

**Minutes of the
Monson School Committee
Regular Business Meeting
Quarry Hill Community School – School Committee Meeting Room
October 10, 2018**

Present: Chair Jeffrey Lord; Vice Chair Patricia Oney and Committee Member Emily Graves-Harrison

Absent: Secretary Michelle Heroux and Committee Member Joel Keller

Also Present: Superintendent Cheryl Clarke; Director of Business & Facilities Donald Smith; Quarry Hill Community School (QHCS) Interim Principal Paige Bernat; Granite Valley Middle School (GVMS) Principal Mary Cieplik; Monson High School (MHS) Principal William Metzger; Director of Student Services Suzanne Morneau; Curriculum Director Katherine Watts and Director of Counseling Robert Bardwell

Note: This meeting was video-recorded.

Mr. Lord called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m.

Mr. Lord read the Mission and Vision Statements.

Announcements:

The Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) will hold their monthly meeting on October 11, 2018, 6:00 p.m. at QHCS.

The Annual PTSA Fall Fair will be held on October 20, 2018 from 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. on the grounds of QHCS. Mrs. Clarke encouraged everyone to attend this fun family event and support the PTSA.

Mr. Lord noted that he would be striking Agenda item #3 Recognition this evening and moving up Agenda item #11 Public Session to follow Agenda item # 5 Student Representative Reports. Trunk or Treat will be held on October 27, 2018 at QHCS.

Minutes:

- **Motion by Ms. Oney to accept the September 26, 2018 Regular Business Meeting minutes as presented. (Second by Ms. Graves-Harrison)**
- **No discussion**
- **Motion carries 3-0**

Student Representative Reports:

GVMS – Evin Reardon

Parent-teacher student-led conferences will be held on October 16, 2018. Students will have the opportunity to inform their parent/guardian on their progress in school. Students have been working on their student-led conferences in their Student Advisory Programs.

Students and staff will be participating in Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate A.L.I.C.E. drills the morning of October 16, 2018. Prior to the drills Mrs. Clarke will be providing information about the program.

The Citizen of the Month assembly is scheduled for October 12, 2018. Students have been recognized this month for their perseverance within the classroom.

Congratulations were given to all the athletes that participated in the 1st Annual Special Olympics.

MHS-Haley Fennyery

High school students had the opportunity to volunteer to assist at the Special Olympics, with Haley noting that she was honored to help.

The sophomore class had pre-ACT tests today, juniors participated in pre-SAT tests.

Numerous college visits have been scheduled in the next few weeks.

The Student Council is holding a Krispy Kreme fundraiser. The cost is \$8.50 per dozen.

A Halloween dance has been organized for October 20, 2018 from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

The recent NEASC visit was successful.

New this year is directed studies held every Wednesday in an extended Student Advisory Program (SAP). This new initiative, designed to help students experiencing a huge workload, offers extra time to students to complete assignments.

Public session:

Mr. Lord opened Public Session at 7:25 p.m.

Erin Binette residing at 23 Wilbraham Road, addressed the Committee with her concerns regarding bus safety and how to handle behavior of students on the buses.

Mr. Lord closed Public Session at 7:28 p.m.

Subcommittee and Liaison Reports:

Facilities and Long-Term Planning:

Ms. Graves-Harrison stated that there was discussion regarding plans for needed repairs at Quarry Hill Community School adding that another meeting has been scheduled for November 1, 2108 at 5:30 p.m. Additional topics discussed were rugs, new playgrounds and the pool.

Human Resources/Negotiations:

There is a meeting slated for October 22, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Finance:

A meeting is scheduled on October 16, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Curriculum:

A meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

Policy:

A meeting was scheduled for earlier this evening but was cancelled due to the unavailability of a subcommittee member.

Superintendent's Report:

A.L.I.C.E. drills will be held next week. Mrs. Clarke, as a certified trainer, will be presenting PowerPoint information to Grade 5 students prior to the drills which will also be held at the high school. Together with Ms. Bernat, Ms. Maloney and the counseling staff, Mrs. Clarke noted that a read-aloud will be held for QHCS students as formal information regarding A.L.I.C.E. begins to be introduced. Prior to this occurring, a letter will be going home to parents explaining the process.

Ms. Morneau spoke about the Special Olympics Unified Games held on October 5, 2018 adding that the first Unified Basketball game took place earlier today. Ms. Morneau extended her heartfelt thanks to everyone that came out to support the event.

Mrs. Clarke thanked Ms. Morneau for her exhaustive efforts in coordinating such an incredible event. Mr. Lord added that he was overwhelmed with pride for the district, administration, student volunteers and all the athletes.

Business and Facilities Report:

Mr. Smith reported that he is working on the forecast and completion of the projects that are covered by capital funding.

Old Business:

Mrs. Clarke stated that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is revisiting the policy and guidelines for Blizzard Bags. She is respectfully requesting that this initiative be tabled until DESE decides what they are going to do. Ms. Graves-Harrison would like to move forward with the survey. After lengthy discussion, Ms. Oney said she would agree with holding off on the survey right now.

- **Motion by Ms. Oney to table sending out the survey until further discussion by the Committee to take place no later than the first meeting in January 2019. (Second by Mr. Lord)**
- **No further discussion**
- **Motion carries 3-0**

New Business:

Mrs. Cieplik requested permission to approve an 8th grade overnight field trip to Washington, D.C. from March 20-March 22, 2019. The approximate cost to students will be \$475-\$540 depending on transportation costs.

- **Motion by Ms. Oney to approve Mrs. Cieplik moving forward in looking at the trip and getting more information. (Second by Ms. Graves-Harrison)**
- **Discussion on wording of the motion per policy.**
- **Ms. Oney amended her motion as follows: To approve Mrs. Cieplik to move forward with her plans for the trip to Washington D.C. (Second by Ms. Graves-Harrison)**
- **Motion carries 3-0**

Mrs. Clarke notified the Committee of the invitation she received from Brenda Payette, Administrative Assistant to the Town Finance Committee, for her and members of the School

Committee to attend their November 19, 2018 meeting to provide updates on repairs at QHCS, contract negotiations, student enrollment and potential school consolidation. Mr. Lord asked Mrs. Clarke to reply to accept the invitation, send calendar invites to all School Committee members and ensure the meeting is posted as a Joint Meeting with School Committee and Town Finance Committee.

Mrs. Clarke distributed a copy of a PowerPoint presentation on the 2018 MCAS information. She began with the Background and System Highlights followed by Accountability Categories for Schools, School Types and Reported Measures. Accountability Indicators for High Schools and Non-High Schools were then reviewed. Setting Targets for Accountability Indicators at High Schools and Non-High Schools was discussed. Next was a presentation of specific data from each school. Administrators addressed their MCAS scores, offering insight in moving forward and a brief question and answer period was held. The schools Accountability Percentile and how each school compares throughout the state is as follows:

Monson High School – 64% (2017 – 39%, 2016 – 25%)

Granite Valley Middle School – 43% (2016 – 41%, 2015 – 31%)

Quarry Hill Community School – 74 % (2016 – 10%)

Review of Action Items:

MASC Charting the Course for School Committee members will be held October 13, 2018 in the library at Granite Valley Middle School.

- **Motion by Ms. Oney to adjourn Open Session. (Second by Ms. Graves-Harrison)**
- **No discussion**
- **Motion carries 3-0**

Open session closed at 8:45 p.m.

Documentation for this meeting:

Agenda-Regular Business Meeting

Distributed at Meeting:

Monson Public Schools MCAS 2018 PowerPoint

Approved by Committee:



Ms. Heroux, Secretary