

**Minutes of the
Monson School Committee
Regular Business Meeting
Quarry Hill Community School – School Committee Meeting Room
March 15, 2017**

Present: Chair Peter Sauriol; Vice Chair Joshua Farber; 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; Principals Jennifer Beaudry (QHCS), Mary Cieplik (GVMS), William Metzger (MHS); Dean of Students Paige Bernat (QHCS); MTA President Leah Zippin (7:44 p.m.) and Recording Secretary Karen Methe

Absent:
N/A

Note: This meeting was video-recorded.

Mr. Sauriol called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Emily Roberts read the Mission Statement and Katie Roberts read the Vision Statement.

Announcements:

Kindergarten registration will take place at Quarry Hill Community School (QHCS) on March 22 and 23, 2017 between 9:30-11:30 a.m. An additional registration will be held on March 23, 2017 between 3:30-5:30 p.m.

College Awareness Week is being held at the high school.

College Prep Night for junior class students has been rescheduled to March 28, 2017 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Mrs. Clarke welcomed Angelia Rodrigues, the district's new School Resource Office (SRO), and let the Committee know that she was not available to attend tonight's meeting, but will be invited to a subsequent meeting for a formal introduction.

Recognition:

Mrs. Clarke recognized both the boys and girls basketball teams for a great season which included post season games. She congratulated Bahu Abdul Wadud for scoring his 1000th point during the Western Mass Semi-Finals.

Mrs. Bernat spoke to the Committee about Read Across America Day held recently at QHCS. Staff and students celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss with several reading activities held throughout the day.

Mrs. Bernat also highlighted the student work displayed from Mrs. Prentiss' Grade 2 technology class, explaining that content areas are being integrated through keyboarding using Microsoft Word.

QHCS has collaborated with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Association Society on a Pennies for Patients campaign where students donate coins. To date, after only one week, \$560 has been collected toward the \$1000 goal.

Minutes:

Mr. Sauriol deferred approval of the March 1, 2017 - Regular Business Meeting minutes to the next meeting.

Student Representative Reports:

Emily and Katie Roberts (GVMS)

Pi Day was celebrated on March 15, 2017, a day late due to the snow day. Students read the book *Sir Cumference and the Dragon of Pi* along with completing activities based on everybody's favorite number 3.14.

Grade 8 grade students traveled to Boston last Wednesday to visit the Kennedy Institute and the State House. State Senator Anne Gobi and State Representative Brian Ashe met the students at the State House and gave them a tour while answering questions.

GVMS is in the middle of a braided bread fundraiser. If anyone would like to order breads, flyers are located in the GVMS office. Orders are due March 20, 2017 and orders will arrive April 12, 2107.

Thirty-nine students were randomly selected, through a raffle, to participate in a field trip to Gillette Stadium in Foxboro on March 17, 2017. GVMS was awarded the trip through Fuel up to Play 60. The day will include a tour of the Patriots Hall of Fame and the stadium, along with lunch and a visit to the pro shop. Devin McCourty will be visiting the school at a later date as part of the prize for winning. Fuel Up to Play 60 also awarded GVMS with a grant earlier in the year, which was used for new exercise bikes, elliptical machines and a smoothie machine.

Superintendent's Report:

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) held a very successful and well attended meeting. A representative from the group Family Ties was on hand to assist families of Special Education students with organization of information and also to answer any questions.

Mrs. Clarke attended the afterschool MADE Program's Art Showcase, noting that tomorrow is a theatre performance at QHCS and Friday there is a Photography Showcase at GVMS. Mrs. Clarke offered accolades to all the students for their talents.

Grade 4 held an Academic Fun Night this evening attended by approximately 21 families.

Students participated in interactive activities in the gym while parents received information on the upcoming Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) testing.

The Grade 3 Chromebook Pilot initiative continues. Mrs. Clarke encouraged Committee members to stop by the classrooms to see the students using their laptops.

The March 9, 2017 Early Release Day for Parent Teacher Conferences was well attended.

Professional Development for staff was March 10, 2017. Mrs. Clarke noted it was a very successful day with groups participating in book study discussions.

March 14, 2017 was a Snow Day with a two hour delay on March 15, 2017.

Mrs. Clarke thanked Mr. Morrell of the Highway Department and his crew for getting the roads ready and safe for staff and students, stating what an amazing job they did. She also thanked Peter Lloyd and members of the transportation department for ensuring the busses were cleared off and ready to go, and Don Smith and Bruce Gross for getting the buildings accessible.

Business and Facilities Report:

Mr. Smith stated the FY18 budget has been made available. He noted that net school spending is down \$165,000 due to lower enrollment.

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports:**Goals and Mandates Update:****Finance:**

A meeting was held on March 10, 2017 to review and discuss the budget. Mr. Keller noted that he would defer to Mrs. Clarke's budget presentation scheduled for later in this meeting but requested another Finance Subcommittee meeting be scheduled this evening.

Facilities and Long-Term Planning:

Mr. Smith noted that a meeting will be scheduled upon completion of the pool inspection in order to capture everything at the same time with a total overall cost and project scope available in early April. Mr. Maia felt it was important to have all the numbers of the two possible major facilities improvement projects before presenting to the full Committee.

Curriculum:

Ms. Oney noted that a meeting will be scheduled within the next few weeks.

Human Resources/Negotiations:

A meeting has been scheduled for March 22, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. to review administrators' contracts. Mr. Sauriol will bring a full report back to the Committee.

Policy/Diversity:

A meeting was held earlier this evening. Mr. Farber noted that subcommittee members had begun draft Policy language on substance abuse prevention and the education of students about the dangers of substance abuse as mandated by law and recent Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) guidelines. Also discussed was Policy AC which speaks to non-discrimination in regard to the Committee's responsibility in balancing open public forum contributions ensuring a nurturing and safe environment for all students and community members questioning whether current practice best provides that balance. Mr. Farber noted that subcommittee members voted on a motion to charge the Chair to schedule a Working Meeting with the full Committee to discuss the management of Public Session before the end of April. There was continued discussion.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Mrs. Clarke distributed information regarding the recommendation for available School Choice slots. There are currently 52 School Choice students and Mrs. Clarke is looking to increase that number noting that six applications have been received for the 2017-2018 school year. She explained that School Choice funds are used for technology and to offset budget shortfall which is the proposed plan again this year. Discussion followed.

- **Motion by Mr. Farber to approve the creation of School Choice openings for FY2018 to meet the proposed number of slots by grade level. (Second by Ms. Oney)**
- **Discussion continued**
- **Motion to amend the original motion to include the creation of 71 additional School Choice slots.**
- **Motion carries 5-0**
- **Motion to approve the School Choice slots as proposed, 71 new slots.**
- **Motion passes 5-0**

FY18 budget summary documents were distributed to the Committee members, including information containing an overview of enrollment for this year and the projected enrollment for next year. Mrs. Clarke then presented a very detailed overview of the objectives, projected School Choice numbers, major changes and elimination of positions proposed due to decreased enrollment. She also detailed specific proposed shared positions. She thanked the Administrative Leadership Team for all their hard work and creativity in thinking outside the box in developing what she stated was the toughest budget to develop since she became Superintendent. Mrs. Clarke will provide a copy of her PowerPoint presentation to Committee members.

Ms. Morneau distributed copies of the FY18 Special Education budget to Committee members. She noted that the process between administrators and principals has been very collaborative. She explained, in detail, the information contained in the budget handout. A short discussion followed including questions and answers.

Public session:

Mr. Sauriol opened Public Session at 8:11 p.m.

No one from the public came forward to address the Committee.

Mr. Sauriol closed Public Session at 8:11 p.m.

Action Items:

Mrs. Cieplik will forward the Devin McCourty video she received to Committee members.

Schedule another Finance Subcommittee meeting. After discussion this meeting will be scheduled for March 20, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

Schedule a Curriculum Subcommittee meeting.

Working Meetings will be scheduled for April 12, 2017 (follow-up to March 15, 2017 Working Meeting) and April 26, 2017 (Full Committee Policy Discussion)

Mr. Farber requested that Mrs. Methe contact Mr. Bardwell to obtain a digital copy of the revised Guidance Policy and forward to Policy/Diversity Subcommittee members.

- **Motion by Ms. Oney to adjourn Open Session. (Second by Mr. Keller)**
- **Motion carries 5-0**

Open session closed at 8:19 p.m.

Documentation for this meeting:

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*Agenda-Regular Business Meeting
FY18 Special Education Budget*

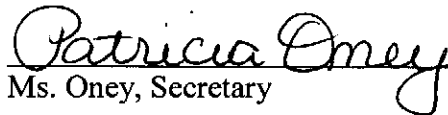
Distributed at meeting:

FY18 Special Education Budget

2017-2018 Budget Presentation PowerPoint

Monson Budget Development 2018-All-Funds Budget Summary

Approved by Committee:


Ms. Oney, Secretary