

**Minutes of the
Monson School Committee
Regular Business Meeting
Quarry Hill Community School – School Committee Meeting Room
April 5, 2017**

Present: Chair Peter Sauriol; Vice Chair Joshua Farber; Secretary Patricia Oney; Committee Member Joel Keller

Also Present: Superintendent Cheryl Clarke; Director of Business and Facilities Don Smith; Director of Curriculum Katherine Watts; Director of Guidance Robert Bardwell; Dean of Students Jack Champagne (GVMS); and Recording Secretary Karen Methé

Absent:
Committee Member Ed Maia

Note: This meeting was video-recorded.

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

Mr. Keller read the Mission and Vision Statements.

Announcements:

Coffee and Conversation with Mrs. Clarke is scheduled for Monday, April 10, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the School Committee Room.

Recognition:

Mr. Champagne thanked the Parent Teacher Student Association for bringing the Brain Show to the district. Students were able to participate in the fun, interactive game show during the day and families were invited to an evening event. Granite Valley Middle School (GVMS) student Julian Nobbs gave an overview of the Brain Show to Committee members.

GVMS is sponsoring a Book Fair in the library all this week.

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) testing has commenced at GVMS with Grade 5.

Mr. Champagne presented a PowerPoint of puzzle piece pictures created by SOAR Program students and in addition to posters, decorated the hall for Autism Awareness. Students also designed pins and ribbons that have been on sale during lunch times. Samples were distributed to Committee members for purchase at \$2 per item.

Mrs. Amanda Nobbs, Grade 5 teacher along with her son Julian, spoke in depth, about newsela. Teachers are able to assign students articles to read that are followed up with a quiz/requested writing piece. Student quiz data is tracked and both teacher and student receive feedback indicating how well they are reading and understanding. Students are assigned a suggested reading level based on their data though also have the choice to read at a different level, if desired. Teachers and students can annotate the text, with the ability for teachers to leave

specific questions for individual students to respond to. Mr. Champagne noted that newsela allows students to read material at their own levels making class discussions manageable for all readers. A question and answer period followed. Mr. Sauriol thanked Mrs. Nobbs and Julian for their presentation.

Student Representative Report:

GVMS:

The Brain Show was amazing last Thursday night. A huge thank you to the PTSA for their sponsorship. Students from K-8 got a chance to answer questions, dance and win prizes during the day. Families came to the evening event which was provided for free.

The book fair is being held all week and students will have a last chance for book shopping on April 10, 2017.

MCAS testing has started. English Language Arts and Math tests will be taken on the computer this year.

April 7, 2017 is the Student of the Month ceremony, from 8:00-8:25 a.m. in the auditorium followed by the character education assembly. As always, parents are encouraged to attend and celebrate the award with their children. Students will discuss CONFIDENCE in their character education groups this month and are asked to wear blue to show school spirit on Friday.

Superintendent's Report:

Mrs. Clarke has instituted "Envelope Day" at QHCS and GVMS. Students were supplied with a large manila envelope marked with their name for the purpose of taking all flyers and information home every Wednesday. As an incentive, she created a "Golden Ticket" to be placed at random in student envelopes, redeemable for a prize. Envelopes are returned the next day for distribution the following week.

Mrs. Clarke reported that Grade 3 students took the MCAS 2.0 tests on their Chromebooks. In an effort to increase readership of the weekly "In the Loop" newsletter, a Trivia Contest has been added which will also include prizes.

Business and Facilities Report:

Mr. Smith presented the latest forecast with a -\$107,243 variance stating it was well within the School Choice funds range. Mr. Sauriol asked if there may be some future unforeseen expenditures to which Mr. Smith commented that he feels that facilities would be the only thing he could think of that could possibly be out of the ordinary.

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports:

Goals and Mandates Update:

Finance:

The subcommittee met earlier this evening. Work continues on the FY18 budget due to the revised number from the Town which is now \$10,720,000. Detailed discussion was held regarding items that may be added back into the budget. Some items on the original cut list may be reinstated. Mr. Keller noted that there was a lot of good work from the Administrative Leadership Team and he thanked Town Administrator Evan Brassard and the Board of Selectmen.

- **The Finance Subcommittee recommends and a motion made by Mr. Farber to approve the following budget for FY2018:**
 1. **That the Board request \$10,720,000 from the Town appropriation.**
 2. **That the Board request \$50,000 from capital spending for Chromebooks.**
 3. **Move additional \$190,727 from School Choice.**
- **(Second by Mr. Keller)**
- **Discussion followed with Mr. Farber noting that it was essentially a level funded budget going into next year. Mr. Keller added that the goal was to get as close as possible to maintain programs for students and keeping class sizes low, among other items discussed.**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

- **Motion by Mr. Farber to provide and the Chair deliver a memo clarifying each of the components of the previous motion and their expected impact on services to Town and Town Administration. (Second by Mr. Keller)**
- **Discussion followed**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

Facilities and Long-Term Planning:

A meeting will be scheduled upon final inspection from the structural engineer.

Curriculum:

The subcommittee met earlier in the week for two hours.

Ms. Watts presented curriculum updates in some detail, noting that the English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Frameworks were recently revised, and that the History Framework is currently being revised. She discussed the emphasis being put on literacy throughout the entire curriculum.

Math: She provided information on Go Math and Big Ideas, the math series being used in K-5 and 6-8, respectively; Money Smart, a finance program being used in K-5; and discussed the use of monthly release time, walkthroughs, and available training opportunities for teaching staff.

English Language Arts: Focus is on reviewing curriculum units for K-4; analysis of reading materials to ensure appropriate test complexity by grade level; scheduling changes to institute small group instruction. Monthly release time is also utilized, similar to the Math curriculum.

Science: The schools are in the middle of the 3-year rollout of the 2016 Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework. Teachers are working to bridge the old standards to the new. There are several in-service opportunities for staff, along with opportunities for grant work through a partnership with Westfield State University.

Social Studies/History: As previously stated the History Framework is being revised. Many standards are embedded in the ELA units. Additional content materials are available through DE streaming.

Technology education: Concentration is on digital literacy skills, especially in relation to online MCAS 2.0 testing, along with internet safety and appropriate use.

Early education: Pre-K will be using the Tools of the Mind Curriculum next year and Kindergarten is implementing a Discovery Room for students.

Social/Emotional Learning: The focus is on the continuation of PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention) training and implementation.

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The next meeting will be scheduled for May 2, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

Human Resources/Negotiations:

A meeting will be scheduled in the next month.

Policy/Diversity:

- **Motion by Mr. Farber to adopt the Counseling Program Policy JLD as Monson Public Schools Policy. (Second by Ms. Oney)**
- **No discussion**
- **Mr. Farber thanked Mr. Bardwell and his staff for helping to clarify the policy and ensuring that the Policy is reflected as such.**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

Unfinished Business:

None

Public session:

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

Mr. Bardwell announced that State Treasurer Deb Goldberg will be at Quarry Hill Community School on Thursday, April 13, 2017 from 12:00-1:30 to talk about financial literacy and savings for college. She will meet with kindergarten students, their parents, administrators and invited elected officials. She will also read "You Can Be Anything" a book about dreams and goals by Gary Craig to the students. This will also be an opportunity for the students and community to learn more about the SeedMA program which provides \$50 (compliments of Monson Savings Bank) for each kindergarten student to start a 529 College Savings account. Families who have not yet signed up for an account may do so at this event. Mrs. Clarke thanked Mr. Bardwell for his dedication to this program.

Mr. Sauriol closed Public Session at 7:51 p.m.

Action Items:

Notify Massachusetts Association of School Committees to update Policy JLD

Memo to Town Administration

Remind Committee members of State Treasurer's visit to on April 13, 2017

Schedule April 25, 2017 meetings as follows:

5:00 p.m. Finance Subcommittee Meeting

6:00 p.m. Working Meeting

7:00 p.m. Regular Business Meeting

May 3, 2017-Regular Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.

May 3, 2017-Working Meeting 6:00 p.m. (to prepare for Town Meeting on May 8, 2017)

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

Open session closed at 7:57 p.m.


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Documentation for this meeting:
Agenda-Regular Business Meeting

Distributed at meeting:
None

Approved by Committee:


Ms. Oney, Secretary