

**Minutes of the
Monson School Committee
Regular Business Meeting
Quarry Hill Community School – School Committee Meeting Room
March 1, 2017**

Present: Chair Peter Sauriol; Vice Chair Joshua Farber; Secretary Patricia Oney; Committee Member Ed Maia

Also Present: Superintendent Cheryl A. Clarke; Director of Business and Facilities Don Smith; Director of Curriculum Katherine Watts; Principals Jennifer Beaudry (QHCS), Mary Cieplik (GVMS), William Metzger (MHS); Dean of Students Jill Foulis (7:15 p.m.) (MHS) and Recording Secretary Karen Methe

Absent: Committee Member Joel Keller

Note: This meeting was video-recorded.

Mr. Sauriol called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Mr. Maia read the **Mission & Vision Statements**.

Announcements:

Family Fun Night for Grade 3 was held February 28, 2017. Students engaged in activities and games while an informational session was presented for parents on the upcoming MCAS 2.0 testing.

Grade 4 will hold a Family Fun Night on March 15, 2017, using the same format.

There will be a Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting on March 7, 2017. Family Ties of Western Massachusetts will be providing a parent workshop with tools on organizing their child's school and medical records, preparing for emergencies, participating in community programs and networking with other parents.

March 9, 2017 will be a half-day for students due to Parent-Teacher Conferences.

March 10, 2017 is a Professional Development Day for staff. There is no school for students that day.

Recognition:

This year's Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation-Excellence in Teaching Award was presented to Stephanie Hurley, Grade 4 teacher at Quarry Hill Community School (QHCS). Ms. Hurley was feted with balloons, certificates and flowers amid the cheers of administration and her students. Mrs. Clarke offered her public congratulations to Ms. Hurley on receiving this prestigious award, noting that this year the district was only allowed one recipient as compared to three in past years.

Mr. Metzger distributed a packet of student work from Mr. Vossen's Sport Psychology class, which is new to the high school this year, along with writing samples from Mrs. Webster's Spanish IV class. He provided an overview of the work to Committee members.

Minutes:

- **Motion by Mr. Farber to approve the February 8, 2017 minutes of the Regular Business Meeting as submitted. (Second by Ms. Oney)**
- **No discussion**
- **Motion carries 3-0 (Mr. Maia abstained from the vote.)**

Superintendent's Report:

Mrs. Clarke reported that the 2017-2018 school year draft calendar has been submitted to the Monson Teachers Association (MTA) for their review.

Mrs. Clarke commended the Administrative Leadership Team (ALT) and Mr. Smith for their ability for thinking outside the box regarding the FY'18 budget. A draft copy of the budget will be forwarded to the Finance Subcommittee for their review.

The Grade 8 Pasta & Possibilities fundraiser was held with over 100 students and parents attending. Following the dinner, a very successful informational session was held highlighting all that the high school has to offer. There was a group of high school panelists that spoke with a question and answer period as well. Mrs. Clarke thanked Mr. Bardwell and Mr. Metzger for hosting this event.

Business and Facilities Report:

Mr. Smith reported that work on the FY'18 budget continues.

A report on the roofing and foundation has been issued and an estimate will be forthcoming. Mr. Smith will forward the reports and final estimates to the Committee for review and prioritization of repairs. A Facilities and Long-Term Planning Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled and Mr. Smith will invite the lead engineer to that meeting.

The pool at QHCS has been slated for draining the first week of April 2017 to assess for any necessary repairs.

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports:

Goals and Mandates Update:

Finance: It was recommended that a meeting be scheduled for next week in order for Mrs. Clarke to present the budget to the Committee at the March 15, 2017 Regular Business Meeting.

Facilities and Long-Term Planning: A meeting will be scheduled soon.

Curriculum: Upon approval of the School Improvement Plans, a meeting will be scheduled.

Human Resources/Negotiations: A meeting will be scheduled as a follow-up to the previous Working Meeting involving the joint goals of the Committee and Superintendent.

Policy/Diversity: Mrs. Clarke requested a meeting be scheduled noting proposed changes Mrs. Fedora has to some of the Health and Wellness policies and the need to draft a substance abuse prevention policy. Mr. Farber noted that the subcommittee met on February 15, 2017 to address the recommended redraft of what was the Guidance Program, Policy JLD, now being changed to the Counseling Program. There are minor revisions needed to reflect the name change.

- **Motion by Mr. Farber that the Committee accept the changes to file JLD, now Counseling Program and move to a first read. (Second by Ms. Oney)**
- **No discussion**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

Also addressed at the meeting was the proposal to change the high school graduation gown to a single color. Reviewed was a follow-up letter from legal counsel and information from Glenn Koocher from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), who noted there is no formal policy by MASC which directly addresses the issue of graduation colors or gowns and the subject has not come up to the best of his knowledge, with the implication that this is an administrative level issue and not one of Policy. Mr. Farber stated that Policy AC already addresses the issue and the Committee deems it advisable and appropriate that the decision be made at the building and Superintendent level and, as such, the Policy Subcommittee recommends that the School Committee take no action on this issue except to endorse the decision of the Principal as consistent with current law and Policy, if it so chooses. A lengthy discussion on endorsement of the Committee ensued.

- **Motion by Mr. Farber that the Committee endorses the decision of the administration to support the proposal of a single color graduation gown. (Second by Ms. Oney)**
- **No further discussion**
- **Roll Call Vote:**
Mr. Maia – Yes
Ms. Oney – Yes
Mr. Farber – Yes
Mr. Sauriol – Abstain
- **Motion carries 3-0**

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Sauriol noted that Committee members should have received Mrs. Clarke's Mid-Year Goals. No discussion at this time.

- **Motion by Mr. Farber that the Committee accept the proposed School Improvement Plan from Monson High School. (Second by Ms. Oney)**
- **A short discussion followed.**
- **Motion carries 4-0**
- **Motion by Mr. Farber that the Committee accept the proposed School Improvement Plan from Granite Valle Middle School. (Second by Mr. Sauriol)**
- **A short discussion followed.**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

- **Motion by Mr. Farber that the Committee accept the proposed School Improvement Plan from Quarry Hill Community School. (Second by Mr. Maia)**
- **A short discussion followed.**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

Mr. Sauriol thanked the Principals and members of their School Councils.

New Business:

Mr. Metzger gave an update on New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation, noting the high school was visited this week by one of the Associate Directors for NEASC to kick-off the formal process of a year-long self-study by faculty and staff. He read the seven Performance Indicators:

1. Beliefs and Core Values
2. Curriculum
3. Instruction
4. Assessment
5. School Leadership
6. School Resources for Learning
7. Community Resources for Learning

Mr. Metzger explained that faculty, over the next 12-15 months will be tasked with collecting ample evidence which speaks to where they feel they are on each indicator. Individual reports and findings will be written on the data collected for assessment, identifying strengths and areas of improvement. The findings will be sent approximately March 2018, to the Commission on Public Schools who will analyze them over the summer. In the fall of 2018 a visiting team of educators, ranging from classroom teachers to building administrators, will come in to talk with staff, students, administrators, School Committee members, community members and parents to gather conclusions and information, and a few months later submit their formal findings and recommendations in terms of the accreditation status.

The data presentation scheduled at this time in the Agenda has been changed to March 29, 2017 to allow representatives from the District and School Assistance Center (DSAC) to address the Committee on the work being done as well as an overview of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) District Report Cards.

Public session:

Mr. Sauriol opened Public Session at 7:47 p.m.

No one from the public came forward to address the Committee.

Mr. Sauriol closed Public Session at 7:47 p.m.

Action Items:

DSAC data will be presented on March 29, 2017.

March 15, 2017-Regular Business Meeting to include budget presentations by Mrs. Clarke and Ms. Morneau for Special Education.

Policy Subcommittee meeting to be scheduled for March 15, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

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Working Meeting to be scheduled for March 15, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. re: Joint Goals of Committee and Superintendent.

Reach out to Mr. Keller to schedule a Finance Subcommittee meeting.

Public Budget Hearing is tentatively scheduled for March 29, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. pending Finance Subcommittee budget approval.

Ethics training for Committee members.

- **Motion by Ms. Oney to adjourn Open Session. (Second by Mr. Farber)**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

Open session closed at 8:02 p.m.

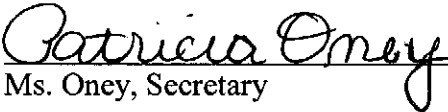
Documentation for this meeting:

Agenda-Regular Business Meeting

Distributed at meeting:

None

Approved by Committee:


Ms. Oney, Secretary