

Hermon School Committee  
Minutes – Regular Meeting  
Monday, May 6, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.  
Hermon High School Library

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  
Jessica Frye  
Liana Shaw, Student Representative

Absent

Allison Treat, Student Representative

Staff: Cindy Badger, Stephanie Biberstein, Janice Clain, Melissa Davis, Micah Grant, Jenny Perry, Lisa Roy and Brian Walsh  
Guests: Evan Marshall, and Deb Langille

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: Add the approval of Warrant 22 B of May 6, 2019 at the end of the agenda

Item III: Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 4, 2019, as presented.  
Unanimous (7)

Item IV: Proclamations and Presentation

- A. Public Comments: Mrs. Clain mentioned that elections would be held at the High School the third week in May. At that time she will be putting out the information on Student Rep.
- B. Proclamation: No proclamation

Item V: Personnel

- A. Mr. Gonyar accepted with regret the resignations of:
  - Jenna Burnham, Finance Assistant Central Office
  - Geoffrey Gillett, .5 Spanish Teacher, HMS
  - Emily Nicholas, Food Services Director
  - Venise Treadwell, HHS Social Studies Teacher
  - Jody Perkins, HMS Custodian
  - Charles Colson, JV Basketball Coach

B. Employment

- Evan Marshall, Spanish Teacher, HMS
- Gordon Pond, Bus Fleet Mechanic
- Lisa Roy, Guidance, HMS

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith to hire Evan Marshall, Gordon Pond and Lisa Roy full time.

Unanimous (7)

## Item VI: Old Business

- A. Excused Absence of School Committee Member/s: Allison Treat, Student Rep  
Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith to excuse the absence of Ms. Treat.  
Accepted unless doubted
- B. Second Reading of Policies
- a. EFC Free and Reduced Price Food Services
  - b. EFD Meal Charging Procedure  
Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to accept the second readings of Policies EFC Free and Reduced Price Food Services and EFD Meal Charging Procedure, as amended.  
Unanimous (7)
- C. Second Draft of the 2019-20 Budget  
Mr. Gonyar handed out a 3-page document on the second draft of the budget. Everything that had been asked to be added to the budget from the first draft was added. Some money was moved around since the first draft. The estimated health care premiums were reduced by 3% because we now know there is not going to be an increase this year. A couple of iPad carts were eliminated in favor of making sure all teachers have a new computer. The plan is that by the end of June each teacher will have a Lenovo convertible computer that they can take home for the summer to work with and get used to it. Some carts were added to the high school science department. The amount for instructional supplies was reduced. A teacher was moved to Title 1 funding at the Patricia A. Duran School so the funding for Title 1 stayed about the same. We were able to get both math and English teachers under Title 1 federal money which freed up some money to add more staff at the middle school. We have added Apptegy for our communication tool that will provide value to our parents and our students. Also added was a line with \$1,500 for out of state travel by student groups. The numbers were tweaked a little on the summary sheet, but there were no changes to the bottom lines. It is still a 4.84% increase of \$673,377. It will be an increase of \$185,000 to the Town. Mrs. Farnham stated that one of the things they heard during negotiations were the additional things teachers' pay for out of pocket, like tissues, paper towels, and sanitizer. Things that she felt the school department should be paying for. She asked for clarification that those types of items were in the budget. Mrs. Perry stated that teachers submit their budgets to her and this year everything that was in their budgets were included. The PTA does a teacher needs board, and a lot of times those needs are on there. Mrs. Farnham stated that she felt there should be a supply closet with those types of items that a teacher can access. The first public presentation of the budget proposal to the Town Council would be Tuesday, May 7th. Mr. Gonyar stated that the Power Point would be put on the School District webpage and that he would ask Mr. Kroll to have it put on the Town's webpage for anyone in the town who would like more details on the budget. On May 23rd the Town Council votes either yea or nay on the bottom line.  
Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to accept the 2nd draft of the 2019-2020 budget.  
Unanimous vote (5)

## Item VII: New Business

- A. Contributions to Employee's Retirement Celebration  
Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to contribute to the employee's retirement celebration of \$100 per school at the middle school and high school.  
Unanimous vote (5)

B. First Reading of the Policies

- a. JLCB Immunization of Students
- b. JLCC Communicable / Infectious Disease
- c. JLCCB Pediculosis (Head Lice) Policy  
Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham to accept the first reading of the above policies, as presented.  
Unanimous vote (7)
- d. JLCCA Attendance Policy for Students Infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus  
Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to rescind Policy JLCCA.  
Unanimous vote (7)

C. First Reading of Job Description

- a. Bus Mechanic  
Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to accept the first reading of the Bus Mechanic job description, as presented.  
Unanimous vote (7)

D. Approval of RSU 87 Tuition Contract 2020-25

- Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to approve the RSU 87 Tuition Contract for 2020-25, as presented.  
Unanimous vote (5)

E. Acceptance of Bids

- a. HHS Library Carpet  
Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to accept the Expert Flooring bid for \$15,987.00.  
Unanimous vote (5)
- b. HHS Paving Project  
Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to accept Hopkins Paving bid of \$42,221.20.  
Unanimous vote (5)
- c. PADS Kitchen Hood  
Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to accept the Down East Sheet Metal and Certified Welding, Inc. bid of \$10,000  
Unanimous vote (5)

Item VIII: Reports

A. Superintendent

Mr. Gonyar had nothing to add in addition to his written report.

B. Principals

In addition to his written report, Mr. Walsh announced that special ed teacher, Mr. Christopher Healy, would be graduating with his doctorate on Saturday, May 11th and that we are very proud of him.

In addition to his written report, Mr. Grant mentioned that Spring Into the Arts had wrapped up the previous weeks and was by far, one of the better experiences he's had in his career at the middle school. He wanted to publicly thank all of the career presenters who came in, helped out and volunteered their time.

Mrs. Biberstein explained that they are still in the process with the sign. Hopefully they can work on it when it's dry enough to back the truck up on to the hill.

Mrs. Perry pointed out a list of events in her written report. Her sign will not be installed until this summer.

C. Finance Report

D. School Committee Follow-up and Request for Information

Miss Shaw, Student Representative reported that Hawks for Change Project Sticker Shock was a huge success. They went into businesses and raised awareness for underage drinking. The yellow tulips project was to raise awareness for mental health issues, especially when it comes to youth. The tulips are in front of the school. They have started bagging grab and go box food so that teachers can grab a bag of food to put in their boxes. They have held a few mock trials recently. Elections for student officers is upcoming which is when the student representative position will be brought up.

Mrs. Smith offered her congratulations to Mr. Walsh for his award. Next month being her last meeting, she wanted to say that it's been a fantastic experience serving on the board. She is happy with what is going on at all of the schools, and she thanked the committee. Mr. Reynolds thanked Mrs. Smith for her service.

Mrs. CoWallis acknowledging the continuation of the contract, that she looks forward to both Boards working together.

Mrs. Farnham asked Mr. Gonyar to relay to the new Commissioner to be more understanding regarding the data needed for State reports. Mr. Gonyar stated that the State needs to be more of a resource and support to us.

Mr. Harris wanted to recognize Mr. Walsh, as well and he feels it was well deserved. Ms. Treat has done a fabulous job as student rep. He asked how many buses we will have starting this fall without cameras on them. Mr. Gonyar explained that we have 2 route buses that do not have cameras on them, but the solution is to outfit them with GoPro's or dash cams. All new buses will have cameras. Mr. Harris asked if we would be receiving any more money from the ED279. Mr. Gonyar explained that if anything, that amount would be more likely to go down because there are a number of bills in session right now that have a price tag to them.

Mr. Harris asked what the policy or protocol was for taking phones. Mrs. Biberstein stated that they do not usually ask to see a student's phone. If a student is being harassed, that student usually offers to show their phone as proof. Mr. Walsh stated that if there was reasonable suspicion that they can legally search a phone and they do involve the parents. It is stated in the student handbook.

Mr. Reynolds congratulated Mr. Walsh. He also thanked Mrs. Clain for sending great student representatives. Mr. Keith and Mrs. Smith were appointed to conduct interviews again for student representative, prior to finals week.

E. Other

Mrs. Farnham asked an update for the replacement of the Adult Education Director. Mr. Gonyar stated that he would update them once he heard.

Item IX: Approval of Warrant

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve Warrant #20 of April 5, Warrant #21 of April 19, Warrant #22 of May 3 and Warrant #22B of May 6, 2019.

Unanimous vote (5)

Item X: Adjournment

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37p.m.  
Accepted unless doubted.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary J. Gonyar  
Superintendent of Schools