

Hermon School Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, December 4, 2017  
Hermon High School Room #139  
*Providing Leadership to Enhance the Aspirations of our Children*

Present

Absent

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

Staff: Stephanie Biberstein, Janice Clain, Vicky Devine, Micah Grant, Jesse Hargrove, Jenny Perry, Chelsea Pinette and Brian Walsh.

Guests: Olivia Guiggey, Kim Nichols, Liana Shaw, Lou Anne Shaw, Olivia Smith, Evan Staples, Maria Staples, Matt Tripp, Jessica Walsh, and Loris Young

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:

Mr. Gonyar, Superintendent, requested an adjustment to the agenda under Item V: Personnel, to add C. Employment.

Item III: Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 6, 2017, as presented.

Unanimous Vote (7)

Item IV: PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATION

A. Public Comments: None

B. Proposal For Hermon High School Student Food Cupboard

Students representing Hermon High's Hawks 4 Change: Liana Shaw, Matthew Tripp, Evan Staples, Jessica Walsh and Olivia Smith gave a presentation requesting approval to establish a sustainable food cupboard for students at the high school.

Mrs. CoWallis motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris to approve the proposal for a student Food Cupboard at Hermon High School.

Unanimous vote (7)

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to accept donations for the Hermon High School Student Food Cupboard.

Unanimous vote (7)

C. Acceptance of Donations

Mr. Gonyar announced the following donations to the Hermon School Department:

- Wanda Leavitt donation of 50 pairs of handmade mittens
- Michael Griggs donation of installation of the tower safely and securely on the roof of the Central Office. Mike provided the guide wires and reinforced anchors that will allow the tower to sustain high winds in the future. He also helped to reinstall our antenna and install a security camera on the tower
- Ernest "Ernie" Wheeler donation consisting of two eight foot sections of tower as well as the tower cap and base that is currently on top of the Superintendent's Office providing public access to HermonNet. This replaced an earlier antenna configuration that was destroyed during the recent wind storm.

Item V: PERSONNEL

A. Resignation

Mr. Gonyar announced the resignation of Mary Ellen Johnson, middle school special education resource room teacher. He sent a letter to her thanking her for 27 years of service to the Hermon School Department.

B. Extra Curricular Appointments \*New to position

MS Girls B Basketball – Kristen Manzo \*

MS Cheering – Assistant Coach, Volunteer – Taylor Smith \*

MS Spelling Bee - Sonya Wedge \*

MS Volunteer Assistant Boys A Basketball – Dustin Davis \*

HS Varsity Girls Basketball – Chris Cameron

HS JV Boys Basketball – Charles Colson

C. Employment

Motioned by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to employ Amy Chandler, Ed Tech III at HES in the self-contained classroom for the 2017-18 school year.

Unanimous Vote (5)

Item VI: Old Business

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

B. Approval of Census Proposal

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to accept the Census Proposal of \$2,625.

Unanimous Vote (5)

C. Calendar Revision

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to accept the revision of the calendar to change of last day of school, whatever day that may fall on, to be a half day.

Unanimous Vote (5)

## Item VII: New Business

## A. Policies (Second 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 above policies, as written.  
Unanimous Vote (7)

B. October 1<sup>st</sup> Enrollment

Mr. Gonyar mentioned that it became quite the nightmare to certify the October 1<sup>st</sup> enrollments because the State was not ready to accept the data even though the original deadline was a few weeks after October 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Gonyar gave kudos to Rhonda Hachey, Jeff Wheeler, Geary Wheeler and Jody White for their patience, persistence and continuous paying attention to the details through the process. The good news is that enrollment is up and healthy at all of our schools.

## C. Resolution in Support of Public Schools

Mrs. Farnham motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis to accept the Resolution in Support of Public Schools. Mr. Gonyar will send the results of the vote to Maine School Management Association.

Unanimous Vote (7)

## D. Dates for Curriculum and Policy Committee Meetings

Mr. Gonyar announced December 11<sup>th</sup> as the date for the Policy Committee meeting and December 18<sup>th</sup> as the date for the Curriculum meeting. Both are public meetings.

## Item VIII: Reports

## A. Superintendent

In addition to his written report, Mr. Gonyar was pleased to announce that we've reached a tentative agreement with the Educational Technicians. The Educational Technicians are planning on voting to ratify the agreement sometime in December. It will be discussed and voted on for approval at the January meeting. Also, through the SPRPCE (Southern Penobscot Regional Program for Children with Exceptionalities) and PREP (Penobscot River Educational Partnership) groups, the first step has been taken to meet the requirement for a School Management Leadership Center (SMLC). The State is using the Penquis Superintendent's model for this kind of organization, although they have asked the group to expand.

## B. Principals

In addition to his written report, Mr. Walsh mentioned the JMG (Jobs for Maine Graduates) opening ceremony and induction was going on that same evening. He also suggested that if planning to attend the high school basketball games this winter, plan on arriving early as the games will be packed.

In addition to his written report, Mr. Grant mentioned the movie "Wonder" the middle school attended a couple of weeks prior was very well attended. He also broke rank on one of his goals, but there was a major issue with the lack of completed homework, so he is taking a variety of proposals and starting to look at ways to address that issue now rather than waiting. Other than that, attendance is great.

Mrs. Biberstein has implemented an advisory committee of students whom are able to offer some feedback on different areas of the school. For their first meeting last week, they addressed food services with Emily Nicholas.

In addition to her written report, Mrs. Perry stated that she has extended the dates for report cards to from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>. They have been working very diligently on their reporting goal and will be distributing their first fully standards-based, electronic, inclusive report card. There are still a few little glitches they are working out.

#### C. Finance Report

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

Mr. Byers, student rep, reported that student council just finished with their Thanksgiving collection. Members stood outside of Danforth's for about 5 hours collecting canned goods, boxed goods, and money which they used to purchase more canned and boxed goods. Two boxes went to the surrounding towns. Student council is also looking to partner with NHS to do a Christmas collection for the Shaw House. The musical was a couple of weeks ago and went well. The Holiday Community party for PreK through 4<sup>th</sup> grade students is being planned. They will host game night for Glenburn, Caravel and Hermon middle school students to play card games or video games and give those potential students an opportunity to integrate before coming up to Hermon High.

Miss Treat, student rep, reported that the Key Club just put up a Giving Tree in the library. The goal is to have all of the tags fulfilled. The Key Club also went to KPTI day in Boston at Tuft's Hospital and they got to see the children's floating hospital, meet all the therapy and service animals and they also made cards for the children.

Mrs. Smith was pleased that the middle school went to see the movie Wonder. She went to see it and felt it was a fantastic movie for anyone with some very important messages. Mr. Grant stated that it was Annalee Libby's idea.

Mrs. CoWallis asked Mr. Walsh if he knew the number of students that were participating in JMG. He said there were around 54 students.

Mrs. Farnham asked about the shortage for the IT support person from the town. Mr. Gonyar stated that the town took a hit with Ryder leaving. They got together to look at the Memorandum of Understanding between the school department and the town. We will bill the town for half the salary for the shared IT person for the remainder of this fiscal year. She also mentioned a great job had been done itemizing out where we are with some of our budget lines. She asked about overages in some cost centers. Mr. Gonyar stated that we

are in great shape because we should have 58% left in each of the cost centers, and we have more than that in all of them except for UTC which is exactly at 58%. Mrs. Farnham referred to Mrs. Byers report and references to being over in some areas, and he stated that there is no need for concern. He met with Howard Kroll, Town Manager and Steve Thomas Town Council Chair and made them aware.

Mr. Keith asked if one or two extra columns could be added to the finance report to include the year to date attained vs. last year's budget then comparatively to where we are this year.

Mr. Harris inquired about the spray paint on the middle school parking lot. Mr. Gonyar stated that we had 12 gallons of fuel oil overflow from a delivery. The DEP was called and they came right in and took care of it. Mr. Gonyar stated that he would get more follow up details from Jason Davis. Mr. Harris also commended the Hawks 4 Change on coming up with the fabulous idea for the Food Pantry. He thanked Mrs. Biberstein for the student advisory committee. He felt that was a step in the right direction for communication. Regarding homework at the middle school, he mentioned that he would like to see some reasonable consistency in the amount of homework from each of the teachers. Mr. Grant stated that their concern was that every student has at least one study hall built into their schedule. Some students are still not doing their homework and there are no consequences with respect to grades. He believes that not doing homework should not be partial credit.

#### E. Other

Item IX: Mr. Harris moved, seconded by Mrs. Smith to approve Warrant # 10 of November 17, 2017, and Warrant # 11 of December 1, 2017.  
Unanimous Vote (5)

Item X: Mr. Harris moved, seconded by Mrs. Smith to enter into Executive Session at 7:35 pm pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) to discuss Contract Negotiations.  
Unanimous Vote (5)

The school committee returned to public session at 8:04 pm

Item XI: Mrs. Farnham motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm.  
Accepted unless doubted.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jody White  
Recording Secretary