

**Minutes of the  
Monson School Committee  
Regular Business Meeting  
Quarry Hill Community School – School Committee Meeting Room  
January 25, 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; Director of Pupil Services Suzanne Morneau; Director of Guidance Robert Bardwell; Principals Jennifer Beaudry (QHCS), Mary Cieplik (GVMS), William Metzger (MHS); and Recording Secretary Karen Methe

**Absent:** None

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

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

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

**Announcements:**

Pasta and Possibilities, a Grade 8 Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser will be held on January 31, 2017 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The fundraiser is held to help students defray the cost of their New York City field trip. Following will be an informational session for parents and students highlighting the courses, extra-curricular activities and opportunities offered at the high school.

Coffee and Conversation with Mrs. Clarke will be held on February 9, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Superintendent's Office at Quarry Hill Community School. This event offers parents the opportunity to bring their questions and/or concerns to Mrs. Clarke for discussion.

**Recognition:**

Ms. Hurley and Ms. Madden, Grade 3 Math and Special Education teachers respectively, spoke about the co-teaching model and shared activities. They demonstrated math games created to allow modifications for all students.

Mr. Cust, Grade 1 teacher presented samples of student writing noting the focus that is placed on adjectives, verbs, transition words and paragraph writing that includes peer mentoring.

**Minutes:**

- **Motion by Mr. Keller to approve the January 4, 2017 minutes of the Regular Business Meeting as submitted. (Second by Mr. Farber)**
- **No discussion**
- **Motion carries 3-0 (Mr. Maia and Ms. Oney abstained from the vote)**

### **Student Representative Reports:**

#### **Emily and Katie Roberts (GVMS)**

A Geography Bee was held last week, sponsored by National Geographic. All students competed, with the top 10 advancing to the finals. Emma Pagliaro won the competition. Granite Valley Middle School won an "Eat Healthy, Get Active" campaign and was rewarded with a field trip to Gillette Stadium in Foxboro. Twenty-six students were randomly chosen, through a raffle process, to tour Patriot's Hall of Fame, participate in a meet and greet with Devin McCourty, lunch and a visit to the pro shop.

Pasta and Possibilities, Grade 8 Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser, will be held on January 31, 2017 from 5:00-7:00 p.m., followed by a presentation with Mr. Bardwell and Mr. Metzger in the auditorium. Tickets for the spaghetti dinner are \$8 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and students.

Report cards for the second term will go out February 1, 2017.

Character Education Day will be held on February 3, 2017, focusing on the character trait of flexibility and its importance in life and school.

#### **Marley Nissenbaum and Ben Pagliaro (MHS)**

Finals were held on January 19 and 20, 2017. The new semester begins on January 23, 2017. The annual Winter Carnival will be held next week with several activities and competitions planned for students, culminating with a dance on Friday, February 3, 2017.

Ms. Nissenbaum noted that she was excited for the start of a new book club with Mrs. Foulis.

With Committee consensus, Agenda item # 10 New Business b. Monson High School 2017 Graduation-Mr. Metzger was moved to this point in the meeting.

Mr. Metzger proposed the graduation date of June 2, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. to the Committee.

- **Motion by Mr. Farber to accept the recommendation of Friday, June 2, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. be set for the Monson High School graduation. (Second by Ms. Oney)**
- **A brief discussion followed.**
- **Motion carries 5-0**

Mr. Metzger addressed the Committee and public audience with the reasoning and rationale behind his recommendation to move to a single color gown for graduation. There was a sample on display, not necessarily one that had to be chosen. He distributed document information entitled "Guidance for Massachusetts Public Schools-Creating a Safe and Supportive School Environment-Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity" to Committee members. The information was also shown through a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Metzger noted he recognizes that change is difficult and tradition is important. Mr. Keller requested, and Mr. Metzger provided a brief history of the MHS graduation tradition of white gowns for females and blue for males. He cited laws that were passed on July 1, 2012 –An Act Relative to Gender Identity which amended several Massachusetts statutes prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity. Mr. Metzger noted that his recommendation was supported by the Department

of Education and the district's counsel. A very lengthy discussion took place between Committee members and Mr. Metzger. It was decided that Mr. Sauriol would move to open session at this time in the meeting.

**Public session:**

Mr. Sauriol opened Public Session at 7:42 p.m. and reviewed the rules for addressing the Committee.

The following members of the public came forward to address the Committee regarding the proposed change to a single color graduation gown:

Chris Krupczak - 101 Wilbraham Road - Against

Noah Malo-Senior Class President - no address stated - Against

Trey Miller - no address stated - Against

Kim Evans - 19 State Street - Support

Elizabeth Tyburski-Student Council President -no address stated - Against

Mr. Sauriol closed Public Session at 7:53 p.m.

Discussion continued between Committee members and Mr. Metzger. Mr. Sauriol thanked members of the public for addressing the Committee with their comments and concerns adding that their input was valued. Mr. Metzger encouraged anyone with questions to stop in and see him. Mr. Keller stated that students of the senior class and members of the public in attendance this evening were owed some type of follow-up.

- **Motion by Mr. Maia to implement the single color gown based on recommendations by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as well as the school's attorney. (Second by Mr. Farber)**
- **A lengthy discussion ensued with reference to current Policy recommendation, Procedure versus Policy, controversy on what is creating this proposed change and ensuring the law is being met.**
- **Roll Call Vote:**
  - Mr. Sauriol – No**
  - Mr. Farber – Yes**
  - Mr. Keller – No**
  - Ms. Oney – Abstain**
  - Mr. Maia – Yes**
- **Motion does not pass**

The matter will be referred to the Policy Subcommittee for further discussion and proposed language interpretation. Mr. Farber explained that the non-passage of the motion does not direct the administration to act one way or another, noting that it was important the community and Committee members understand that.

Public Session was re-opened at this time for an additional comment.

Kenneth Tyburski-35 Circle Drive-seeking clarity in reference to motions and policies adopted last year surrounding gender identity

**Superintendent's Report:**

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The full-day pre-school began on January 23, 2017 with Mrs. Clarke stating that it is going very well.

The Administration Leadership Team (ALT) attended a luncheon at Monson Savings Bank. The Coordinated Program Review (CPR) had concluded. Director of Pupil Services, Ms. Morneau, gave an overview of the record reviews, site visits and interviews. A draft copy of the report should be available sometime in April 2017.

Mrs. Clarke is requesting approval of the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan draft.

- **Motion by Ms. Oney to approve the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan draft as presented. (Second by Mr. Farber)**
- **No discussion**
- **Motion passes 5-0**

Mrs. Clarke thanked the Committee for their approval of the plan and everyone involved that provided input and worked collaboratively to create the draft.

#### **Business and Facilities Report:**

Mr. Smith reported that the structural inspection at Quarry Hill is ongoing however, the preliminary work that has been completed (i.e. core drilling samples, internally and externally, visual inspection) has determined that it will be a maintenance and repair issue. A portion of the engineering study is to provide a cost estimate for the repair work necessary, prioritized by the importance. Mr. Smith noted that all repair work at this point is all maintenance and not safety related. Upon receipt of the report, Mr. Smith will submit the information to Committee members for review. He noted that the lead engineer will be available to attend a meeting to explain the issues that were found, the importance of the testing and also answer any questions and/or concerns.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Water Testing report was received and the initial report was only a 4% rejection rate, primarily in rooms that do not use the water on a daily basis. Another test was performed, after allowing water to run for 30 seconds, which had a 100% pass rate. All sinks in the classrooms will be referred to as Hand Wash Only or Run Water at Least 30 Seconds. Mrs. Clarke will draft a letter to be sent home to parents.

Mr. Smith noted that the Finance Subcommittee met earlier this evening. The FY17 variance is - \$92,000, which can be covered with School Choice funds. The variance amount includes all seasonal adjustments, including utilities. Mr. Smith will amend a few line items, complete the report, send to Committee members and post on the website.

The FY18 budget is still in process. Mr. Smith provided the net school spending amount of \$12,721,473, down \$165,000 from FY17, due to enrollment numbers. That amount will be factored into the budget process.

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

##### **Goals and Mandates Update:**

##### **Finance:**

Subcommittee met this evening. Most agenda items discussed have been covered by Mrs. Clarke or Mr. Smith during this meeting. Capital budget items and lighting for the soccer field at GVMS were also discussed. A joint meeting with the School Committee and Parks & Recreation will be planned on February 8, 2017, 6:00 p.m., to further address the lighting issue.

**Curriculum:**

A meeting will be scheduled now that the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan has been approved.

**Policy/Diversity:**

A meeting needs to be scheduled to discuss policy and/or procedure regarding the proposal by Mr. Metzger to change to a one color gown for graduation. Mr. Farber advised the reading of Policies AC and JRAA prior to attending this meeting. He also asked that the recommendation of the school's attorney be available.

**Facilities and Long-Term Planning:**

No report

**Human Resources/Negotiations:**

No report

**Unfinished Business:**

Mr. Sauriol will reach out to the Parks & Recreation Commission regarding the tentatively scheduled Joint Meeting on February 8, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

**New Business:**

Mrs. Clarke introduced Mr. Schubach, Technology Specialist, and provided an overview of a Grade 3 Chromebooks Pilot Program Initiative being investigated as an alternative to a more costly desktop and lap-top cart replacement option, prior to requesting the Committee's approval to move forward. Mr. Schubach distributed a booklet of information on the Chromebook Pilot to Committee members, and also displayed it through a PowerPoint presentation. He distributed a Chromebook and case to each member of the Committee. Mr. Schubach proceeded to thoroughly explain the pertinent information regarding Chromebooks and the reasoning for choosing this option as replacement for older computers that need to be switched out. Mrs. Clarke thanked Mr. Schubach for the presentation and all his hard work. A question and answer period followed addressing topics including, but not limited to, budget implications, School Improvement Plans, Technology Committee and Subcommittees.

**Action Items:**

Schedule February 8, 2017 - Joint Working Meeting with School Committee and Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting at 6:00 p.m. (after discussion, this time may change to accommodate Mr. Maia, Mr. Sauriol will check with Parks & Recreation)

School Committee - Regular Business Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

February 15, 2017 - Tentative Policy Subcommittee meeting

February 15, 2017 – Working Meeting

Ethics training – Mr. Sauriol asked members to complete the training and submit certificates to Mrs. Methé.

Follow-up on graduation gown proposal pending Policy Subcommittee meeting

Mr. Smith will post the variance on the website.

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

Open session closed at 9:13 p.m.

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***Documentation for this meeting: (sent as email packet)***

*Agenda-Regular Business Meeting*

*January 4, 2017-Regular Business Meeting-Draft Minutes*

*Subcommittee Goals and Mandates*

*Subcommittee Liaisons*

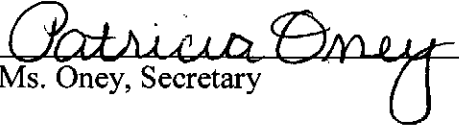
***Distributed at meeting:***

*Guidance for Massachusetts Public Schools-Creating a Safe and Supportive School*

*Environment-Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity*

*Chromebooks Pilot-Monson Public Schools Chromebook 1:1 Initiative*

Approved by Committee:

  
Ms. Oney, Secretary