

HEBRON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Thursday, January 10, 2019
SPECIAL MEETING
Gilead Hill School – Activity Room
PARENT FORUM
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Erica Bromley welcomed all members of the community and then introduced members of the Board of Education.

Attendees: Erica Bromley, Kathy Williams, Heather Petit, Maryanne Leichter, Geoffrey Davis, Chris Aker

Mr. Van Tassel discussed the survey that was sent out to townspeople in December. He reviewed the questions that had been developed from the survey and discussed what a School Resource Office is saying the officer is an active Hebron police officer and is not an employee of the Hebron Board of Education. The program will include community outreach, professional development including law enforcement training and annual firearms safety training. Mr. Van Tassel spoke about the budget for the program and said it would have to be added to the 2019-2020 budget as it is not included at this time. He then reviewed the survey results.

Mrs. Bromley discussed the common themes from the survey responses and asked the attendees if they had any comments.

Keith Edle, 83 Hartford Road asked if there was going to be additional officers besides the three officers that are in town or would the resource officers be part of the three. Mrs. Bromley said there would be additional officers in town.

Katie Peters, Smith Farm Road asked where was the money coming from to pay for the SROs. Mrs. Bromley said the money allocated was not taking away from any program but would be an addition to next year's budget. Mr. Van Tassel then said the reductions in positions for next year are based on student need and are non-relative to this proposal.

Rolando Navarro, Indian Hill Road asked if there is a reason for an SRO in an elementary school. Mr. Van Tassel said the board is taking a very proactive stance instead of a reactive stance. This program would be an addition to all the other security measures we have in Hebron. Mrs. Bromley said along with security measures there is the ability for officers to go into classrooms and develop relationships. Security armed guards are not possible here because we do not have a police department to oversee the program in Hebron.

Mary Holzer Charles Lane said SROs teach curriculum and lessons, along with the DARE program and asked what it would look like at GHS. Trooper Dan Greenwood said he teaches DARE and also talked about teaching internet safety and said it wouldn't take away from the education of the school. There are different ways of approaching the younger children which the state police are trained for.

Joe Zuzel, Grayville Road asked about the rolls of a SRO officer. Mrs. Bromley said the position would be another resource for staff and students.

Amanda Veneziano stated that this doesn't guarantee our kids safety and she hopes the school district will continue to research other ways for security.

Mr. Van Tassel spoke about the emotional and mental health services that the school has including two psychologists and a social worker in our schools from AHM. He stated we are looking at the safety and wellbeing of our students from different ways.

Dan Smith, 411 Jones Street, thanked the board for being proactive. Horrible things can happen. Lock downs don't stop things, they just delay it. Having a security officer that's not armed is like sending the fire department without water. The cost is an added expense but if your opinion would be different after an incident then shame on you. He believes there is a great opportunities to have positive interactions with police officers. There is the added benefit of having an SRO in the school is that the officer can direct any help coming into the building.

Tom Brooks, Highland Drive, questioned the choice of full time verses part time in relationship building with an officer. The board is trying to balance the needs of the district and being fiscally responsible. Four officers part time on rotation and between schools would have all officers familiar with the schools. Also there would be flexibility with having officers covering each other. The officers would be employees of the town and would have a formal background check done by the State Police.

Keith Petit stated he does not have a problem spending the money and but wants to make sure no other measures are not done. Mr. Van Tassel asked for advocacy in the budget season and thanked the town for the support

Kevin McDonnell said he fully supports the program and feels the money allocated is appropriate and wants to make sure the board has a good plan in case the program is cancelled in the future.

Mrs. Bromley thanked everyone for coming out and said it is critical to support the budget and vote. The meeting ended at 7:03.

REGULAR MEETING

Gilead Hill School – **Music Room**

7:00 p.m.

Minutes

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call Board Chair Erica Bromley called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

Board Members Present: Erica Bromley, Heather Petit, Christopher Aker, Geoffrey Davis, Maryanne Leichter, Kathy Williams

Board Member Absent: Kevin Williams

Liaison Present: Gail Richmond

Liaison Absent: Diane Del Rosso

- II. Pledge of Allegiance, Introductions

Motion by Kathy Williams to add VB. Personnel – Military Leave to the agenda. Seconded by Geoffrey Davis. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

- III. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

- IV. Board Member Comments

Geoffrey Davis wanted to thank all the parents that came out to the forum and for the great questions that were asked.

- V. Acknowledging Student Achievement

A. Schools in the Spotlight

- Michelle Nicholson – Hebron Education Foundation GHS Playscape Collaboration

Michelle Nicholson, Vice President of the HEF talked about the fundraising events that will be planned in the future. The HEF would like to support the GHS playground which needs to be replaced. The HEF would like to

spearhead the effort for fundraising and form a community committee . The Playscape Fundraising will be on next BOE agenda in February.

B. Personnel

Military Leave

Motion by Kathy Williams to approve the continuation of military leave of absence for the 2019-2020 school year for Daniel Pape and to approve the continuation of the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement for the 2019-2020 school year regarding the military leave of Mr. Daniel Pape. Seconded by Christopher Aker.

Discussion: Mrs. Leichter has concerns and asked how long Mr. Pape has been out on leave. She felt the board should not pay for teachers' retirement because in order for a teacher to get retirement they should be teaching. Mrs. Bromley felt we should move forward and ask our attorney about looking at a policy for the following year. Mrs. Leichter thought the board should ask the attorney before voting. Mr. Van Tassel stated to the union that the board had been very gracious in supporting his retirement and had received commendations from the Army for their support. He would recommend supporting his retirement for a fifth year.

Vote: Yes: Erica Bromley, Heather Petit, Kathy Williams, Geoffrey Davis, Chris Aker. No: Maryanne Leichter. Motion carried.

Motion by Maryanne Leichter to engage in a discussion with legal council regarding a policy moving forward. Seconded by Kathy Williams. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

B. Superintendent's Report

- Principal Updates (Read Only) (Encl. 5b)
- Region 8 Bus Bid
A pre bid meeting was held January 8th to answer questions from bus companies interest in the bid process. The bus bids will be opened at the end of this month.
- Lead Water Update
The committee is meeting monthly and a walk through was held with two companies. There is no potential figures for the cost of the project at this time.
- Excess Costs Update
The Excess Cost update has been filed and the return is expected to exceed last year's figures.
- GHS School Nurse Update
Mrs. Delton has submitted her resignation and the position has been posted. Interviews will begin Friday.
- Music Department Appreciation
Mr. Van Tassel thanked the music department for the wonderful winter concerts that the kids performed in this year.
- CAFE Legislative Breakfast (January 15)
There will be a CAFE legislative breakfast held Jan. 15th in Ellington. Mrs. Petit and Mr. Van Tassel will attend.

VI. Chair's Report

There is no Chair's Report at this time.

VII. Board Liaison Report

The last meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will be held on the 18th.

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Meeting – December 13, 2018 (Encl. 8a.1)

Motion by Maryanne Leichter to approve the minutes of December 13, 2018 as presented. Seconded by Heather Petit. Vote: Yes: Erica Bromley, Heather Petit, Maryanne Leichter, Geoffrey Davis, Christopher Aker: Abstention: Kathy Williams. Motion carried.

IX. Informational – No Action Required

A. Reports

1. 2018-2019 Year to Date Financial Report (Encl. 9a.1)

Stephanie Levin, Financial Assistant prepared a Year to Date Financial Report through 1/2/2019 showing a \$454,139 surplus.

2. Enrollment Report (Encl. 9a.2)

The Monthly Enrollment Report was presented showing the total number of students at 662 with 354 students at Hebron Elementary School and 308 students at Gilead Hill School. The enrollment for magnet schools is now at 18 paid for by the Board of Education.

3. Cafeteria Services Report (Encl. 9a.3)

Trish Schiavi, Clerk of Payables shared an updated Cafeteria Services Report showing a gain of \$403.38 for the month of December. As of January 1st there is a balance of \$6,534.01 in the total Cafeteria Account.

4. Student Activity Report (Encl. 9a.4)

The Student Activity Report was shared and showed a balance of \$6,269.23 for Gilead Hill School and a balance of \$21,981.60 for Hebron Elementary School.

5. Preschool Financial Report (Encl. 9a.5)

A Preschool Financial Report was presented which shows expenses and revenue for the entire program. At this time there is a balance of \$5,756.86 in the Board of Ed. Preschool Program and a \$11,307.38 balance in the School Readiness Program.

X. Committee Updates

1. Resource Management Committee

Due to four scheduled budget meetings in January, the committee did not meet.

2. Policy Committee

There was no Policy Committee meeting at this time.

3. Communication Committee

There was no quorum but Mrs. Bromley and Mr. Van Tassel discussed the Parent Forum Presentation.

4. Education Foundation Liaison

Michelle Nicholson spoke earlier in the meeting.

5. School Readiness Liaison

Open house was held this week and the Preschool lottery will be held March 14th. A family event will be planned in the spring. The next meeting will be held January 29th.

- XI. Possible Action Re: Policy Updates (Second Read)
Policies 3006, 4003, 4007, 4010, 4014, 5000, 5002, 5003, 5006, 5007, 5010, 5014, 5015, 9023 (Sent by email)
Motion by Kathy Williams to approve Policies 3006, 4003, 4007, 4010, 4014, 5000, 5002, 5003, 5006, 5007, 5010, 5014, 5015, 9023. Seconded by Maryanne Leichter.
Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.
- XII. Appointment of Title IX Coordinator
Motion by Maryanne Leichter to appoint Donald Briere, Director of Educational Services as the Title IX Coordinator. Seconded by Kathy Williams. _Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.
- XIII. Discussion & Possible Action on the FY'20 Budget Proposal
Mr. Van Tasel and Stephanie Levin discussed the changes the board made last week and updated the recommendations of the board which brought the budget down to 1.30%. A teacher going on leave next year with a teacher backfilling the position will give a big shift in dollars and a lower HVAC maintenance contract leaves the budget at .73%. Mrs. Bromley stated that the books and instructional supplies that were reduced from next year's budget will be purchased this year. The board then added the SRO program which puts the budget at 1.45%.
Motion by Geoffrey Davis to add School Resource Officers to the 2019-2020 budget proposal. Seconded by Maryanne Leichter. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.
- XIV. Public Comment
Dan Smith, 411 Jones Street asked what the next process for the SRO Program. Mr. Van Tasel said the next step, if the board moves forward is to bring the program to the Board of Selectmen for approval as the police are under their jurisdiction. An MOU will have to be developed along with a job description. After all this is complete the hiring process will begin. Tom Wright, Heron Hill Road asked if the Board of Selectmen know this is on their plate. Mr. Van Tasel replied that the board has met with Mr. Tierney.
Dan Smith asked if there were any selectmen besides Gail Richmond were there at the meeting? Mrs. Richmond said there were no other selectmen in attendance.
- XV. New Business
Discussion on the GHS Playscape will be put on the February agenda.
- XVI. Board Member Comments
Mrs. Petit thanked Mrs. Gee for the work on the Grade 3 concert. Mrs. Petit would also like Mr. Van Tasel to make a consideration for seat belts for the buses during contract negotiations. She also thanked Trooper Greenwood for attending the Public Forum.
Mrs. Bromley asked that the Activity Fund Report add a column to compare from month to month.
- XVII. Adjournment
Motion by Kathy Williams to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. Seconded by Heather Petit. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Conderino
Board Clerk