

Hermon School Committee
Minutes – Regular Meeting
Monday, November 4, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.
Hermon High School Library

Providing Leadership to Enhance the Aspirations of our Children

Present

Ted Harris, Chair
Debora Farnham, Vice Chair
Scott Hatch
Jesse Keith
Deborah Langille
Debbie CoWallis
Liana Shaw, Student Representative
Mackenzie Stepp, Student Representative

Absent

Staff: Cindy Badger, Janice Clain, Micah Grant, Jenny Perry, and Brian Walsh
Guests: Frank Rapp

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

Item II: Agenda Adjustments

Under Item VII: NEW Business add 'B. Change in meeting date for December'.

Item III: Approval of Minutes

Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 7, 2019, as presented.

Unanimous (6)

Item IV: Proclamations and Presentation

A. Public Comments *: None

B. Donations

Mr. Gonyar announced the donation of 7 hat/mitten/scarf sets from Althea Nelson, with an approximate value of \$105.

C. Student Enrollment

a. October 1st Counts

The October 1st Student Enrollment Counts, used to calculate the ED279 for State subsidy along with the town valuation, were discussed. The updated Enrollment projections for 2018-2026 were also reviewed. They will be used for discussions regarding staffing.

b. Teacher to Student Ratios

Mrs. Perry went over the teacher-to-student for the Patricia A. Duran School, as listed in her principal's report. Mr. Gonyar pointed out they will be looking at number of classroom teachers we have at each grade level. The number of PreK students will be maxed out if we reach 72 students.

Mr. Grant handed out the list of teacher-to-student ratios for the middle school. He also explained the ratios for regular and special classes per 1st quarter, sorted by grade and teacher with a course description. He briefly discussed how scheduling influences the ratios. The full effect of 14-15% special education is felt in all-inclusive courses such as

science and social studies, where those same students may be pulled for ELA and math courses.

Mr. Walsh handed out the list of teacher-to-student ratios for the high school, broken down into content area in alphabetical order, then by the teachers and the sections / courses they are teaching. Both ELA and math are not listed on the handout, which are a 16:1 ratio. Social studies and science are a 17:1 ratio. He also noted that there are 150 outside college courses taken by students. If students were taking those courses at the high school, that would equate to about 1 ½ additional teachers. The next couple of years will require the addition of 2 sections of social studies, 2 sections of English, 1 section of science and 1 section of math. They will need to be creative as student numbers grow.

Item V: Personnel

A. Resignations

Mr. Gonyar, accepted with regrets the resignations of:

- Nancy Hasey, Bus Driver. Mr. Gonyar mentioned that Mrs. Hasey has been driving bus for the school department for 31 years. Her last day will be November 25th, and we will have a reception for her the next day.
- Fritz Marseille, HHS Safety & Attendance Monitor.

B. Employment

- Mr. Gonyar announced the transfer of Steve Howard from van to bus driver.
- Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mr. Hatch, to employ Steve Ripley as a spare Bus Driver and to employ Erin Hasler as HHS Safety & Attendance Monitor.

Unanimous (6)

Item VI: Old Business

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

B. Second Reading of Policies

a. ACAD Hazing

Mr. Gonyar and Mrs. Biberstein took the 1st draft of the policy to Mrs. Mallory Cook's ELA classes to get student feedback. The changes made since the 1st reading were discussed.

Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to accept the 2nd reading of policy ACAD Hazing, as presented.

Unanimous (6)

b. ADC Tobacco-Free Schools: Use and Possession of Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Devices

Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to accept the 2nd reading of policy ADC Tobacco-Free Schools: Use and Possession of Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Devices (replacing ADC and ADC-R), as presented.

Unanimous (6)

c. ICBA HMS Interscholastic- Extracurricular Code

Mr. Grant pointed out that the 4 weeks is not meant to be a punitive measure but is beneficial to the student because the student may only have one opportunity on a test or assessment in a 2-3-week timeframe.

Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to accept the 2nd reading of policy ICBA HMS Interscholastic- Extracurricular Code, as presented.

Unanimous (5)

Item VII: New Business

A. First Reading of Job Description

Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to accept the 1st reading of the Bus Driver job description, as presented.

Unanimous (6)

B. Change in meeting date for December

The current meeting is scheduled for December 2nd. Mr. Walsh has been able to schedule nationally recognized speaker on tech etiquette, Richard Geary. The program will take place in 5 sessions over 2 days: December 2nd & 3rd.

Mrs. Farnham motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille, to change the date of the December meeting to Monday, December 9th at 6:30 p.m.

Accepted unless doubted

Item VIII: Reports

A. Superintendent

Mr. Gonyar mentioned that in addition to his report, a copy of the MLTI purchase went out electronically. That order will be put in tomorrow. The goal is for that to all be in place in the middle school on December 2nd.

B. Principals

In addition to his written report, Mr. Walsh added that the girls' soccer team would be playing in the Northern Maine championship game on Wednesday, November 6th at 6:30 p.m. at Hampden Academy. After the girls win Wednesday night, they will be playing Saturday, November 9th in the State Championship game at Falmouth High School. The football team will play Saturday, November 9th at 1:00 p.m. at Winslow. The Legend of Sleepy Hollow will play November 15th & 16th at 7:00 p.m., and November 17th at 2:00 p.m. The advisor's committee met with the student leadership team that afternoon to allow for mutual feedback on things like Spirit Week, Leadership Training, fundraising and some other things.

Mr. Grant noted a mistake in his written report under personal, thanking Valley Satellite for making a sizeable monetary contribution for additional enrichment services. It should be corrected to be Valley Home Services.

Mrs. Perry had nothing further to add in addition to her written reports.

C. Finance Report

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

Mr. Hatch stated that it was quite exciting to have a national speaker coming to Hermon.

Mrs. Farnham attended a good session on PBIS at the MSBA conference in October. She also really enjoyed hearing the Commissioner speak on the student-directed vision the department. The commissioner is open to communication from Board or staff members. The proposed resolutions went as they had voted except for the CTE funding restoration being passed as revised read:

“to restore the calls for the State funding using equitable and transparent formula and increasing funding for this program, which is important to our students and our economy.”

An additional resolution was put out and passed:

“Maine School Board Association believes taxpayer dollars should support public schools that are open to all, and regulated by the State and opposed to syphoning off public resources to support religious education. If parents wish to send their children to private religious schools it is their choice, but it is not an option that should come at taxpayer expense. We also believe it is not appropriate to use public dollars to advance any particular religion or dogma.”

Mr. Harris thanked everyone who was in attendance.

E. Other

Ms. Shaw stated that student council hosted a homecoming dance and had over 200 students in attendance. National Honor Society inductions will be November 19th. The Yellow Tulip Project had a big ceremony with guest speakers about mental health and suicide awareness.

Ms. Stepp stated that student council is doing a Thanksgiving collection, as well as a Games Night for the middle schools to be held at Hermon Middle School. She attended a Leadership conference in Bath and was able to attend difference sessions. The band and JROTC will participate in the Veteran's Day parade.

Item IX: Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to approve Warrant # 8 of October 18th and Warrant #9 of November 1, 2019.

Unanimous (5)

Item X: Executive Session – Contract Negotiations [1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D)]

Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to enter Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) to discuss Contract Negotiations.

Unanimous (5)

The School Committee returned to public session at 8:59 p.m. No action taken.

Item XI: Adjournment

Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Accepted unless doubted.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary J. Gonyar
Superintendent of Schools