

**Minutes of the  
Monson School Committee  
Regular Business Meeting  
Quarry Hill Community School – School Committee Meeting Room  
October 25, 2017**

**Present:** Vice Chair Joel Keller; Secretary Jeff Lord; Committee Members Patricia Oney and Michelle Heroux

**Also Present:** Superintendent Cheryl Clarke; Director of Business & Facilities Don Smith; Director of Student Services Suzanne Morneau; Director of Curriculum Katherine Watts; Principal Mary Cieplik (GVMS); Interim Principal Paige Bernat (QHCS); Dean of Students Scott Johnson (GVMS); Interim Dean of Students Katie Czarniecki and Recording Secretary Karen Methe

**Absent:** Chair Joshua Farber

**Note:** This meeting was video-recorded.

Mr. Keller called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Ms. Oney read the Mission and Vision Statements.

**Announcements:**

Saving Isn't Scary, an informational evening for kindergarten parents, will be held on October 26, 2017 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Quarry Hill Community School (QHCS).

The Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) will hold their annual Trunk or Treat family event on October 29, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the QHCS parking lot.

Monson HEARS is sponsoring an evening with Dr. Roth Potee entitled "*What You Need to Know About Adolescent Brain Development*" held in the auditorium at Granite Valley Middle School from 6:30–8:00 p.m. Mrs. Clarke encouraged parents and their adolescent children to attend.

The district is partnering with The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Monson Military Care Package Drive to collect items for boxes being sent to 27 Monson troops for the holidays. Collection boxes will be available at each school November 1-10, 2017.

**Recognition:**

Mr. Metzger introduced Ms. Fountain, high school math teacher, who explained a recent geometry assignment which incorporated all disciplines. She distributed sample information to the Committee.

Congratulations were given to Joe Trivisonno for being named Division 4 Coach of the Year. Mrs. Clarke thanked the Monson Athletic Boosters for a remarkable fundraiser held for high school student Emily Hedspeth. Over \$7,000 was raised at the event that also included an alumni soccer game.

The John and Abigail Adams MCAS Scholarship recipients were honored today at the high school.

**Minutes:**

- **Motion by Ms. Oney to approve the October 11, 2017 minutes of the Regular Business Meeting as submitted. (Second by Mr. Lord)**
- **No discussion**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

**Student Representative Reports:**

**MHS-Marley Nissenbaum**

A random Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate (A.L.I.C.E.) drill was held at the high school. Marley reported that the drill was very successful.

The STAND/Diversity group's Hygiene Drive continues, with donations being collected to provide all classrooms with the supplies necessary for the anticipated cold/flu season.

The Golf Team won Western Mass this week. Cam Kratovil took first place.

Both cross country teams and the boys and girls soccer teams held their senior games/meets this week.

A speaker came to address students on the detrimental aspects of social media. Marley noted that the information was inspiring and helped students to be more aware. Mrs. Clarke added that the speaker presented at each school and a parent information evening was also held. She thanked the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) for funding this event.

Mr. Keller asked Marley to provide the Committee with feedback with regard to Policy IJNDD-Social Media. A brief discussion period followed, including questions and answers.

**Old Business:**

Mr. Bardwell, along with grade 3 and 4 students Sedona Arbour, Sophia Cessarini, Brady Ronaldson, Vincenzo Villamarin and Lovella Watts, provided the Committee with an overview of the school gardens initiative. A Powerpoint presentation was shown, with each student describing, in detail, their portion of the presentation. A delicious potato and corn chowder, made by Food Service employee Nancy Sexton, was offered for all to sample. The soup was made with the potatoes and parsley grown in the garden. Mr. Bardwell noted that a \$1200 grant from the Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom program has been received and will be put toward the purchase of a greenhouse in the spring.

Mrs. Cieplik, in addition to Grade 8 students Alana Ellis, Alyssa Lewis, Lauren Smith, Kylie Smith and Sophia Villamaino, addressed Committee members regarding changes to the Granite Valley Middle School dress code. An informational Powerpoint was presented and each student spoke about the proposed changes. A thorough question and answer period followed.

- **Motion by Mr. Lord to accept the proposed changes to the Granite Valley Middle School dress code as presented to the Committee. (Second by Ms. Oney)**
- **No further discussion**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

Mrs. Clarke read the four Superintendent goals that were approved at a Working Meeting held earlier this evening. She stated that the information will be posted to the website. A short discussion was held to define the rubric standards.

Mr. Bardwell reviewed and explained the information contained in the After High School Plans and Summary and Analysis of Class of 2017 Exit Interview Data handouts that were distributed to the Committee. Mr. Bardwell then answered questions from Committee members.

### **Superintendent's Report:**

MCAS results have been released. Mrs. Clarke explained the shift in what is being called the Legacy Test, which historically has been the paper and pencil test and is now the MCAS 2.0 test. It was reported that 50% of students across the state have met or exceeded expectations though the state is looking for a higher number. Mrs. Clarke stated that the high school did very well, above the state average in all three categories and definite gains were made at the elementary and middle schools. An explanation/overview of the results will be presented to the Committee by Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Watts and building principals at an upcoming meeting.

### **Business and Facilities Report:**

Mr. Smith noted that the Transportation Department bid was discussed in Executive Session and he is not aware of the status of that process, adding that he thought there was going to be a motion to have that delayed. He stated the he's met with Mrs. Gustafson, Food Service Director and that the bid process for outsourcing this department is on target.

Mr. Smith provided information on the Green Communities grant stating that the district was able to receive additional funding which will be used to complete the lighting at the middle school along with insulation work at the elementary and high schools.

Work continues on the forecast and will be ready any day next week so a Finance Subcommittee meeting can be scheduled.

Mrs. Clarke reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Palmer Public Schools regarding special education transportation, noting it is on hold at this time. Discussion ensued on why the general education bid analysis timeline was not adhered to as motioned in a previous meeting. Mr. Keller questioned what he perceived as an informal process to delay the timeline approved through a formal motion. Mr. Lord suggested waiting until the next meeting for Mr. Farber to be present to continue with this discussion. Mr. Keller stated that the research and analysis for the transportation bid should be completed by the date originally motioned. Mrs. Clarke stated that the transportation bid analysis will move forward at this time.

### **Subcommittee & Liaison Reports:**

#### **Policy/Diversity:**

Stating that she heard from one member of the public regarding #3 on Policy IJNDD, Mrs. Clarke asked for discussion on revisiting this language with the Policy/Diversity subcommittee.

- **Motion by Ms. Oney to table the movement of a third read for Policy IJNDD-Social Media. (Second by Ms. Heroux)**
- **No further discussion**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

### **Finance Subcommittee:**

No report

**Facilities and Long-Term Planning:**

No report

**Human Resources and Negotiations:**

No report

**Curriculum:**

No report

**Public session:**

Mr. Keller opened Public Session at 8:44 p.m.

No one came forward to address the Committee.

Mr. Keller closed Public Session at 8:44 p.m.

**Review of Action Items:**

Update the dress code in the Granite Valley Middle School handbook and post to website.

Schedule a Policy/Diversity subcommittee meeting to address Policy IJNDD #3 and return with a recommendation to the full Committee.

Mrs. Clarke will post her goals on the website.

Mr. Lord spoke about the initial meeting he and Ms. Heroux had with Town Administrator Evan Brassard regarding the visioning process and securing a professional to help the Board of Selectmen and School Committee in working together collaboratively on the visioning process. Mr. Lord suggested utilizing Town Planner Daniel Laroche which would not be any additional cost. Town Administrator Evan Brassard will discuss the possibility with the Selectmen Chair. A formal Committee will be formed soon. Mr. Lord will bring information, from a previously approved motion regarding the breakdown of people on this Committee, to Mr. Brassard and Mr. Laroche. He will also notify School Committee members of the date of that meeting. Mr. Keller commented that the Committee had previous discussion on seeking a third party, which would offer more objectivity. He noted a concern regarding the collaborative process between the Board of Selectmen and School Committee questioning whether the process has been turned over to Town Administrator. Ms. Heroux said that the process was still a collaborative one involving both Boards. Discussion continued surrounding the visioning process, possibly scheduling a Working Meeting to explore utilization of the Town Planner versus an outside entity.

- **Motion by Mr. Lord that the Committee endorse the initial use of the Town Planner to help spearhead the Visioning Committee.**

There was no second to the motion as Ms. Heroux asked for discussion before that happened, stating that the Town Planner had not yet been notified. Discussion continued with respect to investigating other options, which Mrs. Clarke volunteered to do.

- **Motion by Mr. Lord to adjourn Open Session. (Second by Ms. Oney)**
- **No discussion**

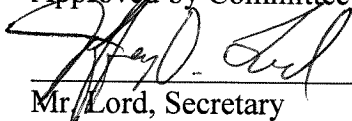
- **Roll Call Vote**  
**Mr. Keller**    **Yes**  
**Ms. Oney**     **Yes**  
**Ms. Heroux**   **Yes**  
**Mr. Lord**     **Yes**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

Open session closed at 8:58 p.m.

***Documentation for this meeting:***  
*Agenda-Regular Business Meeting*

***Distributed at Meeting:***  
*After High School Plans-Class of 2017*  
*Summary and Analysis of Class of 2017 Exit Interview Data*  
*Saving Isn't Scary*  
*What You Need to Know About Adolescent Brain Development*

Approved by Committee:



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Mr. Lord, Secretary