

**Minutes of the
Monson School Committee
Regular Business Meeting
Quarry Hill Community School – School Committee Meeting Room
August 10, 2016**

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

Also Present: Superintendent Cheryl Clarke; Principal William Metzger (MHS); Director of Guidance Robert Bardwell and Recording Secretary Karen Methe

Note: This meeting was video-recorded.

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

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

Announcements:

The Second Annual Bus Tour will take place on August 22, 2016 – 9:00 -11:00 a.m.

Director of Transportation, Michelle Loglisci, and her staff are hosting a Transportation Night on August 23, 2016 – 6:00-8:00 p.m. Parents and students are encouraged to attend if they have any questions about their child’s transportation. Students will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the school busses and school bus safety.

New Teacher Orientation will be held on August 24, 2016 as will Grade 5 Orientation 6:00-8:00 p.m., both at Granite Valley Middle School.

The first day for staff will be August 25, 2016, in the Granite Valley Middle School cafeteria beginning at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast provided by the Monson Teachers Association (MTA).

Mrs. Clarke will address the staff to welcome them back and new staff will be introduced by building principals.

The first Professional Development day will be held on August 26, 2016.

August 29, 2016 is the first day for students. Kindergarten Open House will be held.

Kindergarten students begin the school year on August 30, 2016. Preschool Open House will be held throughout the day.

Mrs. Clarke introduced and welcomed Jack Champagne, the new Dean of Students at Granite Valley Middle School and Suzanne Morneau, newly hired Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

Mr. Champagne comes to Monson from White Street School in Springfield. Mrs. Clarke noted that it had been a Level 4 school and is now Level 1 and she is eager to listen to Mr.

Champagne’s thoughts on the work that was done to achieve that goal. Mr. Champagne also taught for the Longmeadow Public Schools.

Ms. Morneau has been in the field of education for 14 years and has a background as a school psychologist and school counselor also serving in the role of Special Education Administrator in Leicester and most recently the Special Education Administrator for the Northboro-Southboro Public Schools.

Minutes:

- **Motion by Mr. Keller to approve the May 18, 2016 minutes of the Regular Business Meeting as submitted. (Second by Ms. Oney)**
- **No discussion**
- **Motion carries 2-0 (Ms. Oney abstaining from the vote)**

- **Motion by Mr. Keller to approve the June 8, 2016 minutes of the Regular Business Meeting as submitted. (Second by Ms. Oney)**
- **No discussion**
- **Motion carries 3-0**

- **Motion by Mr. Keller to approve the June 15, 2016 minutes of the Reorganization Meeting as submitted. (Second by Ms. Oney)**
- **No discussion**
- **Motion carries 3-0**

- **Motion by Ms. Oney to approve the June 15, 2016 minutes of the Regular Business Meeting as submitted. (Second by Mr. Keller)**
- **Discussion on revising these minutes to read “Working Meeting” as there was not a Regular Business Meeting on this day.**
- **Amended motion by Mr. Keller to approve the June 15, 2016 minutes of the Working Meeting as submitted. (Second by Ms. Oney)**
- **No further discussion**
- **Motion carries 3-0**

- **Motion by Ms. Oney to approve the July 6, 2016 minutes of the Working Meeting as submitted. (Second by Mr. Keller)**
- **No discussion**
- **Motion carries 3-0**

- **Motion by Mr. Keller to approve the July 6, 2016 minutes of the Regular Business Meeting as submitted. (Second by Ms. Oney)**
- **No discussion**
- **Motion carries 3-0**

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports:

Finance, Human Resources/Negotiations and Facilities/Long-Term Planning subcommittee meetings have been scheduled before the next Regular Business Meeting. It was recommended that a Policy subcommittee meeting be scheduled, prior to the September 14, 2016 Regular Business Meeting, for review of the new concussion policy and to continue the Code of Conduct discussion. Mr. Farber made note of this as an action item.

Superintendent's Report:

Mrs. Clarke gave an overview to the Committee of the Summer Institute she recently attended, noting that it was a great and inspiring event.

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The summer Administrative Leadership Team (ALT) Retreat was held on August 4 and 5, 2016 at Jay's Bed & Breakfast in Holyoke. ALT staff all agreed the atmosphere of the venue was very inspiring. Jay's Bed & Breakfast is the former home of a prominent local judge. Mrs. Clarke highlighted the topics that were covered including, but not limited to, looking at the Strategic Plan and Coaching Teams.

Kindergarten enrollment has increased by 11 students, 6 of which are School Choice.

Mrs. Clarke informed the Committee that she will plan to present the Strategic Plan at a future meeting.

Mr. Farber mentioned the possibility of Committee members joining the Summer ALT retreat next year, if only for a few hours.

Mrs. Clarke noted that Mr. Sauriol had discussed some type of mini-retreat for Committee members in conjunction with their self-evaluation.

Mr. Keller questioned the goals for the Strategic Plan that have not yet been addressed, to which Mrs. Clarke responded that she has been working on them. Mr. Farber noted his appreciation for Mrs. Clarke's determination to get this done as early as possible given the very hectic month of September.

Business & Facilities Report:

The facilities are undergoing a mini "face-lift". Broken pavement and sidewalks are being repaired or replaced. The Quarry Hill Community School sign, railings and columns have been painted, the new playground has been installed, thanks to the capital planning funding from the town. The security system and cameras are scheduled for installation.

Public session:

Mr. Farber opened Public Session at 7:22 p.m.

No one came forward to address the Committee

Mr. Farber closed Public Session at 7:23 p.m.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Farber confirmed that each member received the revised District Liaison List. He noted that his understanding of the Chair's expectation was that each subcommittee make contact, in some manner, to the group for which he/she is the liaison to, before the August 31, 2016 Regular Business Meeting.

New Business:

The Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) Conference will be held November 2-5, 2016 in Hyannis. Mr. Sauriol has expressed interest in attending and would like to extend the invitation to other Committee members. Deadline to register is October 2, 2016 so Mr. Farber asked that anyone interested let Mrs. Methe know adding that he is unable to attend this year but encourages other members to attend.

Mrs. Clarke is seeking approval of the 2016-2107 District Student Handbook, which, with the exception of two substantive changes at the high school, had only minor date changes. Mr. Metzger provided the Committee with his proposal for the changes to Academic Honesty and Use of Cell Phones policies. He provided a very detailed explanation of reasons for these changes focusing on the positive aspects of each. He offered examples of current situations that have occurred without the proposed changes in effect. Mr. Keller asked about the timeline for

this change and how it will affect the use of technology in the high school, re: student laptops and tablets. Mr. Metzger noted that this is not often seen at the high school and he certainly would not discourage a student from doing this. Mr. Farber added that if there was such interest from a student, the beginning of the third paragraph in the rewritten policy provides for the mechanism by which a teacher and a student could work together in conjunction with the Administration to allow the use of such device. After further discussion a motion was made.

- **Motion by Mr. Keller to approve the 2016-2017 Student Handbook for the Monson Public Schools. (Second by Ms. Oney)**
- **Further discussion ensued with Ms. Oney requesting additional time to review the entire handbook, including proposed changes, though she feels comfortable moving forward with the vote but will abstain.**
- **Motion carries 2-1 (Ms. Oney abstaining for the vote.)**

Action Items:

Reminder to set up an email chain with Administrative staff to schedule a Policy Subcommittee meeting.

Chair of each subcommittee is requested to reach out to the organization(s) they are liaison for, with the exception of School Councils, prior to the August 31, 2016 Regular Business Meeting.

- **Motion by Ms. Oney to adjourn the Open Meeting. (Second by Mr. Keller)**
- **Roll Call Vote:**

Mr. Farber	Yes
Mr. Keller	Yes
Ms. Oney	Yes
- **Motion carries 3-0**

Open session closed at 8:03 p.m.

Documentation for this meeting: (emailed as a packet on 8/8/16)

Agenda

Academic Honesty Proposed Handbook Revision

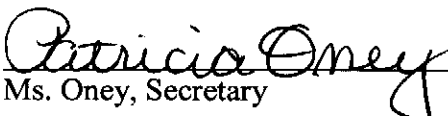
Cell Phone Use Proposed Handbook Revision

Subcommittee Liaison Positions

Distributed at meeting:

MASC/MASS Joint Conference 2016 Registration Information

Approved by Committee:


Ms. Oney, Secretary