

**Minutes of the
Monson School Committee
Regular Business Meeting
Quarry Hill Community School – School Committee Meeting Room
October 12, 2016**

Present: Chair Peter Sauriol; Secretary Patricia Oney; Committee Members Joel Keller and Ed Maia

Also Present: Superintendent Cheryl Clarke; Director of Business and Facilities Don Smith; Director of Curriculum Katherine Watts; Director of Guidance Robert Bardwell; Principal Mary Cieplik (GVMS); and Recording Secretary Karen Methe

Note: This meeting was video-recorded.

Mr. Sauriol called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Mrs. Clarke read the **Mission & Vision Statements**.

Announcements:

Mrs. Clarke gave a reminder that there is a half-day for students on October 18, 2016 due to scheduled Parent-Teacher Conferences.

The Lions mobile sight and hearing van will be offering screenings at Quarry Hill Community on October 17, 2016. Mrs. Clarke thanked the organization for their continued support of these very important screenings.

October 29, 2016, the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) will hold its annual Trunk or Treat in the parking lot of Quarry Hill Community School. Mrs. Clarke encouraged everyone to attend.

Upon Committee consensus, New Business item #11a will be moved to this point in the meeting.

Representatives from the State Treasurer's Office and the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority presented a short informational video and distributed an informational folder regarding a college savings account. SeedMA is a universal, seed-funded College Savings Account program, designed to help Massachusetts children and families save for postsecondary education and training, develop positive savings behaviors, and establish college-bound identities. The program, presently in the pilot stage, will be open to every kindergarten student enrolled in the Monson Public School System for the 2016-2017 school year. Eventually SeedMA will become available to every kindergarten student in Massachusetts. Accounts through the SeedMA program are offered through the Office of Treasurer and Receiver General of Massachusetts. Every account includes a free \$50 deposit through this office. The representatives thanked Monson Savings Bank and the school district for reaching and inviting them to speak.

Recognition:

Mr. Hogan, Grade 8 History teacher at Granite Valley Middle School, spoke to the Committee about the American Revolution projects that students were working on in his class. Students were offered the opportunity to enter a national contest regarding the Constitution and noted winners will be announced on November 11, 2016. Mr. Hogan distributed samples of student work to the Committee to view.

Mr. Hogan then spoke of an initiative through Discovery Ed that with enough votes, he and five students would be able to attend the Inauguration in January 2017. Everyone was encouraged to vote, specific information can be obtained in the weekly In the Loop publication. Mrs. Clarke thanked Mr. Hogan for presenting.

Minutes:

- **Motion by Mr. Keller to approve the September 28, 2016 minutes of the Regular Business Meeting as submitted. (Second by Ms. Oney)**
- **Mr. Keller asked that Mr. Maia be added to the list of Also Present for the September 28, 2016 minutes.**
- **No further discussion**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

Student Representative Reports:**Emily and Katie Roberts (GVMS)**

Students and staff are encouraged to dress in costume for Halloween, October 31, 2016.

Students can choose to enter into a costume contest.

The following students were recognized at the Student of the Month assembly:

Grade 5 - Abby Forest and Drew Strycharz

Grade 6 - Riley Sweet and RJ Woodman

Grade 7 - Emily Lebel and Jacob Provost

Grade 8 - Emma Forest and Cameron Boucher

Specials - Brianna Sasnowitz

Friday, October 7, 2016 was the second character education day of the year. Students wore purple to represent the character trait: purposeful. Students participated in a team building game, an assembly and group discussions about the topic.

Tuesday, October 18, 2016 is an early release day for students. Parent-teacher conferences have been scheduled.

A reminder to parents and guardians to please use the parent portal to review your child's grades. Mid-term grades have been posted.

A big thank you to Captain David Martin of the Monson Fire Department who met with each grade last Friday to discuss fire safety and prevention. He shared a great deal of important information for families.

The Fall Book Fair is being held October 17-25, 2016. Wednesday, October 19, 2016 a family afternoon event will be held from 2:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. which includes raffle and snacks.

Jason Lefebvre, who wrote "*Too Much Glue*" is joining grades 5 and 6 on October 18, 2016.

Jason lives in Holyoke, MA. He worked for 15 years as a preschool paraprofessional and has been the children's librarian at the Holyoke library since 2005.

Book orders will be available and Mr. Lefebvre will sign the books.

Information regarding on-going fundraisers:

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Please continue to collect box tops. Deadline is October 25, 2016.

Please bring in any size used ink cartridges, they are recycled.

Please continue to collect can tabs and bring them to the library in support of Shriner's Hospital.

Last June over 110 pounds of can tabs were collected.

Grade 8 students are selling coupon books to raise funds for their New York City trip. Books are \$25.

Marley Nissenbaum and Ben Pagliaro (MHS)

Mid-term grades and Progress Reports have been distributed.

A recent Sophomore College Night was held. A representative for Dean College was there to answer any questions students or parents had.

The first Pep rally of the year was held last week which recognized fall athletes from the Cross Country, Golf and Soccer teams. Two more rallies will be held for winter and spring athletes.

The Girls Cross Country team remains undefeated as does the Girls Soccer team.

The Boys Soccer team has shown much improvement and has won several of their games, including beating the #2 team of Amherst.

The Student Council is sponsoring a Krispy Kreme fundraiser at \$7 per dozen.

A Halloween Dance is being planned with the date to be determined.

Mr. Sauriol asked the student representatives to introduce themselves for the viewing audience.

Superintendent's Report:

Mrs. Clarke introduced Mrs. Heather Richardson, coordinator of the after school M.A.D.E. Program. Mrs. Richardson distributed a list of program offerings and provided Committee members with a thorough overview of the program, including the \$40 cost, which includes a snack and transportation home. Mrs. Clarke thanked Mrs. Richardson for all her hard work in coordinating the popular after school program.

Mrs. Clarke distributed copies of the Strategic Plan Development progress. She noted that the progress was right on track with the timeline created. On October 31, 2016, all groups will meet to finalize the three year plan and Mrs. Clarke hopes to present it at the November 10, 2016 Professional Development Day.

Business and Facilities Report:

Mr. Smith advised Committee members that he had emailed them a preliminary summary of the structural inspection and will provide the final report upon its completion. He reviewed the key points. Mrs. Clarke noted that the free water testing initiative continues and it has been labor intensive. She thanked Mr. Smith for all his hard work involving the buildings.

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports:

Policy:

- **Motion by Mr. Keller to dispense with the reading of the entire Concussion and Return to Play Policy. (Second by Mr. Maia)**
- **No discussion**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

- **Motion by Mr. Maia to move the Concussion and Return to Play Policy to a third read. (Second by Mr. Keller)**

- **Discussion followed**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

Mrs. Clarke reported that all three schools have held their first School Council meetings. The Committee liaisons for the School Councils were reviewed.

Mr. Keller noted that the Facilities and Long-Term Planning Subcommittee was waiting for data information from the structural inspection to schedule a meeting.

Mr. Sauriol noted that at the next meeting he would like an update from each of the subcommittees.

Public session:

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

No one came forward to address the Committee

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

Unfinished Business:

- **Motion by Mr. Maia to approve the goals as revised by Mrs. Clarke. (Second by Ms. Oney)**
- **Discussion followed**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

It was determined that Superintendent's Evaluation would not be a standing item on the Agenda.

New Business:

Mr. Bardwell told the Committee that a survey would be sent to all Kindergarten parents for their input on the 529 Savings talked of earlier in the meeting. A presentation regarding this program will be made to the Board of Selectmen at their meeting on October 25, 2016 and also to the QHCS staff on November 1, 2016. A launch of this program will be held in conjunction with other events scheduled at QHCS. The goal will be to have this program be a part of every incoming kindergarten class. Mr. Bardwell thanked Monson Savings Bank for initially funding the money for this pilot. He noted that Monson is only the second district in the state to offer this program. Mr. Keller offered to be an ambassador for the program. Mr. Maia commented on the positive impact for students on learning how to budget in conjunction with the school banking program that is in place at QHCS.

The Special Education Update by Ms. Morneau has been postponed to the next meeting.

Action Items:

Concussion Policy documents

Schedule Long-Term Planning and Facilities, Finance, Curriculum and Policy/Diversity Subcommittee meetings.

Evaluation timeline sent out with goals and indicators

- **Motion by Ms. Oney to adjourn the Open Meeting. (Second by Mr. Keller)**
- **No discussion**
- **Motion passes 4-0**

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Open session closed at 8:03 p.m.

Documentation for this meeting:

Agenda-Regular Business Meeting

Regular Business Meeting Minutes for September 28, 2016

School Committee Members List-Revised

Subcommittee Liaison Positions List-Revised

Distributed at meeting:

SeedMA Informational Folder

Strategic Plan Development-Progress as of 10/12/16

M.A.D.E. Program List of Offerings

Emailed prior to meeting:

Preliminary summary of structural inspection (by Mr. Smith)

Approved by Committee:



Ms. Oney, Secretary