

Hermon School Committee  
Minutes – Regular Meeting  
Monday, December 9, 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  
Mackenzie Stepp, Student Representative

Absent

Liana Shaw, Student Representative

Staff: Cindy Badger, Melissa Davis, Micah Grant, and Brian Walsh  
Guests: None

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

No need for Item XI: Executive Session – Contract Negotiations. The next negotiations meeting will be December 17, 2019. It will be put back on the agenda for January.

Item III: Approval of Minutes

Mrs. CoWallis motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 4, as presented.

Unanimous (6)

Item IV: Proclamations and Presentation

A. Public Comments: None

B. MEA Results

Mrs. Davis, Assessment & Curriculum Coordinator, went over the 2018-19 State MEA data trends and what is being done to address any concerns regarding the data.

Item V: Personnel

A. Resignations

Mr. Gonyar accepted with regrets the resignation of Rhonda Byers, Business Manager. Mrs. Shirley Waning, Business Manager of RSU 87 will be the interim Business Manager.

B. Employment

Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to employ Carrie Murchison, Ed Tech III, PADS Self-contained room and Douglas Shaffer, Van Driver.

Unanimous (5)

C. Co-curricular / Extra-curricular

- Deb Aucoin, PADS/HMS Ski

Item VI: Old Business

A. Excused Absence of School Committee Member/s: Liana Shaw

Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mr. Hatch, to excuse the absence of Ms. Liana Shaw, Student Representative.

Unanimous (6)

- B. Second Reading of Job Description
  - a. Bus Driver job description
    - Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to accept the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Bus Driver job description, as presented.
    - Unanimous (6)

Item VII: New Business

- A. First Reading of Job Description
  - Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to accept the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the Business Manager job description, as presented.
  - Unanimous (6)
  
- B. New Course Proposals
  - Mr. Walsh presented the new 2019-20 high school course proposals.
    - Mrs. CoWallis motioned, seconded by Ms. Langille, to approve the proposed Journalism course as an English credit with the estimated total budget of \$145.
    - Unanimous (6)
    - Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to approve the proposed Applied Science/STEAM Powered Science ½-credit course with the estimated total budget of \$6,794.64.
    - Unanimous (6)
    - Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to approve the proposed Modern Culture, Controversy and Current Events in Contemporary Asia 1-credit course with the estimated total budget of \$500.
    - Unanimous (6)
  
- C. New Bus Approval
  - Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham to approve the purchase of a new bus in addition to the fleet.
  - Unanimous (5)
  - A replacement for bus 9 has been requested and if we get it, we will receive it in the spring. We will make a request to replace bus 10 next fall and put in next year's budget. We may consider putting a wheelchair ramp on that bus. Mr. Gonyar has submitted two, bus-related grants that he is waiting to hear back on.
  
- D. Use of Reserves
  - Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to approve the use of School Bus Purchase Reserves to make the first payment of \$33,000 on the new bus.
  - Unanimous (5)
  - Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to transfer \$70,000 from the School Fuel Reserves to of School Bus Purchase Reserves.
  - Unanimous (5)

Item VIII: Reports

- A. Superintendent
  - Mrs. Badger, Director of Special Services, spoke on the Teletherapy, a live speech/language therapist from Mark Hammond & Associates via an online Zoom conference. The service was used for the first time on that day as an introductory service for 3 high school students. We have availability for speech/language therapist for only 2 hours per day. She is looking the best way to meet student needs. There may be some limitations around group instruction. We also must provide an Ed Tech to help facilitate and if any other needs arise. There is a per student initiation per hour fee for the service.

## B. Principals

Mr. Grant highlighted the results from the November Math Meet: Bella Bowden, 8<sup>th</sup> grader, finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall in eastern Maine and the HMS Math Team won the overall Math Meet.

Mr. Walsh thanked those that were able to attend the Public and Permanent program. He had a lot of great feedback on it and the parent council was thrilled. The boys' basketball team won their 44<sup>th</sup> straight home game on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. They have not lost at home in 4 years. The winter concert at 7:00 pm on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> will have 3 of the 6 steel pans groups for the first time.

## C. Finance Report

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

Mrs. CoWallis appreciated the new course opportunities presented.

Mr. Keith inquired about getting cameras installed on the remaining buses that do not have them. Mr. Gonyar stated that there were only 2 buses that did not have cameras installed on them and that the new bus would take care of 1 of them. It is \$2,500 per bus to have cameras installed.

Ms. Langille thanked Mr. Walsh for the presenter, she thought it was an amazing presentation. She also thanked Mr. Gonyar for his work on the grants on the buses. She asked when the athletic calendars for the winter season would be out. Mr. Walsh stated that they were waiting on the printing company.

Mrs. Farnham inquired where we stood with solar possibility. Mr. Gonyar believes he will have the proposals within the next month. We would still have to do an RFP and put it out to bid. Mr. Randy Bragg will help write the Request for bids and send it out to all the companies that do solar.

Mr. Harris thanked the high school parent council for the presenter. He found it very interesting and thought that it should be an annual event. He inquired about St. Joseph's coming in to do CPR training and was wondering if that was for all staff. Mr. Gonyar said that has not yet been discussed with the Administrative Team.

## E. Other

Ms. Stepp stated that the high school hosted a Math Meet with over 200 students. It went very well and ended on time. The student council did a thanksgiving collection and raised both money and food for the 4 sending schools Carmel, Levant, Hermon and Glenburn. They have started doing a holiday collection for the Shaw House.

Item IX: Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to approve Warrant #10 of November 15th, Warrant #10B of November 15th and Warrant #11 of November 29, 2019.

Unanimous (5)

Item X: Executive Session – Employment of Superintendent 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A)

Ms. Langille motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to enter Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) to discuss Employment of Superintendent

Accepted unless doubted

The School Committee returned to public session at 9:52 p.m.

Moved by Ms. Langille, seconded by Mr. Hatch to extend the superintendent's contract by one year.

Unanimous (5)

Item XI: Adjournment

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Hatch, to adjourn the meeting at 9:53 p.m.

Accepted unless doubted.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary J. Gonyar  
Superintendent of Schools