

Hermon School Committee
Minutes – Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 5, 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
Shannon Knowles
Eric Byers, Student Representative
Allison Treat, Student Representative

Absent

Staff: Clare Caddell, Janice Clain, Micah Grant, Janet O'Clair, Jenny Perry, and Brian Walsh

Guests: None

Item I: Mr. Reynolds, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item II: Agenda Adjustments: None.

Item III: Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 14, 2017, with the amendment of Item IV. B. Key Leaders Training dates from September 15th – 19th to September 15th – 17th.
Unanimous Vote (7)

Item IV: PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATION

A. Public Comments: None

Item V: PERSONNEL

A. Resignations

Mr. Gonyar announced the following resignations:

Jane DeHaas, Financial Secretary, Superintendent's Office

Gary Collins, HMS SC Ed Tech

Andrea Sprague, Ed Tech III, HMS Self-contained

Nicole LeBarnes, HMS Cheerleading coach

B. Employment

Motioned by Mrs. CoWallis, seconded by Mr. Harris, to approve the employment of the following individuals at the High School:

Cathy Coats-Ramey, Ed Tech III, HHS Resource Room

Samuel Good, Ed Tech III, HHS Self-contained

MaryAnna Russell – Ed Tech III, HHS Self-contained

Unanimous Vote (7)

Motioned by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve the employment of the following individuals at the Middle School:

Erin Mercier, Ed Tech III, HMS Self-contained
Kelly Donato, Grade 6 English Language Arts Teacher, one-year position
Unanimous Vote (5)

Motioned by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Keith, to approve the employment of the following individuals at the Elementary School:

Jodi Curtis, Pre-K Ed Tech II
Karen Wheeler-Moore– Ed Tech III, HES Self-contained
Transfer of Michele Mahar from Ed Tech III, HES Self-contained to HES Secretary
Unanimous Vote (5)

C. Extra Curricular Appointments *New to position
High School
Boys Junior Varsity Soccer – Chris Woodside*
Middle School
MS Cross Country – Adam Gray*

Item VI: Old Business

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

B. School Repairs

The roof of the kindergarten wing of the elementary school is showing holes which have been patched. The project contractor is lining up bids to match that section and get the roof repaired. The money is not part of the project. Mr. Gonyar asked permission to bring those bids to the Committee and use the School Repair Reserve fund to pay for it. Mr. Harris recommended that we get bids for the rest of the building as well that is not covered by the project.

Item VII: New Business

A. Delegate for MSBA Annual Assembly

Motioned by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Keith, to recommend Mr. Harris as the delegate, and Mrs. Farnham as the alternate, to represent the district at the MSBA Annual Assembly.

Unanimous Vote (5)

Item VIII: Reports

A. Superintendent

In addition to his written report, he discussed his visits at each of the schools for the first day of school. All three were very positive experiences.

He met with Howard Kroll, Town Manager, and they interviewed one of his accountants to take our 18 hour per week opening to help with payroll, we will be sharing Samantha Miller with the town. He has discussed in his meetings with all employees that starting in October we will be emailing out pay stubs, and all employees have embraced it.

DOE approved our Pre-K, and we have 64 students with only two on the waiting list that registered as of that day. We are going to try to expand the ratio to 17:1 to accommodate those two students.

He is looking forward to two meetings. September 8th he's going to a Drummond & Woodsum workshop where they will explain how the money we will receive next year needs to be spent. There will be an increase in State subsidy, but it is targeted. Part of it is the school central office regional groups that are supposed to be started. On the 21st, the Commissioner of Education

will be attending the Penquis meeting to discuss those regional centers. He will report back in October about how the State is looking to reshape central office with incentives.

B. Principals

In addition to her written report, Mrs. Perry discussed the action plan that was developed this summer and shared with staff over the 3 days of in-service. They had a good, but busy first day. They extended the Open House to two hours and it worked out much better.

In addition to his written report, Mr. Grant discussed 5th grade step up day and the positive atmosphere from the staff presence with a lot of positive feedback from parents. He is thrilled with how the staff responded the first few days. They have taken a lot of steps, and once the schedules are cleaned up in the next few days, he thinks they'll be in good shape.

Mr. Walsh had a few things to add in addition to his written report. He mentioned to students today about the crosswalks. He is concerned about how Route 2 is in the morning, and he hopes the citizens will yield when those lights are flashing as kids start using them. Meetings with juniors and seniors set a fantastic tone today. They have 27 transfer students this year. He mentioned this weekend was one of the best for sports that he could recall. The boys soccer team won, the girls soccer team won, the j.v. teams won, field hockey won, football won, j.v. football won, and the golf team won three matches.

Mr. Reynolds recommended that Mr. Gonyar contact the town regarding the electronic sign by the crosswalks and see if they can have it state that there is a crosswalk ahead to let people know. Mrs. Farnham asked if there had been training for students on how to cross at the crosswalks, and Mr. Walsh stated he would make freshman and sophomores aware in his meetings with them tomorrow.

C. School Committee Follow-up and Request for Information

Mrs. Farnham stated that it would be helpful to state what the acronyms stand for in future reports. She thought the Goals were great, and inquired as to how the Goals were presented to parents. Mr. Gonyar suggested that he would prepare a process with his administrative team and share it at a future meeting.

Mr. Keith inquired as to the busy times with the crosswalk. Mr. Walsh stated from 7:15 am to 7:45 am and then 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm and that it was students choosing to go to Dunkin Donuts or Subway. Mr. Keith then asked about the flexibility the students have to leave campus during school hours. Mr. Walsh shared that he and Mr. Gonyar decided to offer the upper classman some privileges. Intervention is scheduled for Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings. Juniors and seniors in good standing, passing all of their classes, with no discipline referrals, no attendance issues, not tagged for intervention and filled out a form signed by their parents will be allowed to either come to school later on Friday or leave school early on Tuesday. There are about 30 students who take college courses and may leave or come back from attending those courses.

Mr. Harris inquired as to the number of Glenburn students we have coming to the high school, if we have any foreign exchange students. Mr. Gonyar stated he would follow up with a report on that as well as tuition students from other districts. He inquired about Powerschool at the elementary school. Mrs. Perry stated that it is being embraced, that it is currently being programmed. The teachers will start using it the first trimester, but it will not be rolled out to the parent until after that time.

Mrs. CoWallis welcomed Miss Treat and thanked Mr. Byers for returning. She really appreciates having student representatives on the Board. Mr. Gonyar asked for permission and it was

granted from the Board to meet with the student representatives prior to the Board meetings to go through the agenda with them and let them know when they can bring some voice to the process. Mrs. CoWallis suggested that this could also be an opportunity for them to bring up any concerns that they may have as well.

Mrs. Knowles expressed that she really liked the Guidance Department report, and she would like that to continue. She inquired about and Mr. Gonyar addressed the change in duties for Mrs. Kitchin, Social Worker. She will be paying closer attention to the students who struggle to come to school. She will be reaching out to families and guiding them to community resources for help. He is going to have Leslie Smith, Director of Guidance, be in charge of all counseling, social workers and nurses in the district and having some vertical meetings with them to better coordinate how we work from building to building.

Mrs. Smith inquired further about intervention at the high school. Each of the building principals explained the process for their school. She asked Mr. Byers if he reported back to the student counsel about what went on at the School Committee meetings. He stated that he or the other student representative will report back to them at their next meeting. He is hoping to also incorporate reporting back on Key Club and other key groups in their school to also relay what is going on with their groups or organizations and to get more student input.

Mr. Reynolds suggested that Mr. Gonyar maybe see if the police would be interested in coming down at the times mentioned by Mr. Walsh to train the students on safely go across the crosswalk.

Other – none

Mr. Byers, student representative, announced Spirit Week planning meeting is Thursday. He stated that freshman orientation was a success, and that 30-40 students attended to help the underclassman.

Miss. Treat, student representative, announced that Key Club has its first meeting on September 13th.

Item IX: Approval of the Warrants

Motioned by Mr. Harris, motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve Warrant # 4 of August 25, 2017, and Warrant # 5 of September 8, 2017.

Unanimous vote (5)

Item X: Motioned by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Accepted and less doubted.

Respectfully submitted,
Jody White
Recording Secretary