

Hermon School Committee
Minutes – Regular Meeting
Monday, November 7, 2016
Hermon High School Room #139

Providing Leadership to Enhance the Aspirations of our Children

Present

Mr. Anthony Reynolds, Chairperson
Mr. Ralph Carr, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Debora Farnham
Mr. Ted Harris
Mrs. Anne Smith
Mrs. Debbie CoWallis
Mrs. Shannon Knowles
Mr. Michael Lana, Student Representative
Mr. Eric Byers, Student Representative

Absent

Staff: Mrs. Stephanie Biberstein, Mr. Jerry Kiesman, Mrs. Jenny Perry, Mr. Brian Walsh
Guests: Mrs. Clare Cadell

Item I: Mr. Reynolds, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item II: Agenda Adjustments
None

Item III: Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 3, 2016.

Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 3, 2016, as presented.

Voting for: Reynolds, Carr, CoWallis, Knowles

Voting against: Farnham, Harris

Abstain: Smith

Mrs. Duran stated that when we post the minutes on Hermon.net, we will include the statement.

Item IV: PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATION

A. Public Comments*

None

Item V: PERSONNEL

A. Employment

1. Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to employ Andrea Sprague, Ed Tech III at Hermon Middle School.

Unanimous vote (5)

2. Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Carr, to employ Gary Collins, Ed Tech II at Hermon Middle School.

Unanimous vote (5)

B. Extra Curricular Appointments 2016-2017

High School

Chris Cameron – Varsity Girls Basketball

Shawn Good – J.V. Girls Basketball

* David King – Indoor Track

Matt Kinney – Freshman Basketball

Middle School

Anthony Davis – Middle School Boys A Basketball

Jim Fratini – Middle School Chess

Item VI: OLD BUSINESS

A. Excused Absence of School Committee Member/s

None

B. HSC Goals and Objectives 2016-2017

Mrs. Duran presented last years Goals and Objectives listing what she perceived to be progress or lack of toward completion. Mr. Reynolds asked if they should set a meeting to set the goals and objectives for 2016-17. Mr. Carr stated he felt they could handle it in a regular meeting. Mr. Reynolds stated that for the next meeting to bring any suggestions for goals and objectives.

Item VII: NEW BUSINESSA. October 1st Count

Mrs. Duran pointed out that over a 5-year period; the PreK-8 population has increased by about 10% or 45.5 students. The high school enrollment has dropped by 14 students, and tuition students have dropped by 24 students, including 8 students from Glenburn this year.

Item VIII: REPORTS

A. Principals

Mrs. Perry stated they were gearing up for parent conferences. They have set the winter concerts in December and they will be a PreK-2 concert and a 3-4 concert, both in the afternoon. The end of year concert will be an evening and whole school concert. They are very excited get a grant for a salad bar at the elementary that will have fresh fruits and vegetables as a second choice.

Mr. Reynolds pointed out that the elementary kitchen will have to be addressed with the addition discussions. Mrs. Duran pointed out they need a new cooler, a new oven, a new stove. Most of the current kitchen was set up in 1975.

Mr. Kiesman stated the middle school will also have a salad bar. He stated they had 1,650 pairs of socks collected. They will take a representative group of students to deliver those socks to various agencies around the Bangor area. The students will not go in to the facilities, but they will deliver them and WABI will follow them around.

Mr. Walsh stated notices for parent teacher conferences have gone out along with first quarter report cards. There was a meeting today with student leaders and organization advisors; on the agenda was school climate. He has asked student council to go back and create a student-led survey on school climate because he would like to know from their perspective if they are missing anything. The musical was this past weekend and the place was abuzz today like when a sports team wins. At least 15 students got Early Acceptance to Maine.

Faith Bishop, a Hermon High student, created a film through Acadia called The Road Back, which she wrote and directed. It is very exciting to have a former student on the cover of Time magazine.

The 3rd time field hockey has made the playoffs since 2002, and won the sportsmanship award. A student qualified for states for cross country, the golf team qualified for States. Mrs. Biberstein stated they got a grant from Maine Special Olympics for Unified Basketball, which is 3 special education students on the floor with 2 partner regular education students and they play a game. It is a very rewarding program which will start in January.

B. School Committee Follow-up and Request for Information

Mr. Harris asked if there was any update on the expansion. It was explained nothing can be done until they know the results of the vote. He voiced that he thought it would be great to have a survey of the staff regarding Spirit week.

Mrs. Smith asked to be excused from the last meeting.

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis to excuse Mrs. Smith's absence at the last meeting.

Voting for: Reynolds, CoWallis, Farnham, Harris, Knowles

Abstain: Carr, Smith

Mrs. Smith discussed her delightful tour of the schools. She also spoke on the impressive, generous sincerity of the Challenge Day program. She also mentioned that something that may be a goal was to set up a meeting with a couple of Town Council members and a couple of School Board members get together regularly and discuss issues.

Deb Farnham spoke about attending a break out session on communicating difficult subjects to your community regarding Proficiency Based Education at the Maine School Management conference. She felt the message was that we had all bought into it so we just have to support it. She thought it would serve our students better if we started saying we need to step back and think about the direction we go in, do we have what we need to provide our staff with the right tools to make this work. The other break out session she attended with the Commissioner, she questioned the Governor's stance with reducing the number of superintendent's and could they identify those activities that are asked of our superintendent's that can go away. She felt they perceive the administration as a whole as bloated and asking for opportunities for us to share services.

Mrs. CoWallis inquired about the grade level and cost of Challenge Day. It addresses sophomores and \$5,000 was budgeted, but it costs way more than that. Acadia underwrites the airfare, lodging, meals, transportation, etc. The more schools involved helps reduce the cost.

Mr. Carr inquired about mentors for new teachers. Mrs. Duran stated there are mentors are on staff. We have a few, but we need more. We have asked for and will be getting some training in December. We have to have them for every provisional certificate person; every person who has not taught for more than three years has to have a mentor in the school system.

C. Other

Michael Lana, student representative, discussed the student/advisor meeting which reviewed fundraising activities, Spirit Week, school climate, concessions, holiday community party and a spring penny carnival. He mentioned the JROTC and band will be in the Veteran's Day parade. New sports this year include bowling, math and chess teams. The JROTC will have a color guard before the UMaine hockey game on Friday.

Eric Byers, student representative, discussed Key Club membership, NHS inductions, student council turkey drive / food collection, and mock election.

D. Superintendent

Mrs. Duran wanted to commend Mrs. Perry on her delightful newsletter, and that she shared them with the town manager, who really thinks our town and schools are great.

Mrs. Duran also wanted to thank Mrs. Farnham and Mr. Harris for taking the time to go to the MSMA School Board fall conference. She wanted to respond to Mrs. Farnham's comments and state that what was missing was that legislators passed a law that states all students must be proficient. They made the law without knowing how it would be implemented and with no definition for it, but it is the law. The school has no choice but to keep plodding away, if we don't it affects our funding. As of last year, we had to apply for an extension, put down everything you've done to date, what you plan to do next year, what pieces are you having trouble with. We did end up with a 5 year extension, now Mrs. Gordon has been writing our update on how much more we've accomplished this year, how much more do we have do. No one has been able to tell us what proficient is. Superintendents have been getting together, as have high school principals as well to ask what we are going to do locally in a very mobile area where people move in and out of the schools, to try to keep track of what the students have done and what guidelines they are meeting.

Item IX: Approval of Warrant # 9 of October 21, and Warrant # 10 of November 4, 2016.

Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to approve the of Warrant # 9 of October 21, and Warrant # 10 of November 4, 2016

Unanimous vote (5)

Item X: Executive Session – Employment of Officials, Appointees, Employees (1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (a).

Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to enter into Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) to discuss compensation of employees.

Unanimous vote (7)

Item XI: Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Unanimous vote (7)

Respectfully submitted,
Jody White
Recording Secretary