out a doodle poll today, now, to find times that work for people on the 6th, and if we can find a time where many (at least 8 but preferably 9 or 10) can do it, let's have it then.

We are talking about what should be a five minute meeting to vote on a qualified candidate from a field of one.

This should not be a big deal or controversial.

I thus strongly oppose working with them to find a more convenient date. We could have had this a week or two ago, but they said they had issues doing the technology. They had a meeting yesterday and one of their members remotely called in; others can call in to our meeting if they wish. We are talking about a phone call.

We should not be down a committee member for this long, and thus I would like us to set a time for the 6th. Otherwise I fear Lanesborough's selectmen are going to continue to stall and delay.

While we have been relieved of doing things within 30 days, that does not mean our new mode of operations should be to stall and delay. We should try to discharge our responsibilities promptly, and we are not doing so. Thus let's choose a time and post the meeting.

Also, has anyone reached out to Carrie to inform her of the situation? I am happy to do so, but if you would like to do so as Chair I will defer to you.

On Thu, 2 Apr 2020, Conry, Christina wrote:

> Hello Steve and Al,

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> I am reaching out to the Lanesborough Board of Selectmen to see if there

> is a later date they would be available. Thank you for your patience in

> this matter.

>

>

> Christina Conry

> School Committee

> cconry@mgrhs.org

>

>

>

>

> From: Miller, Steven <sjm1@williams.edu>

> Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 9:26 AM

> To: Conry, Christina; Vigiard, Stacie; Miller, Steven; Miller, Steve-WC; Terranova, Al; Al Terranova

> Subject: request for a special meeting to fill the vacant seat

>

> Greetings.

>

> Al and I jointly request a special meeting, as soon as possible, to fill the vacant Williamstown seat. While the governor has extended the 30 day requirement, we are still obligated to discharge our responsibilities in a timely manner. Given that we have just one candidate, who is highly qualified (years of experience, statewide awards), this should not be contentious or a long meeting; I will almost surely spend more time composing this email than the meeting will take!

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From: [Steven Miller](#)
To: [Conry, Christina](#)
Cc: [Miller, Steven](#); [Vigiard, Stacie](#); [Miller, Steve-WC](#)
Subject: Re: request for a special meeting to fill the vacant seat
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 4:27:47 PM

Great. I assume she was told why so she knows it is not the fault of us or the williamstown board.

Have we made any progress in confirming a time for April 6th?

As we need 48 hours to post I do not want to lose another opportunity.

Thanks.

Sent from my iPad

> On Apr 2, 2020, at 4:24 PM, Conry, Christina <cconry@mgrhs.org> wrote:

>

> Steve,

>

>

> Carrie has been notified of the delay.

>

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> Christina Conry

> School Committee

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>> Thank you.

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From: [Conry, Christina](#)
To: [Art, James](#); [DiLego, Regina](#); [Carter, Alison](#); [Terranova, Al](#); [Miller, Steven](#)
Cc: [Vigiard, Stacie](#); [Grady, Kimberley](#)
Subject: Fw: meeting to appoint a school committee member
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 6:59:18 PM

Please do not reply all.

Hello,

As of right now, our joint session to vote for the open School Committee member position in Williamstown, has been delayed. Please see below for further information as submitted by the Lanesborough Town Manager.

I've been working to try and resolve this, but we seem to be at a standstill as of right now. I'm continuing to reach out to the Town of Lanesborough to find a mutually agreed upon date/time for this important vote. I've been seeking guidance from counsel, as well as MASC and have additional calls scheduled for tomorrow.

This is a regrettable situation to be in during this time in which we should be focused purely on the health and well being of our students.

My apologies for any inconvenience this has caused in your schedules.

Sincerely,

Christina Conry
cconry@mgrhs.org

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lanesborough Town Manager** <town.manager@lanesborough-ma.gov>
Date: Tue, Mar 31, 2020 at 2:05 PM
Subject: meeting to appoint a school committee member
To: Kim Grady <kgrady@williamstownelementary.org>
Cc: John Goerlach <selectboard.200@lanesborough-ma.gov>, Gordon Hubbard <selectmanhubbard@gmail.com>, Henry Sayers <selectboard.300@lanesborough-ma.gov>

Dear Superintendent Grady,

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Lanesborough respectfully decline your request to attend a School Committee meeting to appoint a new member to the that Committee.

The current mandate of the Commonwealth is to cease activities that are not crucial to Essential Functions as outlined in Governor Bakers emergency order, last updated on March 23, 2020. This mandate does not include appointing members to committees. Further

evidence of this being non-essential is demonstrated by the fact the Legislature enacted an emergency law allowing postponement of elections in the Commonwealth. *See Chapter of the Acts 2020, An Act Granting Authority to Postpone 2020 Municipal Elections in the Commonwealth and Increase Voting Options in Response to the Declaration of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19. Enacted and Signed March 23, 2020.*

The Board of Selectmen is busy continuing to perform the work necessary for the Town of Lanesborough within those guidelines, as it's essential function. This is currently not one of those essential functions.

As this is, in no way an essential meeting and in order to comply with the Governor's Order, the Board of Selectmen of Lanesborough request the meeting be postponed until a later date. The Board will attend a future meeting for this purpose when the Governor's Order has been lifted or amended to allow such a meeting.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board of Selectmen of Lanesborough.

Helli A. Robbins Esq.

Town Manager

Lanesborough

Newton Memorial Town Hall
83 N. Main Street, P.O. Box 1492
Lanesborough, MA 01237
(413) 443-5811 [fax]
(413) 442-1167, ext. 21 [telephone]

Local Government is the mechanism we use to make and to carry out community decisions. - Reinventing Government (1992)

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--

Kimberley A. Grady

Superintendent
413-458-9582 x 4009

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From: [Steven J Miller](#)
To: [Conry, Christina](#)
Cc: [Miller, Steven](#); [Miller, Steve-WC](#); [Al Terranova](#); [Terranova, Al](#); [Vigiard, Stacie](#)
Subject: Re: Fw: meeting to appoint a school committee member
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 8:19:52 PM

There is absolutely no need for us to be inconvenienced. We have every right to have the meeting; if they elect not to come that is their choice.

We are at what, six weeks since the seat was vacated. We should move forward. I believe it was Kim who proposed April 6th, as that was far enough after the first attempted meeting to give everyone a chance to adjust to the new technology.

I appreciate your willingness to keep reaching out to the L BOS, but they are making it quite clear that they will not spare 5 minutes, and I do not see why our committee should be under-staffed because of it. We are allowing one town to prevent another town from filling its own seat; that looks very bad. It is also sending the message that education is not valued and not considered essential; that is a terrible message to be sending these days with families struggling and worried.

Thus I again propose we have our meeting at the earliest possible date and we invite everyone. I hope the L BOS will elect to attend, but a reading of the regional agreement makes it quite clear that we are attending as members of our committees; our committees do not need to all be there. It NEVER says a quorum of each committee is required; it says a majority of all eligible members is required. Thus as long as at least 8 members participate across the three committee and at least 8 vote for a candidate, then the position is filled. If the L BOS chooses not to come and wishes to send the signal that they cannot spare 5 minutes for the school district in these times, that is their choice and we cannot do anything about it, but we should not be hostage to it.

I hope we can post in time to have the meeting as planned at 6pm on April 6th, but if not hopefully we can find a time on the 7th or 8th where 8, 9 or 10 of the school committee and W BOS confirm they can attend.

Finally, if we do not schedule a meeting in the near future we should reach out to everyone who has written an article in the local news about the vacancy and give them an update. It is imperative that people understand the source of the delay is not due to either our committee or the W BOS; it would be unfortunate if people felt that our committee was the source of the delay. If we do not schedule a meeting I would suggest forwarding this email and the email that Al and I wrote you, as these summarize the situation quite well and give links to the regional agreement, my analysis of it, and the statement of the L BOS.

Thank you.

On Thu, 2 Apr 2020, Conry, Christina wrote:

> Please do not reply all.

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> Hello,>
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> Cc: John Goerlach <selectboard.200@lanesborough-ma.gov<<mailto:selectboard.200@lanesborough-ma.gov>>>, Henry Sayers
> Gordon Hubbard <selectmanhubbard@gmail.com<<mailto:selectmanhubbard@gmail.com>>>, Henry Sayers
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> an emergency law allowing postponement of elections in the Commonwealth.
> See Chapter of the Acts 2020, An Act Granting Authority to Postpone 2020
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> Response to the Declaration of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19. Enacted
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> The Board of Selectmen is busy continuing to perform the work necessary
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> amended to allow such a meeting.

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> Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board of Selectmen of Lanesborough.

>
>
>
>
> Kelli A. Robbins, Esq.

>
> Town Manager

>
> Lanesborough

>
> Newton Memorial Town Hall

>
> 83 N. Main Street, P.O. Box 1492

>
> Lanesborough, MA 01237

>
> (413) 443-5811 [fax]

>
> (413) 442-1167, ext. 21 [telephone]

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Thank you.

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> Kimberley A. Grady
> Superintendent
> 413-458-9582 x 4009

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>

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>

From: [Steven J Miller](#)
To: [Conry, Christina](#)
Cc: [Miller, Steven](#); [Terranova, Al](#); [Vigiard, Stacie](#); [Miller, Steve-WC](#)
Subject: Re: Regular Session School Committee Meeting - Thursday
Date: Friday, April 3, 2020 11:08:47 AM

I am free

I would like to add the following agenda item; I believe Al will support me

We vote to confirm Carrie Greene for the vacant seat, and invite the select boards of the two towns to join the meeting. If at least 8 of us are able to make some time between 9 and 930am (plus the Williamstown town moderator), we will be fine. thus if the 9am time works for us I think we should reach out to the L and W BOS and the W town moderator.

I would like a discussion item on the actions of the Lanesboro board of selectmen if they continue to obstruct us, with vote listed to vote on a letter of censure to them and a letter to be sent by us to the press about their behavior.

they are still physically meeting in town hall -- that is highly indicative of how seriously they are taking the governor's precautions. thus their claims of the emergency do not pass the smell test. they are using this as an excuse, and that is disgraceful.

again, the regional agreement does not say the three boards must convene. it says we must have a meeting where a majority of members of the three boards vote for a candidate. one town cannot and should not have the ability to prevent the other town from its due representation. imagine the outcry if Williamstown did something similar and prevented Lanesboro from having one of its seats?

also I have read the state law they refer to. while you may be able to interpret it the way they want it seems clear that the intent is due to the dangers of PHYSICAL voting, where not all voters will be equally able to participate due to health concerns

to use this as an excuse to prevent a remote meeting vote to fill a vacant seat with one qualified candidate is not the intent.

explicitly, they wrote:

> The current mandate of the Commonwealth is to cease activities that are not crucial to Essential Functions as outlined in Governor Baker's
> emergency order, last updated on March 23, 2020. This mandate does not include appointing members to committees. Further evidence of this
> being non-essential is demonstrated by the fact the Legislature enacted an emergency law allowing postponement of elections in the
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> Voting Options in Response to the Declaration of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19. Enacted and Signed March 23, 2020.

here it is: <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2020/Chapter45>

my reading is that the intent is to make sure voters are not disenfranchised

we do not have the ability to do online voting for town wide elections, but we do for committees, and in fact have been TOLD to meet remotely

we do not want people congregating (though the L BOS seem to be ignoring that, as the video shows from their most recent meeting this week)

to fill a committee void is different, that CAN be done by a remote participation meeting

thank you

On Fri, 3 Apr 2020, Conry, Christina wrote:

> Please do not reply all.

>

>

> Hello All,

>

>

> I'm wondering if you all could be available to participate in our SC meeting this coming Thursday at 9:00am instead of 6:00pm? It should not be a long meeting, but will be nice to all check in and hear updates.

>

>

> Thank you for your consideration and response.

>

>

> Christina Conry

> School Committee

> cconry@mgrhs.org

>

>

From: [Conry, Christina](#)
To: [Terranova, Al](#); [Miller, Steven](#); [Carter, Alison](#); [DiLego, Regina](#); [Art, James](#)
Cc: [Vigiard, Stacie](#)
Subject: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel
Date: Friday, April 3, 2020 12:16:03 PM
Attachments: [Legal Opinion Re Filling of SC Vacancy04032020.pdf](#)

Please do not reply all.

Hello,

I just got off the phone with Fred Dupere. He reviewed the attached opinion with me in detail. I ask that, as difficult as it is, we respect the Lanesborough Select Board's decision to postpone this joint meeting until a later date. Keep in mind they have not refused to meet, they just wish to reconvene when things have settled down and the governor has lifted his order.

I'm truly doing everything in my power to get this seat filled in a timely and fair fashion.

Please remember that everything we do as individuals, is a reflection of the committee as a whole. Keep sending your positive vibes and well wishes to all your constituents. Let them know we are doing the very best we can for all the students in our district.

Again, thank you for your patience and understanding. I apologize for the disappointment.

p.s. Fred Dupere apologizes the letter is not signed. He is working remotely and unable to physically sign it.

Christina Conry
School Committee
cconry@mgrhs.org

From: [Miller, Steven](#)
To: [Conry, Christina](#); [Al Terranova](#); [Miller, Steven](#); [Miller, Steve-WC](#); [Vigiard, Stacie](#)
Subject: Fwd: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel
Date: Friday, April 3, 2020 12:59:57 PM
Attachments: [Legal Opinion Re Filling of SC Vacancy04032020.pdf](#)

I strongly disagree and I would like to appeal this to the state AG's office. I am happy to take point on drafting a letter.

No where does it say that a QUORUM is needed of each committee.

It says the MEMBERS of the committee will choose to meet.

It says a majority of votes of eligible people are needed.

It does NOT say we need to have each board called to order.

Thus I repeat my previous requests.

1. We have an agenda item at the next school committee meeting this Thursday on appointing Carrie. If we have a majority of the three board's present and in favor, we can send that result to the state and see what they say. Who knows, perhaps the L BOS will choose to meet when they see that the meeting is going to happen.

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Please confirm with me that these items will be added to the agenda, and if I may work on an appeal to the state AG.

As the email from Kim just showed, there are rumors circulating in the community about this. It is inexcusable for their board to shirk their responsibilities in this time of crisis. We are not talking about a 5 hour meeting, we are talking about 5 minutes maximum.

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From: **Conry, Christina** <cconry@mgrhs.org>
Date: Fri, Apr 3, 2020 at 12:16 PM
Subject: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel
To: Terranova, Al <aterranova@mgrhs.org>, Miller, Steven <smiller@mgrhs.org>, Carter, Alison <acarter@mgrhs.org>, DiLego, Regina <rdilego@mgrhs.org>, Art, James <jart@mgrhs.org>
Cc: Vigiard, Stacie <svigiard@mgrhs.org>

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School Committee
cconry@mgrhs.org

From: [Conry, Christina](#)
To: [Miller, Steven](#); [Terranova, Al](#)
Cc: [Vigiard, Stacie](#)
Subject: Re: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel
Date: Friday, April 3, 2020 4:43:41 PM

Steven,

I received the following from Fred Dupere:

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Sincerely,
Fred Dupere, Esq.

This e-mail, and any attachments thereto, is intended only for use by the addressee(s) named herein and may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail (or the person responsible for delivering this document to the intended recipient), you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, printing or copying of this e-mail, and any attachment(s) thereto, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please respond to the individual sending the message, and permanently delete the original and any copy of any e-mail and printout thereof. No warranty is made that this email and/or attachment(s) are free from virus or other defect.

Christina Conry
School Committee
cconry@mgrhs.org

From: Miller, Steven <sjm1@williams.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 12:59 PM
To: Conry, Christina; Al Terranova; Miller, Steven; Miller, Steve-WC; Vigiard, Stacie
Subject: Fwd: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel

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School Committee
cconry@mgrhs.org

From: [Steven J Miller](#)
To: [Conry, Christina](#)
Cc: [Miller, Steven](#); [Terranova, Al](#); [Vigiard, Stacie](#); [Miller, Steve-WC](#)
Subject: Re: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel
Date: Friday, April 3, 2020 5:01:22 PM

I respectfully disagree

The regional agreement does not have us explicitly meeting as three bodies. I know the state AG's office has rule about the Mt Greylock regional committee in the past. So just because they do not TYPICALLY get involved in regional issues, does not mean they CANNOT. We must try all avenues at our disposal.

Again, It has the members of us meeting; if a quorum is present then that committee is also called to order, but it does NOT say we have three committees that must meet. It is all language about individual votes.

I say we should still post the meeting to act on Carrie's application. If the L BOS do not attend then that is their choice, and we can have them protest.

Or if people do not want to do that, we can say we tried to have a meeting and they chose not to show up. But we should have an agenda item to replace the vacant seat, and we can decide Thursday what we can do. It does not hurt us to post. Just because the L BOS have said they will not join does not mean they cannot change their mind; perhaps people will call and complain to them, though we are fast running out of time for them to post a meeting.

Second, can you confirm that we will have an agenda item and a vote to publicly rebuke them for their behavior? That we can easily do.

Finally, after the Thursday meeting I would like to forward some of our correspondence, especially the letter from the L BOS, to the press, and hopefully a letter of censure from our committee (though of course I would prefer that we just take the five minutes to confirm her as we have spent FAR more time emailing back and forth).

The L BOS is clearly in the wrong here, and they need to be held accountable. We cannot be silent on the issue, and thus I would like these agenda items added, and for us to reach out immediately to the Williamstown BOS and the Williamstown Town Moderator.

Thank you

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person responsible for delivering this document to the intended recipient), you are hereby notified that any
dissemination, distribution, printing or coping of this e-mail, and any attachment(s) thereto, is strictly prohibited. If
you have received this e-mail in error, please respond to the individual sending the message, and permanently delete
the original and any copy of any e-mail and printout thereof. No warranty is made that this email and/or
attachment(s) are free from virus or other defect.
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> Christina Conry
> School Committee
> cconry@mgrhs.org
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> Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 12:59 PM
> To: Conry, Christina; Al Terranova; Miller, Steven; Miller, Steve-WC; Vigiard, Stacie
> Subject: Fwd: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel
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> Date: Fri, Apr 3, 2020 at 12:16 PM

> Subject: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel

> To: Terranova, Al <aterranova@mgrhs.org<<mailto:aterranova@mgrhs.org>>>, Miller, Steven

<smiller@mgrhs.org<<mailto:smiller@mgrhs.org>>>, Carter, Alison

<acarter@mgrhs.org<<mailto:acarter@mgrhs.org>>>, DiLego, Regina

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> School Committee

> cconry@mgrhs.org<<mailto:cconry@mgrhs.org>>

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>

From: [Steven J Miller](#)
To: [Conry, Christina](#)
Cc: [Miller, Steven](#); [Terranova, Al](#); [Vigiard, Stacie](#); [Miller, Steve-WC](#)
Subject: Re: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 10:35:02 AM

Greetings, I am just following up.

Have you been able to reach out to the Williamstown Town Moderator and the Williamstown Selectboard to see if they can join our next meeting?

Can we have an agenda item for the vote on Carrie, and an agenda item to discuss the reason no appointment is made (if needed) on the agenda? The second item should have VOTE on it, as I will make a motion to censure the L BOS if they refuse to meet.

I believe it is important that we have agenda items for both. We should show the communities that we are working to get the position filled and the L BOS is deliberately refusing to attend a meeting / post a meeting.

Again, my reading of the law is that we do NOT need the three board to post UNLESS there will be a majority of that board present. If a majority of a board is present it is a meeting. This is similar to the conference call we had with Kim thru zoo; when it was just you and me and Regina it was not a school committee meeting, but as soon as a fourth joined we called it to order, we started taking notes, we posted it.

I view this the same way.

Thank you.

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> I respectfully disagree
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> know the state AG's office has rule about the Mt Greylock regional committee
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>> Christina Conry
>> School Committee
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>> Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 12:59 PM
>> To: Conry, Christina; Al Terranova; Miller, Steven; Miller, Steve-WC;
>> Vigiard, Stacie
>> Subject: Fwd: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel
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>> School Committee

>> cconry@mgrhs.org<<mailto:cconry@mgrhs.org>>

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From: [Conry, Christina](#)
To: [Miller, Steven](#)
Cc: [Terranova, Al](#); [Vigiard, Stacie](#)
Subject: Re: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 12:54:54 PM

Dear Steven,

I'm working with both towns to come up with a mutually acceptable date for reschedule. While I respect your passion for this topic and the desire to have a full committee during this incredibly difficult time, I do not think it is time to pit one town against the other.

Please be patient. I am continuing to facilitate the scheduling of a joint meeting of shared responsibility between all boards. When a date is set between all boards, that information will be communicated to our constituents.

Thank you.

Christina Conry
School Committee
Acting Chair
cconry@mgrhs.org

From: Steven J Miller <sjm1@williams.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 10:34 AM
To: Conry, Christina
Cc: Miller, Steven; Terranova, Al; Vigiard, Stacie; Miller, Steve-WC
Subject: Re: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel

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>> Fred Dupere, Esq.

>>

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>>

>> Christina Conry

>> School Committee

>> cconry@mgrhs.org

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>> _____

>> From: Miller, Steven <sjm1@williams.edu>

>> Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 12:59 PM

>> To: Conry, Christina; Al Terranova; Miller, Steven; Miller, Steve-WC;

>> Vigiard, Stacie

>> Subject: Fwd: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel

>>

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>> office. I am happy to take point on drafting a letter.
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>> <rdilego@mgrhs.org<mailto:rdilego@mgrhs.org>>, Art, James
>> <jart@mgrhs.org<mailto:jart@mgrhs.org>>
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>> School Committee

>> cconry@mgrhs.org<<mailto:cconry@mgrhs.org>>

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From: [Steven Miller](#)
To: [Conry, Christina](#)
Cc: [Miller, Steven](#); [Terranova, Al](#); [Vigiard, Stacie](#); [Miller, Steve-WC](#)
Subject: Re: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 1:02:07 PM

With all due respect, I completely disagree and I would like the agenda item at the very least on Lanesborough refusal With a vote on a letter of sensitive to them. We are not putting one town against another. They are. It is completely disrespectful but they are doing, they are having meetings on other issues.

I do not believe their position is legally correct, and I want to challenge, and I want to discuss as a school committee meeting. Right now I cannot talk to anyone other than you or Al, I would like to publicly discuss this with the other school committee members.

I would like us to talk to the press and explain what is going on publicly. I am happy to write the letter and copy you if you do not have time to do so, please advise. As I am the one advocating for this I am happy to take point if you will let me.

Just please confirm that you will add an agenda item at the very least on discussing what they have done, if not I will bring this up under new business as an update

There is nothing to discuss between the two towns. This is a five minute meeting, they have chosen not to participate, according to the agreement I do not believe we need them to be present. It would be nice, but during this crisis they are stating that a vacant school committee position is not essential. This is absurd, we should not be held hostage to them.

Again, this is not something that should be taking so long. We have spent far more time writing these emails then it would take to have the meeting

Sent from my iPad

> On Apr 6, 2020, at 12:54 PM, Conry, Christina <cconry@mgrhs.org> wrote:

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> Dear Steven,

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> While I respect your passion for this topic and the desire to have a full committee during this incredibly difficult time, I do not think it is time to pit one town against the other.

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> Please be patient. I am continuing to facilitate the scheduling of a joint meeting of shared responsibility between all boards. When a date is set between all boards, that information will be communicated to our constituents.

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> Christina Conry

> School Committee

> Acting Chair

> cconry@mgrhs.org

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> From: Steven J Miller <sjm1@williams.edu>
> Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 10:34 AM
> To: Conry, Christina
> Cc: Miller, Steven; Terranova, Al; Vigiard, Stacie; Miller, Steve-WC
> Subject: Re: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel
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> L BOS if they refuse to meet.
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> show the communities that we are working to get the position filled and
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> post UNLESS there will be a majority of that board present. If a majority
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> was not a school committee meeting, but as soon as a fourth joined we
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>> and they chose not to show up. But we should have an agenda item to replace
>> the vacant seat, and we can decide Thursday what we can do. It does not hurt
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>>> Christina Conry
>>> School Committee
>>> cconry@mgrhs.org
>>>
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>>> From: Miller, Steven <sjm1@williams.edu>
>>> Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 12:59 PM
>>> To: Conry, Christina; Al Terranova; Miller, Steven; Miller, Steve-WC;
>>> Vigiard, Stacie
>>> Subject: Fwd: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel
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>>> Cc: Vigiard, Stacie <svigiard@mgrhs.org<<mailto:svigiard@mgrhs.org>>>
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>>> Please do not reply all.
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>>> School Committee

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From: [Steven Miller](#)
To: [Conry, Christina](#)
Cc: [Miller, Steven](#); [Terranova, Al](#); [Vigiard, Stacie](#); [Miller, Steve-WC](#)
Subject: Re: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:09:16 PM

To facilitate the discussion with members of the School Committee on the agenda item related to the postponed vote, I would like to include in the packet or distributed to all School Committee members by district staff the correspondence you and I have had, as well as the opinion of legal counsel and the letter from the Lanesborough board of selectmen. Please tell me what is the best way to do this. Do you want me to forward the emails to you and Stacie? Do you want me to print them out and send one PDF of everything? Thank you

Sent from my iPad

> On Apr 6, 2020, at 2:47 PM, Steven Miller <sjm1@williams.edu> wrote:

>

> I am saddened to see that my agenda requests were denied. I will be bringing this up on the new business, I also think it is a shame that we did not get an agenda circulated with enough time for us to comment so it could be added.

>

> It came in so close to 230pm that there is no time for a committee member to respond and have their concern addressed. This is far from best practices.

>

>

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> Sent from my iPad

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>> On Apr 6, 2020, at 1:02 PM, Steven Miller <sjm1@williams.edu> wrote:

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>>> To: Conry, Christina

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>>> Subject: Re: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel

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>>>>> Date: Fri, Apr 3, 2020 at 12:16 PM

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>>>>> To: Terranova, Al <aterranova@mgrhs.org<<mailto:aterranova@mgrhs.org>>>,

>>>>> Miller, Steven <smiller@mgrhs.org<<mailto:smiller@mgrhs.org>>>, Carter,

>>>>> Alison <acarter@mgrhs.org<<mailto:acarter@mgrhs.org>>>, DiLego, Regina

>>>>> <rdilego@mgrhs.org<<mailto:rdilego@mgrhs.org>>>, Art, James

>>>>> <jart@mgrhs.org<<mailto:jart@mgrhs.org>>>

>>>>> Cc: Vigiard, Stacie <svigiard@mgrhs.org<<mailto:svigiard@mgrhs.org>>>

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>>>>> School Committee

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To: [Miller, Steven](#)
Cc: [Terranova, Al](#); [Vigiard, Stacie](#)
Subject: Re: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:21:10 PM

I have everything needed and will work with Stacie.

Sincerely,

Christina Conry
School Committee
cconry@mgrhs.org

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>>>>> Christina Conry

>>>>> School Committee

>>>>> Acting Chair

>>>>> cconry@mgrhs.org

>>>>>

>>>>>

>>>>>

>>>>> From: Steven J Miller <sjm1@williams.edu>

>>>>> Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 10:34 AM

>>>>> To: Conry, Christina

>>>>> Cc: Miller, Steven; Terranova, Al; Vigiard, Stacie; Miller, Steve-WC

>>>>> Subject: Re: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel

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>>>>>> that body. The selectmen of the towns cannot act, nor can the Regional
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>>>>>> addressee(s) named herein and may contain legally privileged and/or
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>>>>>> e-mail (or the person responsible for delivering this document to the
>>>>>> intended recipient), you are hereby notified that any dissemination,
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>>>>>> permanently delete the original and any copy of any e-mail and printout
>>>>>> thereof. No warranty is made that this email and/or attachment(s) are free
>>>>>> from virus or other defect.

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>>>>>>

>>>>>> Christina Conry

>>>>>> School Committee

>>>>>> cconry@mgrhs.org

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>>>>>> From: Miller, Steven <sjm1@williams.edu>

>>>>>> Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 12:59 PM

>>>>>> To: Conry, Christina; Al Terranova; Miller, Steven; Miller, Steve-WC;

>>>>>> Vigiard, Stacie

>>>>>> Subject: Fwd: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel

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>>>>>> office. I am happy to take point on drafting a letter.

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>>>>>> community about this. It is inexcusable for their board to shirk their
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>>>>>> Date: Fri, Apr 3, 2020 at 12:16 PM

>>>>>> Subject: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel

>>>>>> To: Terranova, Al <aterranova@mgrhs.org<<mailto:aterranova@mgrhs.org>>>, Carter,

>>>>>> Miller, Steven <smiller@mgrhs.org<<mailto:smiller@mgrhs.org>>>, DiLego, Regina

>>>>>> Alison <acarter@mgrhs.org<<mailto:acarter@mgrhs.org>>>, Art, James

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From: [Conry, Christina](#)
To: [Miller, Steven](#)
Cc: [Terranova, Al](#); [Vigiard, Stacie](#)
Subject: Re: Vacant Seat - Legal Opinion from Counsel
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:21:10 PM

I have everything needed and will work with Stacie.

Sincerely,

Christina Conry
School Committee
cconry@mgrhs.org

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