

Hermon School Committee
Minutes – Regular Meeting
Monday, December 7, 2015
Hermon High School Room #139

Providing Leadership to Enhance the Aspirations of our Children

Present

Mr. John Snyder, Chairperson
Mr. Anthony Reynolds, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Debora Farnham
Mr. Ralph Carr
Mr. Ted Harris
Mrs. Debbie CoWallis
Mrs. Shannon Knowles
Ms. Michael Lana, Student Representative

Absent

Ms. Madalyn Jackson, Student Representative

Staff: Mr. Micah Grant, Mr. Jerry Kiesman, Ms. Mandi Mitchell, Mr. Brian Walsh

Guests: Ms. Clain

Item I: Mr. Snyder, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item II: Agenda Adjustments – None.

Item III: Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 2, 2015.
Unanimous vote (7)

Item IV: **PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

A. Public Comments – None.

B. Art Club Students' Spring Trip to Boston

Ms. Mitchell, Advisor, provided the School Committee with a proposed itinerary for a three day trip to Boston, MA, in April 2016.

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Reynolds, to approve the trip.

Unanimous vote (7)

Item V: **PERSONNEL**

Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mr. Reynolds, to approve the employment of Mr. Ian Villmore as an Ed Tech III - grades 5-8 special education classroom.

Unanimous vote (5)

Item VI: **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Excused Absence of School Committee Member/s – None.

B. HSD Emergency Management Plans

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Reynolds, to approve the HSD Emergency Management Plans for 2015-2016.

Unanimous vote (7)

Item VII: **NEW BUSINESS** – None.

Item VIII: **REPORTS**

A. Principal

-In addition to their written reports, Mr. Walsh spoke to an incident resulting in violation of HHS's athletic code. The incident was addressed and dealt with accordingly in a timely manner.

-In response to Mr. Carr, Mrs. Duran and Mr. Walsh addressed the administration's approach to attendance issues.

Item VIII: (cont'd)

B. Superintendent

-Mrs. Duran commended Sgt. Kennedy for the positive partnership he fostered with Hermon's staff and students and expressed hope that his replacement will work with the same dedication.

-Mrs. Duran reported that the approved eighth grade trip to Quebec was opened up to seventh graders in hopes the trip would not be cancelled. This opportunity resulted in a total of 30 students signing up for the trip. Brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to approve seventh graders' participation in the this trip to Quebec.

Unanimous vote (5)

Mr. Reynolds requested inclusion of the caveat that another year this trip would again be initially approved for eighth graders only.

C. Student Representatives

-Mr. Lana reported he participated in the trip to the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Institute where Key Club members were given a tour and met some of the Boston bombing survivors.

-On December 19 there will be a community holiday party for children in grades PreK-4.

-NHS inductions are scheduled for January 14.

D. School Committee Follow-up and Request for Information

-Mr. Harris commented that HHS's Facebook page is highly informational and that HHS's Challenge Day is an exceptional opportunity for sophomores. He also commented that he attended the November 30 training at Jeff's Catering, which provided him the opportunity to gain further insight into his role as a board member

-Mr. Carr congratulated Mrs. CoWallis on her re-election to the RSU 87 board of directors.

-Mrs. Farnham commented that she feels removed from the budget building process. She expressed concern for receiving a proposed budget with numbers only and without knowledge of decisions to include/eliminate items. Mrs. Duran assured her that she removes very little before its presentation to the School Committee and offered to bring the submitted notebooks to the meetings. She and the building principals spoke to the decision making process. In response to Mr. Harris, Mrs. Duran stated that monies are not being set aside to fund a future HES building project in lieu of addressing current needs.

E. Other – None.

Item IX: Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mr. Reynolds, to approve Warrant # 11 of November 20, 2015, and Warrant # 12 of December 4, 2015.

Unanimous vote (5)

Item X: Mr. Reynolds motioned, seconded by Mr. Carr, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Unanimous vote (7)

Respectfully submitted,

Gaynor Reynolds
Recording Secretary