

Hermon School Committee
Minutes – Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 10, 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
Shannon Knowles
Eric Byers, Student Representative
Allison Treat, Student Representative

Absent

Debbie CoWallis

Staff: Stephanie Biberstein, Janice Clain, Heather Corbett, Micah Grant, Emily Nicholas, Janet O'Clair, Jenny Perry, Brian Walsh, and Erin York

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 September 5, 2017, as presented.
Unanimous Vote (6)

Item IV: PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATION

A. Public Comments: None

Item V: PERSONNEL

A. Resignations

Mr. Gonyar announced the following resignations:

Karen Wheeler-Moore, Ed Tech III, HES Self-contained

B. Extra Curricular Appointments *New to position
High School

Math Coach – Elizabeth Connors

Chemical Hygiene Officer – Debra Merrill

Sophomore Grade Class Advisor – Megan Kidder *

Junior Class Advisor – Ryan Garbe

Student Council Advisor – Justin Holbrook

Middle School

Student Council Co-Advisor – Phyllis (Bull) Kurtz

Student Council Co-Advisor – Sheri Severance

Yearbook Advisor – Amanda Lovejoy

MS Boys B Soccer – Samuel Good *

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. CoWallis.
Unanimous Vote (6)

Item VII: New Business

A. HSC Goals and Objectives 2017-2018

Mr. Gonyar handed out a list of all of the combined goals, including the school committee goals, superintendent's goals, and each school's goals.

There was discussion regarding school committee goal "Lunch for all program, K to 12" which is a continuing goal. Emily Nicholas, Food Service Director, was introduced, and she is working with each of the schools to increase the numbers in both breakfast and at lunch, as well as the possibility of some vending machines at each of the schools with healthy snacks.

Mrs. Farnham discussed adding a goal regarding negotiations for this year.

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded Mr. Keith to accept the same goals as last year with the amendment to replace Goal: "Explore opportunities to provide Spanish instruction at Hermon Middle School" with Goal: "Negotiate fair contracts with all bargaining units that are up this year".

Unanimous Vote (6)

Item VIII: Reports

A. Superintendent

In addition to his written report, Mr. Gonyar discussed finding a leaky pipe at the Middle School gymnasium. He has been in contact with the insurance company regarding filing a claim in order to have the floor fixed properly, and then refinishing the entire floor.

Mr. Gonyar met recently with Geoffrey Gratwick - Senator, Tori Kornfield - Representative (Bangor), Chair of the Education Committee along with Betsy Webb, Superintendent of Bangor. Two major pieces of legislation for the next session were discussed. The first was about the School Management and Leadership Center (SMLC). For districts like Hermon that have already done a lot of consolidation, he asked if there is a way we can get credit for the consolidation efforts we have already in place. The second area of discussion was the Standards-based Proficiency Diploma law. It had several rules to guide districts on awarding Standards-based diplomas in the year 2021. The Department of Education has now decided that they want to rewrite those rules over the next 120 days. Hermon will continue to do what is right and beneficial for our students based on this law.

The first Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 23rd. After the Policy Committee takes a look at the policies, a Professional Discussions Committee will be assembled of other stakeholders.

Mr. Gonyar, along with Mr. Backus, inquired about an Enrollment Projections Study for the next ten years with a price and an outline of how the enrollments would be studied scientifically. Mr. Reynolds stated that Randy Bragg on the Building Committee also will be looking into that with applying for State aid for what we are building now, so may want to contact him as well.

B. Principals

In addition to his written report, Mr. Walsh mentioned that the high school gym floor was finished in August. When the Young Americans were here in September, the tape they used stuck to the floor of the gym. Their insurance will be covering the refinishing of the floor, but we will have to be off the floor for 2 school days and a weekend. He also mentioned NEASC accreditation. Over the course of the next 3 years, he will be asking some of the Board members to serve on committees or complete surveys for that accreditation.

In addition to his written report, Mr. Grant invited the Board members to make an afterschool appointment with him to come see what they have done for changes at the Middle School.

In addition to her written report, Mrs. Perry reported that approval from M.D.O.E. was given to add two more Pre-K students within our Pre-K program. Mrs. Thompson has 17 students in her a.m. and p.m. sessions, Mrs. McGown has 16 in each of her sessions due to the square footage. She was excited that there have been 87 approved volunteer so far with the new volunteer process this year which includes signing an agreement and having a background check. She announced the new Facebook page at Hermon Elementary School - HES. They will be posting on the construction process.

C. School Committee Follow-up and Request for Information

Mrs. Smith stated she was proud of the football players who were flag bearer's for the game. She inquired about the pressure issue with the water lines at the Elementary School. Mr. Gonyar stated he would look into it. She wondered if the Dress Code needed to be addressed. A committee is being formed by Mrs. Biberstein with student input to look at that policy, and then she will bring it to the staff to look at. She mentioned that regarding additional Glenburn students attending, there is a place where they had decided at one point that the buses could meet that would not take them out of their routes.

Mr. Keith inquired as to whether anything was in place regarding students kneeling during the Pledge of Allegiance. He was informed that students have the right to quietly not participate if they so choose.

Mr. Harris proposed moving School Committee meetings to the Safety Building due to heat/lack of air conditioning, noise and for more citizens to participate. He inquired about consistency in grading between the 4 point scale and numerical grades. He asked Mr. Byers if Spirit Week went better than last year and if there was any follow up. Mr. Byers stated that it went better than last year given the planning time they had and they have done a recap.

Mr. Reynolds reported that it looks like the foundation is all in at the Elementary School and it looks like they are going to be on time with the project.

Neither Mrs. Knowles nor Mrs. Farnham had anything further to add.

Other – none

Mr. Byers, student representative, announced that NHS inductions would be October 18th; roughly 11 juniors and 12 seniors will be inducted. Spirit Week was 2 weeks ago. They had a schoolwide change drive with the student body raising \$200 that the student council matched. The \$400 will be donated to the American Red Cross.

Miss. Treat, student representative, discussed the Key Club recently having the regional conference here. The guidance counselors came to visit English classes to inform the juniors and seniors on colleges, and college fairs. PSATs were the next day and they received packets for signing up for online practice which was very helpful.

Mr. Gonyar discussed his first meeting with the student representatives. He mentioned that the Board wanted to hear their voice. He decided to share the reports with them as well as the agenda they have been receiving so that they are more informed as to what is going on.

Mr. Gonyar mentioned the goal of reviewing monthly electronic budget reports and he would like to add Finance Report as an agenda item after Principals Reports. He stated that we finished out the year in great shape and the carryover was met with a little extra. We have expended 25% of this years budget after 3 months because a lot of supplies are purchased in July and August in preparation for the school year.

Item IX: Approval of the Warrants

Motioned by Mr. Harris, motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to approve Warrant # 6 of September 22, 2017, and Warrant # 7 of October 6, 2017

Unanimous vote (5)

Item X: Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to enter into Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) to discuss Contract Negotiations.
Accepted and less doubted.

The School Committee returned to public session at 7:50 p.m.

Item XI: Motioned by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.
Unanimous vote (5)

Respectfully submitted,
Jody White
Recording Secretary

DRAFT