

Hermon School Committee  
Minutes – Regular Meeting  
Monday, April 1, 2019 – 6:0 p.m.  
Hermon High School Library

*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  
Jessica Frye  
Liana Shaw, Student Representative  
Allison Treat, Student Representative

- Staff: Cindy Badger, Rhonda Byers, Mallory Cook, Melissa Davis, Micah Grant, James Fratini, Nicole Griffin, Erica Hake, Jesse Hargrove, Miranda Mauer, Jenny Perry, Rick Sinclair, and Brian Walsh
- Guests: Students being recognized and their families
- Item I: Mr. Reynolds, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Item II: Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to enter into Executive Session pursuant to [1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (B)] at 6:00 p.m. to discuss a Student Issue.
- The School Committee returned to public session at 6:14 p.m.
- Item III: Agenda Adjustments: None
- Item IV: Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 4, 2019, as presented.  
Unanimous (7)
- Item V: Proclamations and Presentation
- A. Public Comments: None
- B. The School Committee, and Mr. Gonyar recognized the State Champion Destination Imagination Teams, led by Mrs. Griffin.  
4th Grade Team: Michael Fowler, Bailey Heal-Hedger, Mary Kelly and Jacob Morissette.  
7th & 8th Grade Team: Albert Bai, Isabella Bowden, Kiersta Fairbrother, Carter Moses and Joshua Sullivan.
- C. The School Committee, and Mr. Gonyar recognized the State Invention Convention Winners, led by Mr. Fratini.  
Morgan LaRochelle, Best Overall Invention and Nolan Raymond, Most Innovative For 8th Grade.
- D. The School Committee, Mr. Gonyar and Mr. Sinclair recognized the State High Jump and the 200m Run, 2018-19 State Champion, Zachary Beaton.

- E. The School Committee, Mr. Gonyar and Mr. Walsh, recognized the SkillsUSA State Gold Medal Winner Brian Rand, for Heating (unable to attend).
- F. Presentation by students in Hermon High School Technical English class Mrs. Cook and Technical English class students, Daniel Harriman, Nicholas Batchelder, Nicholas Ryder, Mercedes Pomeroy, Kameron Franck, and Nathaniel Cyr gave a presentation on the High School Technical English class.

Item VI: Executive Session – Contract Negotiations [1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D)]  
Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to enter into Executive Session at 6:52 p.m. pursuant to Contract Negotiations [1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D)]

The School Committee returned to public session at 7:02 p.m.

Mr. Keith motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to ratify the Negotiated Agreement between the Hermon School Committee and the Hermon Education Association for 2018-2021.  
Unanimous (5)

Item VII: Personnel

- A. Mr. Gonyar accepted with regret the resignations of:
- Kristin Bender, Ed Tech III, HMS Self-contained classroom
  - Mark Dieuveuil, Varsity Boys Soccer Coach
  - Bryan Higgins, Transportation Director
  - Jennifer Stano, Ed Tech III, HHS Resource & Self-contained classrooms

Mr. Reynolds asked Mr. Gonyar to thank Mr. Higgins for his years of service.

- B. Co / Extra-curricular positions \* New applicant to position
- Rich Feero Spring Track, Volunteer Assistant \*
  - Jessica Fusco Middle School Softball Coach \*
  - Marisa Kelley Varsity Girls Softball, Volunteer Assistant \*
  - Noelle Waling J.V. Softball Coach \*

Item VIII: Old Business

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

B. Second Reading of Policies

- a. IJJ Instructional and Library Materials Selection  
b. IJJ-E Citizen's Challenge of Educational Media Form

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to accept the second reading of policy IJJ Instructional and Library Materials Selection, as presented.

Unanimous (7)

Item IX: New Business

A. First Reading of Policies

- a. EFC Free and Reduced Price Food Services  
b. EFD Meal Charging Procedure

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to accept the first readings of policy EFC Free and Reduced Price Food Services, and EFD Meal Charging Procedure, as presented.

Unanimous (7)

A Policy Committee meeting date of April 22, 2019 at 3:30 pm was set.

B. Annual Review of GBGAA-R Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan Regulation

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to accept Annual Review of GBGAA-R Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan Regulation.

Unanimous (7)

C. First draft of 2019-20 Budget

Mr. Gonyar gave a power point presentation on the first draft of the 2019-20 budget. Filters used: Best interest of the students, what do we need to improve and pursue excellence for all, what is needed to move forward on our mission and vision, what is fiscally responsible to Hermon taxpayers.

Enrollment in Hermon is increasing. Regular instruction is up \$232,155 up 3.86% due to wages, potentially health insurance, an addition of a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, also increase Spanish from .5 to 1.0. Knowing that it is difficult to fill a world language teacher position, Mr. Grant gave a proposal on finding a great, dynamic teacher to move in more of a STEM direction. With the addition of 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, and another teacher, they would have 4 teachers at every grade level. They could then offer more special and elective classes such as Genetics, Gulf of Maine Research / Environmental Science, Robotics, Health/Physiology, Biomedical Engineering, and Coding / Computer Science. Students would still be able to take foreign language in High School.

Mr. Gonyar noted that Instructional Supplies are up at each school for math textbooks or kits and additional training at PADS, and science textbooks at HHS. There is a \$70,000 technology request.

Special education increased due to wages and insurance, as well as out-of-district placements.

Other instruction increases due to an increase in extra-curricular and co-curricular stipends in the Negotiated Agreement.

Student and Staff support increase to both PADS and HMS guidance positions from .8 to 1.0. The library will no longer be supported by the town for the hours after 4:00 pm. We will shift the ed tech's hours to earlier in the day until 4:00. The purchase of Category II hardware of \$70,000 to upgrade our technology to make the servers more reliable.

Systems Administration has gone up with the Finance Assistant position approved last year from 18 hours to 40 hours a week. School administration has the addition of tuition for Mr. Walsh continue with his education.

Increases in Transportation for the Workhorse Van loan, and an additional bus this year. The buses have cameras and new phones. The actual cost of the UTC bus driver wages is in there now.

Facilities and Maintenance has a big increase due to heating oil and electricity cost increases.

Total costs are up \$673,377. Over 70% of the budget goes directly to student instruction. The local contribution is up \$185,648, which is a 3.72% increase to local taxpayers.

This budget does not address:

- New laptop computers for all teachers in the district: (Recommended)
- Apptegy as a communication tool: A \$9,000 setup, then a \$7,000 subscription each year (Recommended)
- Long term infrastructure needs of our schools. (Currently using reserves & loans)
- \$5,000 for expanding the adult education program. (Recommendation: Do not add to the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the budget)

- An additional science teacher at the middle school per Mr. Grant's proposal (Recommended)
- A budget line to support teams/groups that qualify for national level competitions. (Consider)

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith to accept the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the 2019-20 budget.

Unanimous vote (5)

Item X:

Reports

A. Superintendent

Mr. Gonyar reported on the 2nd meeting of the District Dropout Committee.

B. Principals

In addition to her written report, Mrs. Perry presented a final rendering of the sign, due to be installed mid to late May.

C. Finance Report

D. School Committee Follow-up and Request for Information

Miss Treat, Student Representative reported that the Key Club would be inducting new officers. They are also doing Hike for the Homeless with Student Council. The senior ex talent show to benefit the senior class to be held Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. The NHS went to a State banquet and convention held at the University of Maine.

Miss Shaw, Student Representative reported that Student Council held their Semiformal March 30<sup>th</sup>. Hawks for Change is planning a Yellow Tulip Project to raise awareness for mental health issues, as well as holding another food drive on April 6<sup>th</sup> at Danforth's. Project Sticker Shock is where they get permission from various stores that sell alcohol and put stickers on alcohol that remind people of the fines and jail time for furnishing alcohol to a minor.

Mrs. Smith commented that she thought that we should look at some ways to support academic students going to National's. Mr. Gonyar mentioned he's seen some other districts have a budget line with a fixed amount in it and groups can request to tap into that fund. The consensus was to start with \$10,000 in that budget line. Mrs. CoWallis agreed that a line in the budget for academic things was a good idea because there is a lot of money that goes in to athletics. Maybe add some criteria for accessing those funds.

Mr. Keith mentioned that as part of the Drop-Out Prevention Committee there was a lot of focus on identifying the truancy or the chronic absenteeism and behavior early on instead of once it gets to the high school level. One of the ideas that came from that was adding a Safety Monitor for the Patricia A. Duran School and Middle School. Mr. Gonyar thinks that will be able to be addressed at the Patricia A. Duran School and potentially at the Middle School with the increase for guidance to a full-time position.

Mrs. Farnham stated that there are amazing things going on in our schools. She also asked where we were regarding the JMG timeline. Mr. Walsh stated that we have two years left, and that we will never have the percentage numbers to qualify for that program. We would have to fund it ourselves.

Mr. Harris mentioned that there are 28 kids trying out for Middle School softball with only 12-14 slots available. He wondered if we could look into a B team. Mr. Reynolds asked if there was a league for a B softball team. Mr. Grant mentioned that many of the schools in the Eastern Maine league that they are in have B teams. It is not currently a stipend position. He did speak with the Athletic Director regarding it.

Mr. Reynolds mentioned that Alan Dorr, a town father, passed away earlier in the week. He wondered what to do regarding budgeting for the snow plowing. He had met with him about a month earlier and thanked him for the amount of time that he's plowed for Hermon Schools at a very discount rate.

Mr. Gonyar mentioned that Matt Tardie, Director of the Riverside Adult Ed Partnership also unexpectedly passed away earlier. He stated they are unsure where that leaves the adult ed program.

E. Other

Item XI:

Approval of Warrant

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve Warrant # 18 of March 8, 2019 and Warrant # 19 of March 22, 2019

Unanimous vote (5)

Item XII:

Adjournment

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Accepted unless doubted.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary J. Gonyar  
Superintendent of Schools