

**Minutes of the  
Monson School Committee  
Regular Business Meeting  
Quarry Hill Community School – School Committee Meeting Room  
February 28, 2018**

**Present:** Vice Chair Joel Keller; Secretary Jeff Lord; Committee Members Patricia Oney and Michelle Heroux

**Also Present:** Superintendent Cheryl Clarke; Director of Business & Facilities Don Smith; Director of Student Services Suzanne Morneau, Director of Counseling Robert Bardwell; QHCS Interim Principal Paige Bernat; GVMS Principal Mary Cieplik; QHCS Dean of Students Kate Czarniecki

Absent: Chair Joshua Farber

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

Mr. Keller called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Ms. Oney read the Mission and Vision Statements.

**Announcements:**

None

**Recognition:**

Ms. Bernat spoke about Pre-K, Kindergarten and Grade 3 student work samples on display stating that the work was done in conjunction with the Empowering Writers Program which is part of the school's Turnaround Plan. Grade 3 students used their Chromebooks to write. Grade 2 has been studying units of matter which is part of the next generation of Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) Science standards.

Mrs. Cieplik congratulated Ms. Patricia Cawley who was selected as this year's Grinspoon Foundation's Excellence in Teaching Award recipient. Mrs. Cieplik noted that the entire eighth grade staff and student body gathered to present the award to Ms. Cawley. She will also be honored at a banquet to be held on May 10, 2018 at the Log Cabin in Holyoke.

Mrs. Cieplik was happy to report that the Granite Valley Middle School (GVMS) faculty remains undefeated, for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row, in the annual basketball game against Grade 8 students.

Mrs. Cieplik, in conjunction with Mrs. Watts, applied for and has been awarded a \$40,000 grant from Project Lead the Way, for GVMS. She distributed an informational write-up to Committee members.

Project Lead the Way is a national non-profit organization focused on improving computer science, engineering and biomedical education in grades K-12. The grant will pay for professional development, curriculum and equipment to bring innovative project-based learning to students.

GVMS was one of 49 schools in the Commonwealth that will be implementing the project next year.

**Minutes:**

- **Motion by Ms. Oney to approve the January 10, 2018 minutes of the Regular Business Meeting as submitted. (Second by Ms. Heroux)**

- **No discussion**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

**Student Representative Reports:**

**MHS-Marley Nissenbaum and Haley Fennyery**

Winter Carnival was discussed, noting that the annual activities are great fun and encourage healthy competition among all grades, culminating with a very well attended dance held on Saturday.

The new semester will begin on January 22, 2018.

The girls basketball team has made it into the post-season tournament. The boys basketball team must win their next game to continue on. Everyone was encouraged to attend the games and support their teams.

Grade 8 transition night will be held on March 14, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Parent Teacher Conferences will be conducted on March 15, 2018.

Course selection discussions will begin the week of February 26, 2018 followed by student selections on March 5, 2018.

College Awareness Week is scheduled for March 5-9, 2018.

**GVMS-Olivia Chrzan and Molly Szado**

Spirit Week was a huge success, with daily themed days. The faculty versus 8<sup>th</sup> grade students basketball game was held on Friday of that week.

The Citizen of the Month assembly will be held on March 1, 2018 from 8:00-8:30 a.m. in the auditorium.

Grade 6 will be taking a field trip to the Springfield Science Museum on March 2, 2018.

On March 6, 2018, grade 6 students will be taking part in the annual career fair.

Midterm Progress Report cover sheets will be sent home on March 5, 2018 and due back signed by March 9, 2018.

Grade 8 transition night will be held on March 14, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the high school.

Course selections for Grade 8 students will be taking place on March 15, 2018.

**Subcommittee & Liaison Reports:**

Mrs. Clarke reviewed a list of subcommittee topics that need to be addressed.

**Human Resources and Negotiations:**

No report

**Policy/Diversity:**

No report

**Facilities and Long-Term Planning:**

No report

**Finance Subcommittee:**

No report

Mr. Keller will schedule a meeting as soon as possible.

**Curriculum:**

No report

### **Superintendent's Report:**

The Administrative Leadership Team (ALT) met at an off-site location on February 16, 2018 to continue the important work of planning for the district's future/visioning. Mrs. Clarke has also been meeting with all unit employees to gather their thoughts and concerns. The Parent Focus Group will meet again tomorrow.

Mrs. Clarke stated that our hearts go out to all involved in the recent Parkland, FL tragedy. The ALT team in addition to other personnel met Monday morning to review emergency protocols and procedures. Mrs. Clarke will be scheduling an Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate (A.L.I.C.E.) parent information night and additional training will be planned for new staff and all substitutes.

GVMS and MHS will conduct an additional A.L.I.C.E. drill with staff and students. Mrs. Clarke also met with Police Chief Kozloski and Director of Parks and Recreation Mr. Pascale to further discuss the safety of the buildings.

Mrs. Clarke advised the Committee that the School Resource Officer (SRO) resigned from the police department last month. Chief Kozloski had planned to post for the position but due to unforeseen circumstances the department has been short-staffed. He will post as soon as possible for the SRO. The town funds this position.

A nationwide school walk-out has been planned for March 14, 2018. Mrs. Clarke and the ALT team are discussing acceptable ways to keep students inside the building for safety reasons while being able to voice their concerns and viewpoints.

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

Mr. Smith noted that the forecast is available, there is a variance of \$-50,000 at this time.

Work continues on Mass School Building grant.

Safety issues at all buildings are being addressed.

The Foods Service bid has been completed and distributed.

### **Old Business:**

None

### **New Business:**

Mrs. Clarke proposed a change to the 2017-2018 school calendar. Originally approved was March 16, 2018 as a full Professional Development Day, no school for students. Due to the current number of snow days, she is proposing that March 16, 2018 now be an early release for students. This proposal had been presented to Mrs. Zippin, Monson Teachers Association President, along with an email sent to all staff.

- **Motion by Ms. Oney to change March 16, 2018 to an early release day for students as proposed. (Second by Mr. Lord)**
- **No discussion**
- **Motion carries 4-0**

Mrs. Clarke will notify parents via all modes of available communication.

Ms. Morneau, Director of Student Services, provided a special education update via PowerPoint presentation. Topics outlined were Focus on Student Services, Professional Development, Communication Methods, Parent Communication, Special Education Student Summary, Specialized Programs, Special Olympics School Day Games and Unified Sports.

Mr. Keller requested a breakdown of School Choice students that require special education services. Ms. Morneau will provide that information which Mr. Smith will bring to the next Finance Subcommittee meeting.

After a short discussion, Mr. Lord stated that it was a testimony to the district to have special education students seek out Monson Public Schools as School Choice and he commended Ms. Morneau for her work.

Mrs. Clarke reviewed progress on the following objectives of the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan via a PowerPoint presentation:

Strategic Objective #1 – Equity and Excellence

Strategic Objective #2 – Community of Learners

Strategic Objective #3 – Educational Partnerships

Strategic initiatives, including specific examples, for each objective were outlined in detail.

There was a short discussion regarding Future Initiatives-Facilities.

Ms. Heroux thanked Mrs. Clarke for a very detailed report and commended her on the inception of the after school MADE Program, noting how successful it has been.

#### **Public session:**

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

No one came forward to address the Committee.

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

#### **Review of Action Items:**

Ms. Oney will reach out to Mr. Farber to schedule a Policy Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Keller will schedule a Finance Subcommittee meeting.

Future Regular Business Meetings:

March 14 and 28, 2018

April 11 and 25, 2018

It was mentioned that the Regular Business meeting schedule be revised to coincide with the signing of bill schedules. A brief discussion was held regarding only one signature now being required on them. Follow-up discussion will be held.

- **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 and litigation, specifically talking about Board preference and priorities in bargaining with Unit A not to return to Open Session. (Second by Ms. Heroux)**
  - **No discussion**
  - **Roll Call Vote**

<b>Mr. Keller</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Oney</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ms. Heroux</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mr. Lord</b>	<b>Yes</b>
  - **Motion carries 4-0**

Open session closed at 8:16 p.m.

Executive Session began at 8:21 p.m.

#### ***Documentation for this meeting:***

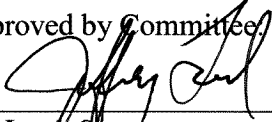
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*Agenda-Regular Business Meeting  
Special Education Report  
Strategic Plan 2016-2019 Progress Report February 2018*

***Distributed at Meeting:***  
*Project Lead the Way*

Approved by Committee



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Mr. Lord, Secretary