

Hermon School Committee
Minutes – Regular Meeting
Monday, August 14, 2017
Hermon High School Room #139

Providing Leadership to Enhance the Aspirations of our Children

Present

Anthony Reynolds, Chair
Ted Harris, Vice Chair
Debora Farnham
Jesse Keith
Anne Smith
Debbie CoWallis
Eric Byers, Student Representative

Absent

Shannon Knowles

Staff: Stephanie Biberstein, Joshua Burgess, Rhonda Byers, Janice Clain, Heather Corbett, Jason Davis, Vicky Devine, Heidi Fairbrother, Micah Grant, Heather Haskell, Kristin Manzo, Miranda Patterson, Brian Walsh, Jeffrey Wheeler

Guests: Donna Pulver

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

Item II: Agenda Adjustments: None.

Item III: Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 10, 2017, as presented.
Unanimous Vote (6)

Item IV: PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATION

A. Public Comments: None

B. Key Leaders Training

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith to approve the request for HHS advisors and students to attend Key Leader training in New Hampshire September 15th – 17th, 2017.
Unanimous Vote (6)

Item V: PERSONNEL

A. Resignations

Mr. Gonyar announced the following resignations:
Leslie Beers – Huskins, HMS Grade 6 English / Language Arts teacher
Alexis Deveau – HMS Computer teacher
Kevin McConnell – HMS Physical Education / Health teacher
Kristin Partridge – HHS Self-Contained Ed Tech
Harry Dieuveuil – Boys Varsity Soccer coach
Mark Barrows – Middle School Cross Country

Mr. Reynolds inquired as to whether exit interviews were still done. Mr. Gonyar stated he has read the policy on that and that either he or the building principals will offer that opportunity for folks that want it.

B. Employment

Mr. Keith motioned, seconded by Ms. Smith to approve the employment of:
Geoffrey Gillett, HMS .4 Spanish teacher
Kristen Manzo, HMS Grade 5 teacher
Heather Haskell, HHS .5 Math teacher
Emily Nicholas, Food Services Director
Unanimous Vote (5)

C. Extra Curricular Appointments 2017-2018

Show Choir will not be an Extra-curricular position, but a class at Hermon High School.

High School * New to position

Class Advisors

Freshman Class Advisor – Anna Anthony
Freshman Class Advisor – Margie Deabay
Sophomore Class Advisor – Kathryn Bjorklund
Junior Class Advisor – Nate Petersen *
Senior Class Advisor – Marcel Fortier *
Senior Class Advisor – Venise Treadwell

Department Heads

Electives – Janice Clain
English Language Arts – Melissa Davis
Mathematics – Wendy Lynds
PE/Health/Career Prep – Shawn Good
Science/Technology – Amy Taylor
Social Studies – Jesse Hargrove

Civil Rights Team – Lillian Barry
Fall Musical Director – Kathleen Toole
French Club Advisor – Ruth Parent
Challenge Day Coordinator – Holly Cough *
Extended Music Program – Terry Flegel
Key Club Advisor – Nate Petersen *
National Honor Society Advisor – Melissa Davis
One Act Play Director – Kathleen Toole
Spanish Club Advisor – Janice Clain
Student Council Co-Advisor – Janice Clain

Athletics

Boys Varsity Soccer – Mark Dieuveuil (JV to Varsity)
Football, Volunteer Assistant Coach – Max Andrews *
Football, Volunteer Assistant Coach – Nicholas Jordan *
Girls JV Soccer – Morgan Buck *
Girls Varsity Soccer – MJ Ball
Golf – Kent Johnson

Middle School

Math Team Co-Coach – Shelley Cyr
Math Team Co-Coach – Nicole LeBarnes

Athletics

MS Boys Soccer – Gerald “Jay” Applebee
MS Cheering – Nicole LeBarnes
MS Girls Soccer, Co-Coach – Mary Cameron

Item VI: OLD BUSINESS

A. Excused Absence of School Committee Member/s

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith to excuse the absence of Mrs. Knowles.
Unanimous Vote (6)

B. Calendar revision

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to approve the calendar revisions of the date of graduation moving from June 16th to June 9th and moving the in-service date scheduled for March 2nd to the end of the school year.

Unanimous Vote (5)

C. Facilities Update

Mr. Jason Davis, Facilities Director, spoke on the status of the current maintenance projects from this summer such as painting, floors, asbestos tile abatement, and heating controls updates.

Mr. Brian Walsh, Hermon High School Principal, gave a presentation outlining the year established, sponsoring funds sources, current status and future considerations for the athletic fields, gym, locker rooms and weight rooms.

D. Nightscape

Mr. Gonyar asked the school committee for approval to use Nightscape, owned by Joshua Burgess and Jeff Wheeler, as one of the companies the School Department uses for technology services and products, using the flexibility under Policy DJH (Purchasing and Contracting: Procurement Staff Code of Conduct):

“If the superintendent of schools determines that the proposed transaction is in the best interest of the Hermon School Department and is fair and reasonable, he/she may proceed with the transaction. In the event that the superintendent of schools may have a conflict of interest, an adjunct committee of the school committee will investigate and make a determination regarding the transaction.”

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to allow Mr. Gonyar to use his judgement under Policy DJH with regard to Nightscape for bidding and purchasing transactions in the best interest of the Hermon School Department.

Unanimous Vote (5)

Item VII: NEW BUSINESS

A. Committee Appointments

i. Negotiations

Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Harris were appointed to the Negotiations Committee for the Ed Tech Bargaining.

ii. Policy

Mrs. CoWallis and Mrs. Farnham were appointed to the Policy Committee.

iii. Curriculum

Mr. Keith and Mrs. Smith were appointed to the Curriculum Committee.

B. Pre-K

i. MOU with Highland Preschool

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Highland Preschool.

Voting for: Farnham, Harris, Keith, Reynolds
Abstention: Smith

ii. Additional Pre-K Classroom

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham to approve an additional Pre-K classroom at the high school, for one-year only.

Voting for: Farnham, Harris, Keith, Reynolds
Abstention: Smith

iii. Pre-K Teacher

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith to approve the employment of Susan McGown, Pre-K teacher for the 2017-18 year.

Voting for: Farnham, Harris, Keith, Reynolds
Abstention: Smith

Item VIII: REPORTS

A. Superintendent

Mr. Gonyar had nothing to add to his written report. He did answer a questions regarding Powerschool. Starting next spring, the scheduling will be done at the school level, instead of by the IT department. It is an underutilized program that also can do 'no school announcements', notifications for other things, attendance messaging, directory for contact to teachers, and can be used by the lunch program, as well. It was suggested to have Powerschool trainings for parents. We are hoping to send a couple of employees to Powerschool University next summer.

B. Principals

Mr. Walsh added that a zero for a grade was not a default within Powerschool, and he suggested that notes will be added regarding makeup work due dates, and a zero will be entered when work is not completed within that time frame. Mr. Gonyar will get some clarity on grading and reporting at the Administrative Team meeting and bring it back to the board which is one of the Board goals.

In addition to her written report, Mrs. Perry added that the elementary school will be doing a completely new report card in Powerschool. It will be standards based and aligned with the middle and high schools. The beginning of the school year, the teachers will be using it, and then it will be rolled out to parents at 2nd trimester. This is the 1st year for the elementary school to take part in the Great Schools Partnership. They've had a couple of sessions with the leadership team. She wanted to clarify that kindergarten will look a little different at the start of the school year. On September 5th and the 6th they will be doing assessments, and then starting on the 7th.

In addition to his written report, Mr. Grant added they are going to drastically overhaul the SEBR scores this year. One of the significant changes will be the categories they will be reporting on, how they report and they will send out grades at progress report times. They are going to try to emphasize to students that conduct, effort, and work completion are important habits to develop.

C. School Committee Follow-up and Request for Information

Mr. Harris asked about the middle and elementary school fields, and whether the town or the school are responsible for their maintenance. Mr. Gonyar is working closely with Mr. Kroll, Town Manager, to work that out. He also inquired about the trail from the high school to the elementary school, and who it falls under for responsibility.

Mrs. Smith inquired about the adult education program. She was informed that it was under the recreation department. She wondered about parent classes for the changes for a child from elementary to middle school. Mr. Gonyar stated that Mrs. Moulton, the new guidance counselor at the middle school, is very interested in doing things for parents.

Mr. Reynolds updated the board on the elementary school project.

D. Other - none

Item IX: Approval of the Warrants

Motioned by Mr. Harris, motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve Warrant # 2 of July 28, 2017, and Warrant # 3 of August 11, 2017.

Unanimous vote (5)

Item X: Motioned by Mrs. CoWallis, seconded by Mr. Harris, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Unanimous vote (6)

Respectfully submitted,
Jody White
Recording Secretary