

**Minutes of the
Monson School Committee
Regular Business Meeting
Quarry Hill Community School – School Committee Meeting Room
September 12, 2018**

Present: Chair Jeffrey Lord; Secretary Michelle Heroux and Committee Member Emily Graves-Harrison

Also Present: Superintendent Cheryl Clarke; 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 Kate Watts; GVMS Dean of Students Scott Johnson and Recording Secretary Karen Methé

Note: This meeting was video-recorded.

Mr. Lord called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Mr. Lord read the Mission and Vision Statements.

Announcements:

Open House for Grades K-4 at QHCS is scheduled for September 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. The Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) will hold their first meeting of the year on September 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Monson High School has planned their Open House for September 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) will be at the high school the week of September 23, 2018. Mr. Metzger will provide more information on this later in the meeting.

The PTSA will host the annual Fall Fair on October 20, 2018 at QHCS.

Recognition:

GVMS teachers Ms. Boucher and Mr. Pitcher showed a video on Project Lead the Way (PLTW), which is funded by a grant obtained through the hard work of Mrs. Watts and Mrs. Cieplik, detailing the final project that students will complete. Mr. Pitcher explained that over the next 10 weeks students will learn how to use micro-bits, micro-controllers and sensors. They will learn to program a micro-bit using their Chromebooks, connect wires, hook-up batteries and use sensors to design their projects. Mr. Pitcher spoke about the projects he did over the summer as a “middle-school student.”

Mrs. Boucher, who is teaching the module Design and Modeling to grade 6 and 8 students, explained that the students are learning about the design process and what engineers have to do from beginning to end. Ms. Boucher noted that each student is given an engineer’s notebook to record all of the project information. Initially students learned about cerebral palsy and how it affects children. Students then needed to make an ankle and foot orthosis for foot and heel support. Grade 6 student, Lilly Laskowski, demonstrated the hands-on work students have been

doing. Her class is tasked with creating a real and functioning prototype leg brace for people with cerebral palsy. She was able to show how to wear the brace and what critical features were in place.

Mrs. Watts provided an overview of the grant at Mrs. Clarke's request.

Mr. Lord expressed his thanks and gratitude to teachers, administrators, students and parents for supporting the incredible work being done by these middle-schoolers, noting how proud he is to serve the committee as Chair.

Minutes:

- **Motion by Ms. Heroux to accept the August 8, 2018 Regular Business Meeting minutes as presented. (Second by Ms. Graves-Harrison)**
- **No discussion**
- **Motion carries 3-0**

Student Representatives Reports:

GVMS- Evin Reardon, Grade 6

Open House was held on September 6, 2018. Families had the opportunity to sit in on a presentation by Mrs. Cieplik and Mr. Johnson and then visit various locations on their student's schedule. Information was provided on curriculum, Chromebooks, new classes and interventions and there was also time to ask questions.

Students and staff honored those who lost their lives 17 years ago on September 11th with a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m. During intervention block students gathered in the auditorium to view a short film entitled "*Boat-Lift*" which demonstrated the fact that no matter occupation, social status, race, or gender, anyone can be a hero.

Student Council elections will be held during intervention block on September 19, 2018.

Grade 6 students will be travelling to the University of Massachusetts in Amherst to tour the campus, have lunch in the #1 dining hall in the country and learn more about the college experience. Grade 6 teachers Mr. Mooney and Mr. Ryan are proud alumni and will be accompanying students on this field trip.

Subcommittee and Liaison Reports:

Finance Subcommittee:

Mr. Smith stated that the subcommittee reviewed the 2018 budget closeout, adding that \$60,000 was able to remain in School Choice.

A list of capital and long-range planning for some of the projects requiring completion over the summer is being compiled for a meeting with Evan Brassard, Town Administrator to discuss financing for the projects.

An update on the transportation bid was provided at the meeting.

Human Resources/Negotiations:

There is a negotiations meeting for Unit D on September 25, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Superintendent's Report:

Mrs. Clarke reported a very smooth first day opening to the school year.

GVMS was evacuated on day 2 due to a carbon monoxide alarm set off by fumes from a worker using a saw on the roof. Mrs. Clarke commended Mrs. Cieplik, Mr. Johnson, staff and students

for an exemplary evacuation. Students were in their advisory groups outside with their teachers, continuing to learn despite the circumstances. She added that everyone was safe, water was provided and multiple modes of communication were sent out to parents, though a small technical glitch did prevent some from receiving a phone call which Mrs. Clarke will address with the company immediately. She concluded that it was very heart-warming to observe the staff and students admirable behavior and how proud she was of everyone.

Mrs. Clarke provided the Committee members with an update on enrollment as she distributed the information to them. Current enrollment is 922 students, 51 of which are School Choice students. There were 45 new students enrolled over the summer. Due to unanticipated number of newly enrolled students, the Chromebooks earmarked for Administrators are on hold until the need for additional ones is re-assessed.

Mrs. Clarke spoke about a letter that was sent home today with the boys soccer team players referencing rules for behavior, outlining next steps to be taken regarding sportsmanship behavior. Mr. Lord was in total support of the information provided to the players and their parents.

Business and Facilities Report:

Mr. Smith said that he and Mrs. Clarke have already begun work on the FY20 budget, laying out templates and staffing.

Other items were outlined in the Finance Subcommittee report earlier in the meeting.

Old Business:

Ms. Morneau provided and reviewed the update of the October 5, 2018 Special Olympics School Day Games information distributed to the Committee. She thanked everyone for their generosity which included a \$3,000 donation from the Town's Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Metzger provided specific information about the upcoming NEASC visiting teams September 23-26, 2018 on-site visit. There will be a welcome reception on Sunday, September 23, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. The team, which consists of public educators from across New England, has requested to meet with members of the School Committee, administrators, and teachers in their classrooms going over student work samples that have been compiled using the rubrics created. They will then write a report which supplements the report compiled by the MHS faculty and staff. Recommendations will be made to NEASC but final word will not be available until January 2019 when the Association meets again.

New Business:

Mrs. Clarke is seeking approval of the district handbook. She asked the Principals and Ms. Morneau to explain the suggested changes.

Mr. Metzger reviewed the language regarding Smoking and Vaping and the discipline categories district wide.

Ms. Morneau explained the additions/changes to the Due Process for Suspensions portion of the handbook.

Mrs. Cieplik outlined the proposed new process for Progress Reports at GVMS.

A short question and answer period followed.

- **Motion by Ms. Graves-Harrison to present the proposed changes to the handbook for the Monson Public Schools, respective schools for 2018-2019 as presented. (Second by Ms. Heroux)**

- **No further discussion**
- **Roll Call Vote:**

Ms. Graves Harrison	Yes
Ms. Heroux	Yes
Mr. Lord	Yes
- **Motion carries 3-0**

Public session:

Mr. Lord opened Public Session at 7:48 p.m.
 No one came forward to address the Committee.
 Mr. Lord closed Public Session at 7:48 p.m.

Review of Action Items:

Mr. Lord gave a reminder to Committee members about the MASC Charting the Course presentation scheduled for October 13, 2018 to be held at the GVMS library.

- **Motion by Ms. Heroux 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**

Ms. Graves-Harrison	Yes
Ms. Heroux	Yes
Mr. Lord	Yes
- **Motion carries 3-0**

Open session closed at 7:50 p.m.

Executive Session began at 8:01 p.m.

Documentation for this meeting:

Agenda-Regular Business Meeting
August 8, 2018-Regular Business Meeting Draft Minutes

Distributed at Meeting:

Updated Enrollment Information
Special Olympics School Day Games Update
Handbook Revisions/Updates 2018-2019

Approved by Committee:



 Ms. Heroux, Secretary