

Hermon School Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, November 6, 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  
Allison Treat, Student Representative

Absent

Shannon Knowles

Staff: Stephanie Biberstein, Janice Clain, Micah Grant, Emily Nicholas, Jenny Perry, Nathan Petersen, and Brian Walsh.

Guests: Lora Young

Item I: Mr. Reynolds, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item II: Agenda Adjustments: None.

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

Item IV: PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATION

- A. Public Comments: None
- B. Key Club trip request

Nathan Petersen, advisor for Key Club, spoke on the Key Club being invited to the annual open house for Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Institute on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> in Boston, Massachusetts at Tuft's Medical Center. All of the Key Clubs in New England have been invited. The trip will include guest speakers, a tour of the trauma center, and a visit to the helipad.

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to approve the Key Club field trip to attend this event.  
Unanimous Vote (6)

Item V: PERSONNEL

- A. Employment

Motioned by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Keith, to approve the employment of Joani Bradley, Ed Tech, HES Self-contained classroom for the 2017-2018 school year.  
Unanimous Vote (5)

- B. Extra Curricular Appointments \*New to position
  - MS "A" Boy Basketball – Adam Gray \*
  - MS "A" Girls Basketball – Robby Jenkins
  - MS "B" Boy Basketball – Julius Williams \*

MS Cheering – Kaitlenn Turner \*  
MS Chess – Jim Fratini  
HS Fall Musical – Music Director – Kathleen Toole

Item VI: Old Business

- A. Excused Absence of School Committee Member/s:  
Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis to excuse the absence of Mrs. Knowles.  
Unanimous Vote (6)

Item VII: New Business

- A. Status of the Food Service Program – Emily Nicholas  
She discussed new products, presentation of the food, creating job descriptions for every employee and the possibility of Smart Snack approved vending machines. She discussed looking in to Mosaic with My School Box; a cloud based electronic accountability and payment system, which will also hide the identities of free and reduced students, as well as creating menus and tracking nutritional values. The first year cost for the program is \$15,000 which includes the computers and training. The annual subscription cost is \$2,500. It was asked if the school lunch calendar could be placed on the proposed school nutrition webpage. Mrs. Farnham asked if we would look in to trends with other schools as far as school meal numbers decreasing. Mr. Byers suggested the possibility of a food cart to go around for breakfast options during homeroom.
- B. School Achievement Reports  
Mr. Gonyar discussed the annual School Achievement Reports based on the MEA and SAT from 2 years ago. The cover letter, summary and annual reports can be found online at <http://www.hermon.net/annual-report-card-hermon-schools/>. The superintendents would like to have more than just the test scores in these reports. They would like to have the College and Career Ready Framework included. He has asked Mrs. Gordon to take last springs scores and compare them to the State, as well as get some comparison schools to see how Hermon students due compared to other students in the area. Mr. Reynolds asked that the report cards be emailed to the committee members.
- C. Discussion of Census Proposal  
Mr. Gonyar met with Mr. Backus and they are asking the committee to consider a proposal to spend \$2,625 on a person who does school enrollment projections due the increased enrollments in Pre-K to see if this is a one-year situation or if this is something that is going to continue for a number of years. Mr. Backus is concerned about the decreasing enrollments in RSU 87 which would also impact our high school tuition revenues down the road. Mr. Reynolds asked Mr. Gonyar to check that this is not a duplication of the report Randy Bragg is doing to apply for the State funding grant.
- The action should be to first double check with Mr. Bragg; if Carpenter & Associates is not doing this same report then bring this proposal back to the school committee.
- D. Policies (First Reading) (\* New)
- IHBAL – Grievance Procedures for Persons with Disabilities\*
  - KHC- Distribution and Display of Materials for Students and Parents from External Groups
  - GCOC – Evaluation of Administrative Staff
  - Job Descriptions for Review - Behavioral Coach\*
- Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to accept the first reading of the above policies.  
Unanimous Vote (6)

**Item VIII: Reports****A. Superintendent**

In addition to his written report, Mr. Gonyar mentioned that the Negotiations Committee is getting closer each time they meet, and he hopefully will have an update in December on the Ed Tech Negotiations. He would like to have a mid-year check in with new employees in December to see how things are going. He will let the school committee know in January what the feedback was. He discussed the Resolution from the Maine School Superintendents Association fall conference about measuring College and Career Readiness with maybe some different factors than have been used in the past. Mr. Gonyar visited the Bridge Year statistics class at the high school and asked Mr. Byers to speak about the Bridge Year program that he is a part of in conjunction with United Technologies Center.

**B. Principals**

In addition to his written report, Mr. Walsh mentioned the high school musical, "Once Upon A Mattress", is taking place November 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. On November 15<sup>th</sup> one of the Associate Directors of NEASC will be spending the day at the high school. There was a meeting that day with the advisors and 15 student leaders to ask the students for their input on Spirit Week, assemblies, speakers and student participation in student government and student leadership.

In addition to his written report, Mr. Grant stated that the middle school students collected 305 pairs of socks to be donated to the Shaw House. There was also a change war for Marsha Burr at the middle school. Also they are planning something wonderful for November 17<sup>th</sup>, it's going to look like a reward planned by guidance. He stated that there was positive feedback on the 6-7 page mid-trimester progress reports with every assignment on them.

In addition to her written report, Mrs. Perry reported they hit their first target for PBIS, earning their first 10,000 hawk wings, so they had a pajama day with a movie about belonging and accepting our differences, as well as a gift card from Sweet Frog for every student. They have taken a look at their Mission and Vision statements and seeing if they still fit for them as a school.

Mrs. Biberstein is putting together an advisory group of students to provide feedback on things such as the school nutrition program, and policies or rules that directly affect students.

Mr. Gonyar added that we have instituted School Messenger to send out no school or emergency announcements to everybody. It will also allow us to send messages to specific groups as well.

**C. Finance Report**

Mr. Gonyar handed out a copy of the finance report. Mr. Keith asked if there was an excel version of the report.

**D. School Committee Follow-up and Request for Information**

Mrs. Farnham inquired about School Management Leadership Centers. Mr. Gonyar stated that SPRPCE is putting in an application as a placeholder to the State, which states that we have intent to possibly change SPRPCE into a leadership center. It fits the definition, but two more components may have to be added to it. She inquired as to whether substitutes or bus drivers could be part of that. She mentioned the website: [www.RedefiningReady.org](http://www.RedefiningReady.org) that was discussed at the Annual fall conference. There was discussion regarding the necessity of a generator at the elementary school versus a well-developed evacuation plan. Mrs. Farnham suggested Outdoor Education as an alternative to physical education as a new program.

Mr. Harris inquired about voter registration for students aged 18 at the high school. Mr. Walsh stated that the high school does that already through the federal government. The cards are handed out through the social studies department. He offered his congratulations to all the fall sports teams. He asked if there were any time-lapse cameras set up to capture the progress to the elementary school project. Mrs. Perry stated that photos are posted to their Facebook page at least once a week. He also

proposed moving School Committee meetings to the Safety Building so that meetings could be taped for people who cannot attend this meeting, it's centrally located, it's regulated temperature-wise.

Mrs. Smith asked if Civics was still a course. Mr. Walsh replied that it was no longer a stand alone course. She thanked Mrs. Nicholas for her presentation and thought it was interesting to hear what we are doing in different areas. She attended the Annual Fall conference and thought it was incredible and recommends it to any school board member. She inquired as to whether or not she can volunteer at the schools if she is a school committee member. There is a policy regarding how school committee members can be in the schools.

Other – none

Mr. Byers, student representative, announced that student council was planning a turkey and canned goods drive on November 11<sup>th</sup> for local families

Miss. Treat, student representative, mentioned that next week would be Key Club Week. Everyday is themed differently around Key Club. They also sold \$405 in flowers for the Kiwanians. They also partnered with Hawks for Change to hang peace cranes on sophomore's lockers with a positive note on them the day after Challenge Day.

Item IX: Approval of the Warrants

Motioned by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve Warrant # 8 of October 20, 2017, and Warrant # 9 of November 3, 2017

Unanimous vote (5)

Item X: Motioned by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Mr. Reynolds accepted unless doubted.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jody White  
Recording Secretary