

**Minutes of the
Monson School Committee
Regular Business Meeting
Quarry Hill Community School – School Committee Meeting Room
July 19, 2017**

Present: Chair Joshua Farber; Vice Chair Peter Sauriol; Committee Members Patricia Oney and Michelle Heroux

Also Present: Superintendent Cheryl Clarke; Principal William Metzger (MHS); Director of Transportation Michelle Loglisci and Recording Secretary Karen Methe

Absent: Secretary Joel Keller

Note: This meeting was video-recorded.

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

Mr. Farber paused the meeting for a moment of silence in memory of Jude Porth, stating “her unexpected passing this summer leaves us stunned and saddened.” He read a heartfelt tribute about her time in the district.

Ms. Oney read the Mission and Vision Statements.

Announcements:

Mrs. Clarke gave a reminder about the daily Summer Feeding Program held in the cafeteria at Quarry Hill Community School. Breakfast and lunch are provided free of charge to children ages 0-18 years with a minimal price for adults.

Recognition:

None

Minutes:

- **Motion by Ms. Oney to approve the June 7, 2017 minutes of the Regular Business Meeting as submitted. (Second by Mr. Sauriol)**
- **Mr. Farber requested that the words “as amended” be added after “Motion carries” on Line 49.**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

Superintendent’s Report:

Mrs. Clarke reported that Summer School has begun and students are hard at work on their skills. Mrs. Clarke read to a group of children and families as part of the Monson Free Library’s Summer Reading on the Go initiative. Each student received a free book of their choice and

were escorted on a tour of Quarry Hill Community School and encouraged to stay for lunch in the cafeteria.

The annual Summer Bus Tour has been scheduled for August 21, 2017 from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Mrs. Clarke spoke about a letter that was sent to middle and high school parents informing them of the *Blue Whale Challenge*, an app that instructs its participants (many preteens and teens) to carry out increasingly dangerous tasks and self-harm over 50 days.

Mrs. Clarke provided an update on current job postings.

District and School Assistance Centers (DSAC) representatives have been working on a Turn Around Plan with staff at Quarry Hill Community School. Mrs. Clarke provided an overview of the work being done in these meetings. She noted that everyone involved is excited to be a part of this important work.

Mrs. Clarke asked that a revision be made to the originally voted on 2017-2018 School Calendar.

- **Motion by Ms. Oney to approve the newly distributed 2017-2018 school calendar. (Second by Mr. Sauriol)**
- **Short discussion**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

Business and Facilities:

Mr. Smith provided a year end update noting that approximately \$130,000 of School Choice funds will be rolled over and applied to the FY18 budget. He distributed a packet of detailed budget information to Committee members. Noting that he included capital spending information in the packet he requested that a Facilities and Long-Term Planning meeting be scheduled as soon as possible to discuss issues that it may impact.

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports:

Policy/Diversity:

The subcommittee met earlier this evening. Mr. Farber gave an overview of the Substance Use Prevention and Education Policy.

- **Motion by Mr. Farber to move the Substance Use Prevention and Education Policy to a first read. (Second by Mr. Sauriol)**
- **Short discussion**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

The policy will be posted in draft form on the website for public review.

Old Business:

Mr. Sauriol reviewed the Superintendent Evaluation process. He specified that overall Mrs. Clarke scored proficient on all 4 standards. A summary of all the evaluator's comments was compiled as follows:

Superintendent Clarke is a passionate district leader who empowers and supports teachers and the Administrative Leadership Team which fosters a shared commitment to high standards of teaching and learning. She encourages them to employ data-driven strategies for improvement and expects quality of content from all staff and students. She has shown her leadership skills through an integrated strategic visioning process which has guided district planning at all levels

including in her own budgetary decisions and proactive choices on cross-school integration. Her enthusiasm is evident in the district by the enthusiasm shared by both staff and students in the work they are doing. Superintendent Clarke has continued to achieve her goals in the area of professional practice and district improvement and shown significant progress in her student learning goals. Although there is results-based evidence of Superintendent Clarke's achievements this year, there are areas where it would help the Committee's evaluative process to see more and more layered evidence of these achievements directly presented by the Superintendent.

Mr. Farber commended Mrs. Clarke on her high marks and stated that, if possible, a Working Meeting will be scheduled for August 16, 2017 to discuss compensation.

Visioning Check In:

In Mr. Keller's absence, Mr. Farber provided examples of motions made for cost analysis and possible out-sourcing of the Transportation and Food Services departments. A short discussion followed regarding specifics of the bid process in Open Session.

Mr. Farber offered a reminder to all Subcommittee members to schedule initial meetings to review goals, mandates and members assigned to each and, if necessary, bring recommendations forward at the next Regular Business Meeting.

New Business:

Mrs. Clarke distributed a hard copy and then provided an overview of the proposed substantive changes to the 2017-2018 Student Handbook. Mr. Metzger outlined in detail the revisions to Excursions/Field Trips. Mr. Metzger informed the Committee that the Student Conduct and Discipline portion were revised to align across all three schools. He also explained the reasoning for the proposed increase to ten absences for a semester long course. A brief question and answer period followed. Mr. Johnson provided Committee members with a copy of the Granite Valley Middle School Progress Report Cover Sheet. Mr. Farber spoke to the dress code policy at the middle school stating that though there is no change at this time, possible change may occur after students are consulted on their thoughts. Mr. Johnson noted that he will be meeting with students at the beginning of the school year.

- **Motion by Ms. Oney to approve the proposed 2017-2018 Handbook changes as presented. (Second by Ms. Heroux)**
- **No further discussion**
- **Roll Call Vote**
 - Mr. Farber Yes**
 - Mr. Sauriol Abstain**
 - Ms. Oney Yes**
 - Ms. Heroux Yes**
- **Motion carries 3-1**

Mr. Johnson distributed and reviewed a tentative itinerary from Gerber Tours for a proposed Grade 8 field trip to Washington D.C./Philadelphia, March 27-30, 2018. He discussed several options for fundraising to help defer the cost for students. Some discussion followed regarding

students whose families may be unable to fund this trip and impact to curriculum for those students not attending the trip for various reasons.

- **Motion by Mr. Sauriol to approve the proposed overnight field trip to Washington D.C./Philadelphia assuming the Superintendent is satisfied with adequate staffing. (Second by Ms. Oney)**
- **No further discussion**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

Mr. Trivisonno, Boys Varsity Basketball Coach, distributed a proposed itinerary for a holiday break field trip for approximately 10-12 team players, December 27-29, 2017. He outlined the staff that would chaperone the trip and told the Committee he does not expect any economic burden to families.

- **Motion by Mr. Sauriol to move to grant the proposed New York City trip initial approval with final approval deferred to the Superintendent pending fundraising particulars and other logistical details. (Second by Ms. Oney)**
- **No discussion**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

Public session:

Mr. Farber opened Public Session at 8:04 p.m.

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

Mr. Farber closed Public Session at 8:04 p.m.

Action Items:

Mr. Farber will contact Mr. Keller regarding status of the Visioning Process and scheduling a Facilities and Long-Term Planning Subcommittee meeting.

Post Substance Use Prevention and Education Policy draft on website.

Include Granite Valley Middle School Progress Report Cover Sheet in the Handbook.

Motion by Ms. Oney to adjourn Open Session and move to Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §21a, Purpose #3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares, not to return to Open Session. (Second by Mr. Sauriol)

- **No discussion**
- **Roll Call Vote**
Mr. Farber Yes
Mr. Sauriol Yes
Ms. Oney Yes
Ms. Heroux Yes
- **Motion carries 4-0**

Open session closed at 8:06 p.m.

There was a short break.

Executive Session opened at 8:14 p.m.

Documentation for this meeting:

Agenda-Regular Business Meeting

June 7, 2017 Regular Business Meeting Minutes-Draft

School Committee Subcommittee Liaison Positions 2017-2018

School Committee Members 2017-2018

Substance Use Prevention and Education Policy (emailed)

End of Cycle Summative Evaluation Report: Superintendent (emailed)

Distributed at Meeting:

Budget Information from Mr. Smith

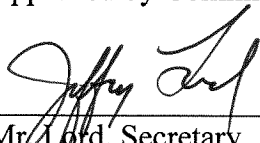
MPS Handbook Changes

GVMS Progress Report Cover Sheet

Gerber Tours Proposed GVMS Grade 8 Field Trip to Washington, D. C./Philadelphia

Boys Varsity Basketball Proposed Holiday Break Trip

Approved by Committee:



Mr. Lord, Secretary