

**Minutes of the  
Monson School Committee  
Regular Business Meeting  
Quarry Hill Community School – School Committee Meeting Room  
January 10, 2018**

**Present:** Chair Joshua Farber; Vice Chair Joel Keller; Secretary Jeff Lord; Committee Member Michelle Heroux

**Also Present:** Superintendent Cheryl Clarke; Director of Business & Facilities Don Smith; Director of Counseling Robert Bardwell; Director of Transportation Michelle Loglisci; Monson Teachers' Association (MTA) President Leah Zippin and Recording Secretary Karen Methe

**Absent:** Committee Member Patricia Oney

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

Mr. Farber called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Mr. Keller read the Mission and Vision Statements.

**Announcements:**

January 11, 2018-Science Exploration Night at the high school

January 15, 2018-No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observance

January 18 and 19, 2018-Early Release Days for students, Parent –Teacher Conferences will be held at the elementary school, curriculum work will be done at the middle school and semester transition/finals will be held at the high school.

January 23, 2018-3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Grade 8 Parent Information Night which will include a student panel and administrative staff. On January 18, 2018, each Grade 8 family will receive a personal phone call invitation from a member of the Administrative Leadership Team. Grade 7 students will also be encouraged to attend this year.

**Recognition:**

Mr. Sitnik, high school math teacher and senior student Krystava Caban, provided Committee members with an in-depth explanation of two projects from her Intro to Algebra 2 class that were on display: a parabolic mirror and a scale model of the Granite Valley Middle School building.

**Minutes:**

- **Motion by Mr. Keller to approve the November 29, 2017 minutes of the Regular Business Meeting as submitted. (Second by Mr. Lord)**
- **Mr. Keller noted an error on Line 119, should read 2018 not 2019. Mrs. Methe will revise before finalizing.**
- **No further discussion**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

- **Motion by Mr. Lord to approve the December 20, 2017 minutes of the Regular Business Meeting as submitted. (Second by Ms. Heroux)**
- **No discussion**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

### **Student Representative Reports:**

#### **MHS-Marley Nissenbaum**

Marley noted that the 2018 return to school was welcomed by two snow days, January 4 and 5. Finals will be taken on the two early release days of January 18 and 19, 2018. Students are also preparing to change classes to the next semester.

The Science Fair will be held tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. featuring the classes of Anatomy, Chemistry, Physics and Biology.

The morning show will return to the high school. Each Friday, a group of students will broadcast live with morning announcements, sports information, school events and happenings.

#### **GVMS-Olivia Chrzan and Molly Szado**

The monthly Citizen of the Month assembly has been rescheduled due to weather. The new date is January 10, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.

Last Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students traveled to the Boston Science Museum to explore interactive exhibits. One of the main attractions was the “Gridiron Glory” exhibit, showcasing more than 200 artifacts from the 125-year history of professional football. Other displays included the “Hall of Human Life”, “New England Habitats” and “Nanotechnology”.

For the month of January, Granite Valley students and staff are celebrating Kindness. Each grade level is working on random acts of kindness as well as structured acts of kindness. Monthly advisory lessons have been planned to this end.

The Student Council is working on a Winter Ball scheduled for February 2, 2018 with a snow date of February 9, 2018. The Ball will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m.

The second term, which was scheduled to end on January 19, 2018, will be extended to January 22, 2018 due to the number of snow days.

#### **Agenda Item 9a-Old Business-Update Transportation Bid (Mrs. Loglisci)**

Mrs. Loglisci began by distributing a packet of information relating to school transportation to the Committee. Noting that there were concerns over not receiving any bids, Mrs. Loglisci stated that she wanted to look into the reasoning to be able to report back to the Committee. Stating that she is not surprised by the lack of bid interest, adding that Monson has been sole owner/operator of their transportation since 2000, she told the Committee that the department has gone out to bid a couple of times prior, and only received one bid each time from First Student with that bid being higher than what the current cost has been. She briefly reviewed an article printed in the Worcester Telegram and Gazette entitled *No Competition for School Bus Contracts Poses a Problem*, in addition to the results of a survey which Mrs. Loglisci requested through the Massachusetts Association of Pupil Transportation. She continued to outline the information contained in the packet of information given to the Committee. She spoke of training that occurred earlier today regarding transportation of special needs students.

Mr. Keller asked for clarification regarding the statement that read “Neither contractor was interested in providing services equal to what we are providing.” Mrs. Loglisci provided a synopsis of the contract provisions for the big yellow buses which includes athletics, field trips, and crossing guards. Mr. Keller requested specific bid spec information which Mrs. Loglisci provided. An extensive discussion ensued in regard to the in-house transportation mechanic and maintenance of the vans and

busses. Another in-depth discussion took place surrounding another company and their procedure for transporting special needs which Mrs. Loglisci expressed was an unsafe procedure. Mr. Lord stated that even with all the bid spec work, which he thanked Mrs. Loglisci and Mr. Smith for, the department provides services as cheaply, if not cheaper, and offers better service than the competitors. He referenced the "Going the Extra Mile" hand-out contained in the packet of distributed information. Mr. Keller requested that Mrs. Loglisci send him the bid spec to read for his own education, which she agreed to do, noting they were public documents, available to anyone requesting them. She affirmed that the bid spec was prepared comparing "apples to apples". Mr. Farber closed the discussion noting that the Committee's concern is two-fold, both ensuring a high standard of service is being maintained while at the same time getting the best financial deal possible. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Keller for his diligence and diligence of the process as well to help the Committee feel satisfied that the requested bid process by the Committee had been performed with fidelity and noted that the bid spec should reflect that.

#### **Agenda Item 10a-New Business-Prevention Needs Assessment Survey (PNAS) Results Report**

Mr. Bardwell introduced Gail Gramarossa, Program Director and Nehr Jenkins, Project Coordinator of the Quaboag Hills Substance Abuse Alliance. Information was distributed to Committee members. The results of an October 2017 PNAS survey, given to grade 8, 10 and 12 students, were displayed and discussed through a detailed PowerPoint presentation. There was a question and answer period that followed culminating with a discussion on suggestions that were offered as to how the Committee could support the Alliance.

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

##### **Human Resources and Negotiations:**

This Subcommittee met on January 8, 2018 and established a timeline for Unit A negotiations.

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

Policy IHBG – Home Schooling continues to be discussed. Legal counsel suggests the current language be revised to read "A student being educated in a home-based program within the district shall not have access to public school activities of either a curricular or extracurricular nature".

- **Motion by Mr. Lord to accept proposed changes to Policy IHBG as recommended by district counsel. (No second)**
- **A detailed discussion including pros and cons referencing counsel's recommended language followed.**
- **As there was no second to the motion, it expires.**

It is the Committee's consensus that this Policy be referred back to the Policy Subcommittee for further review.

##### **Facilities and Long-Term Planning:**

Mr. Keller offered a high level overview of topics reviewed at this Subcommittee meeting. A bid will be going out for the dock doors.

There was a capital costs discussion regarding the generator at Quarry Hill Community School, New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) progress at the high school, the air conditioning unit in the auditorium of Granite Valley Middle School and possible upgrade of the phone system in conjunction with the town.

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**Finance Subcommittee:**

No report

**Curriculum:**

No report

**Business and Facilities Report:**

Mr. Smith stated that Food Service Director, Mrs. Gustafson, is reviewing the bid and will have it out by the January 2018 timeframe requested.

FY19 budget templates have been created and are pretty well developed, requiring only a small amount of fine tuning.

Mr. Smith noted that the Kaestle Boos report of repairs needed at Quarry Hill Community School continues, keeping in mind the suggested timeframe.

Mr. Keller questioned the FY19 budget timeline.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Work on the FY19 budget continues with Mrs. Clarke meeting both individually and as a group with administrators, Ms. Morneau, Mrs. Watts. All stakeholders have shared ideas and visions for their schools and/or departments for next year. The information is being compiled for another group review.

Mrs. Clarke suggested a meeting after February break for a mid-year update on her goals. Her work continues especially in regard to the future visioning of the district. On January 31, 2018 the initial meeting of a parent focus group will be held. Mrs. Clarke informed the Committee that there is a great cross section of parents and together they will be talking about their concerns, thoughts and ideas in moving the district forward.

Mrs. Clarke is working with District Information Liaison, Bri Johnston, on methods of dissemination of district and school news. Results of a recent family survey are being compiled to determine how to move forward effectively.

**Old Business:**

Mr. Farber noted that after doing some research on acceptable methods for approving meeting minutes according to the mass.gov website on the Attorney General's frequently asked questions page, he suggested that the non-Chair of a Subcommittee takes the minutes, Chair of the Subcommittee will review and subsequently approve them for submission to Chair of School Committee and Superintendent to add as Agenda item at a Regular Business Meeting and included as part of the packet for that meeting so that all Committee members have access to the information. The suggested procedure will be brought to the Policy Subcommittee for review and Mr. Farber will recommend an attachment including the minimum legal requirements for Subcommittee meeting minutes. He added that the current procedure for approval of Regular Business Meeting minutes will remain the same.

**Public session:**

Mr. Farber opened Public Session at 8:57 p.m.

No one came forward to address the Committee.

Mr. Farber closed Public Session at 8:57 p.m.

**Review of Action Items:**

The Finance Subcommittee needs to schedule a meeting soon.

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Two items are being referred back to Policy Subcommittee for additional discussion.  
The next scheduled Regular Business Meeting is January 24, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

The following meeting dates will be scheduled:

**Human Resources/Negotiations Subcommittee:**

February 7, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

**Regular Business Meetings:**

February 14 and 28, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

March 14, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

- **Motion by Mr. Lord to adjourn Open Session and move to Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §21a, Purpose #3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and litigation, specifically talking about Board preference and priorities in bargaining with Unit A not to return to Open Session. (Second by Mr. Keller)**
  - **No discussion**
  - **Roll Call Vote**
    - Mr. Farber    Yes**
    - Mr. Keller    Yes**
    - Ms. Heroux    Yes**
    - Mr. Lord      Yes**
  - **Motion carries 4-0**

Open session closed at 9:03 p.m.

Executive Session began at 9:10 p.m.


***Documentation for this meeting:***

*Agenda-Regular Business Meeting  
Prevention Needs Assessment Survey  
Quaboag Hills Substance Abuse Alliance*

***Distributed at Meeting:***

***2017 Transportation Bid Results Informational Packet***

Approved by Committee:

  
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Mr. Lord, Secretary