

**Minutes of the
Monson School Committee
Regular Business Meeting
Quarry Hill Community School – School Committee Meeting Room
October 24, 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 7:03 p.m.

Mrs. Clarke read the Mission and Vision Statements.

Announcements:

Trunk or Treat will be held October 27, 2018 from 4:00–5:30 p.m. indoors at Quarry Hill Community School.

A special town meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2018 in the auditorium at Granite Valley Middle School.

There will be a Preschool Parent Night on November 5, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the School Committee Room at Quarry Hill Community School. Parents will receive informational letters prior to the event.

On November 8, 2018 Coffee and Conversation with Mrs. Clarke returns. The focus of this gathering will be consolidation questions and concerns.

There is no school on November 12, 2018 for the Veteran's Day holiday.

The Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) is sponsoring Monson Public Schools Night with the Thunderbirds hockey team on November 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Our schools chorus will be singing the National Anthem.

The School Committee will be joining the Town Finance Committee at their meeting on November 19, 2018, 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

Student Representative Reports:

GVMS – Evin Reardon

Thanks was given to all who helped assist in the first ever Student-Led Conferences held recently. The amount of positive feedback received on the new format was extremely beneficial.

The Student Council is sponsoring a Pumpkin Carving Contest for all students and their families. There is no charge and all are welcome.

A Halloween Dance for grades 5-8 will be held this Friday, October 26, 2018. Students are encouraged to attend in their costumes.

The Book Fair will continue through October 26, 2018.

The Monson Fire Department will be teaching students about fire prevention on October 30, 2018.

Term 1 for all grades will end on November 1, 2018.

Mr. Lord congratulated the Unified Basketball Team on their 36-32 win over Agawam.

MHS-Haley Fennyery

The Student Council held a Halloween Dance on October 20, 2018.

The National Honor Society is hosting the Hygiene Drive.

The girl's senior soccer game is tomorrow. The team has qualified for the tournament.

The golf team was runner-up in Western Massachusetts and participated in the state championship held yesterday.

The girls and boys Cross Country teams went on an overnight field trip to Falmouth to participate in the 8th Annual Bob McIntyre Twilight Invitational. The top seven from each team qualified to attend.

Student Advisory Programs partook in very creative pumpkin carving.

Sophomore College Night will be held October 25, 2018, 7:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

Subcommittee and Liaison Reports:

Human Resources/Negotiations:

There was an initial meeting with the transportation negotiations team. Another meeting was scheduled and Mr. Lord reported that progress is being made.

Finance:

There was a meeting on October 18, 2018. Agenda items discussed were the variance, which Mr. Smith continue to work on, the capital budget, school consolidation that included the transportation bid.

Policy:

Subcommittee members met on October 22, 2018. Ms. Oney reported that there is a long list of policies, most with slight changes recommended by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), which need to be reviewed. Ms. Oney stated that she will begin that process and schedule another meeting to continue policy work. Other specific policies discussed were Home Schooling, Transportation and School Meals.

Curriculum:

A meeting was held on October 15, 2018. Several recently implemented programs were discussed at length and it was agreed that things are on the right track.

Superintendent's Report:

The PTSA sponsored Fall Fair was held on October 20, 2018. Mrs. Clarke reported that there were numerous vendors and fun family activities and thanked the PTSA for their huge effort in coordinating this wonderful event.

There was an early release extended day for students on October 16, 2018. Parent-teacher conferences were held at all 3 schools with GVMS holding student led conferences as part of the parent engagement goal, in addition to the upcoming Preschool Parent Night, Coffee and Conversation with the Superintendent, Parent/Family Pumpkin Carving Night at GVMS and an Early Literacy Night hosted by Mrs. Watts.

The Parent Focus Group met to review all the previous work that has been done and discussed next steps.

Mrs. Clarke and the principals hosted a lunch for Town Administrator Evan Brassard and discussed continued efforts in working together collaboratively.

Learning walk-throughs were conducted yesterday with the District and Schools Assistance Center (DSAC), Mrs. Clarke, administrators and members of the Instructional Leadership Team. There were 3 teams that each visited 5 classrooms, then reconvened as a group to discuss successes, challenges and developed summary statements that Ms. Bernat will present at a subsequent faculty meeting.

The School Committee and Mrs. Clarke received an email from Senator Anne Gobi, who has been working hard to support the rural area school districts, stating that Monson was eligible to receive \$43,130. Mrs. Clarke stated that the first payment would be received soon and noted that there are no strings attached to how the funds may be utilized. Ms. Graves- Harrison questioned if there have been any conversations as to how the money will be used. Mrs. Clarke responded that there was discussion at the recent Finance Subcommittee meeting about utilizing funds to offset some of the current variance though no specific decision was made.

Business and Facilities Report:

Mr. Smith reported that work continues on the variance.

There are 3 capital issues that are on the special town meeting warrant.

Mr. Smith stated that preparations have begun for the 2020 budget cycle.

New Business:

Mrs. Clarke reported that there are 54 School Choice students currently in our district. She informed the Committee that, according to the policy, students are accepted beginning in July up until the week before school starts and that School Choice acceptance for this year is now closed. Mr. Bardwell reviewed, in detail, the Summary & Analysis of the Class of 2018 Exit Interview Data, After High School Plans and the percentage rate of students going to college information supplied to the Committee.

Ms. Morneau addressed the Committee with an in-depth update of Student Services and Special Education. She provided the Committee with information via a PowerPoint presentation that included the Special Education Student Count, Communication and Professional Development, District-Wide Trainings and new Specialized Programs. Ms. Waterson outlined the Life Skills Program at Quarry Hill Community School which Ms. Morneau added has been very successful. Ms. Morneau described the Vocational Independence Program (VIP) for students aged 18-22 available at the high school. Pre-K teachers Mrs. Amerman, Mrs. Mangano and Mrs. Murray

were present to offer a comprehensive outline of the new Tools of the Mind curriculum that was started last year with Mrs. Mangano and fully implemented this year throughout Pre-K. Mrs. Amerman explained that every Tools of the Mind activity was designed to allow the students practice in developing self-regulation. She discussed what self-regulation is and how important it is to Pre-K students. Mrs. Mangano described what a typical Pre-K day looks like. Example activities were shown and reviewed by Mrs. Mangano and Mrs. Murray and they explained the many facets of the Make Believe Play Theme.

Ms. Morneau talked about the Unified Basketball Team noting that everyone involved has volunteered their time and she thanked them all for their support. The team won their third game earlier today at the high school amidst numerous people that came out to support the team. Mr. Lord added that it was heart-warming to see peers helping peers, friendships forming and the willingness to help others, and encouraged everyone to attend. The next game will be away against Granby on November 1, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. November 7, 2018 will be the final game at home beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Morneau told the Committee that our representative for the Special Olympics Unified Games was so overwhelmed with the amount of students, inclusivity and all of the participation from everyone working together across the district that she informed Ms. Morneau that Monson Public Schools qualifies as a Champion School.

A special shout-out was given to Mrs. Bingle, Mrs. Bidus and Mr. Lempart who worked tirelessly after school hours to help make this event such a success.

Ms. Morneau's nephew, with the use of a drone and videography, produced an amazing tribute to the October 5, 2018 Special Olympics-Unified Games that was shown at this time in the meeting. The video will be shared with staff first and then posted on social media. Mrs. Clarke thanked Ms. Morneau, adding that these events/programs would not be possible without her.

Public session:

Mr. Lord opened Public Session at 8:10 p.m.

Karen O'Toole (address waived) came forward to address the Committee regarding an issue discussed at a previous meeting concerning the policy on bringing an issue to the School Committee.

Mr. Lord closed Public Session at 8:15 p.m.

Review of Action Items:

Mr. Lord noted that Ms. Oney would be attending the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) Conference November 7-9, 2018. He will contact other members to extend the invitation to attend as well.

Be sure that approval of minutes for the October 10, 2018 Regular Business Meeting is on the November 14, 2018 Agenda.

- **Motion by Ms. Oney to adjourn to Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §21a, Purpose #3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and litigation, not to return to Open Session. (Second by Ms. Graves-Harrison)**
- **No discussion**
- **Roll Call Vote**

Mr. Lord	Yes
Ms. Oney	Yes
Ms. Graves-Harrison	Yes
• Motion carries	3-0

Open session closed at 8:17 p.m.

Executive Session began at 8:24 p.m.

Documentation for this meeting:

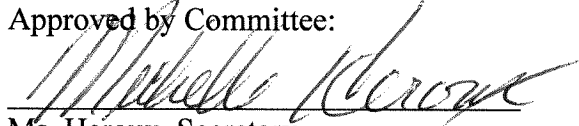
Agenda-Regular Business Meeting

MHS- Going to College Rate %

Summary and Analysis of Class of 2018 Exit Interview Data

After High School Plans-Class of 2018

Approved by Committee:



Ms. Heroux, Secretary