

Hermon School Committee
Minutes – Regular Meeting
Monday, November 2, 2015
Hermon High School Room #139

Providing Leadership to Enhance the Aspirations of our Children

Present

Mr. John Snyder, Chairperson
Mrs. Debora Farnham
Mr. Ralph Carr
Mr. Ted Harris
Mrs. Debbie CoWallis
Ms. Madalyn Jackson, Student Representative
Mr. Michael Lana, Student Representative

Absent

Mr. Anthony Reynolds, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Shannon Knowles

Staff: Ms. Maria Bailey, Mrs. Chandra Barnes, Ms. Lillian Barry, Mrs. Stephanie Biberstein, Mrs. Kathryn Bjorklund, Mrs. Janice Clain, Mrs. Sarah Collins, Mr. Charles Colson, Mrs. Holly Cough, Mrs. Vicky Devine, Mr. Ryan Garbe, Mr. Micah Grant, Mr. Nicholas Jackson, Ms. Marisa Kelley, Mrs. Barbara Libby, Ms. Mallory McPartland, Mr. Nathan Petersen, Mrs. Leslie Smith, Mr. Daniel Switzer, Mr. Brian Walsh

Guests: Mrs. Suzelle Allain, Mr. Glenn Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. Jason Buck,
Mr. and Mrs. Eldon, Crouse, Jr.

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

Item II: Agenda Adjustments

Mrs. Duran, Superintendent, requested two adjustments as follows: (1) addition of three extra curricular appointments and (2) executive session to address a student issue at the end of the agenda.

Item III: Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 5, 2015.

Unanimous vote (5)

Item IV: **PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

A. Introduction of New Staff

Mr. Snyder welcomed new staff members to the district, and Mrs. Duran requested that each member provide their own introduction and brief background information. The meeting was suspended for fifteen minutes to allow school committee members the opportunity to chat with staff. Light refreshments were provided by the food service program.

B. Key Club Trip to Massachusetts

Ms. McPartland, Advisor, and Mr. Lana, student member, spoke to the opportunity for HHS Key Club members to tour the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Institute at Tufts Medical Center.

Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to approve the Key Club's December 5, 2015, trip to Boston, MA.

Unanimous vote (5)

C. Public Comments

Mrs. Allain requested a reconsideration of the decision not to provide a fan bus for the Northern Maine girls soccer championship game on November 4 in Thomaston. Both Mr. Crouse and Mrs. Buck spoke in support on Mrs. Allain's request. Mrs. Buck also expressed concern for setting a precedent of not supporting teams in the future.

Mrs. Duran and Mr. Walsh spoke to their decision that it would not be in the best interest of the academic program. Mr. Snyder thanked the parents for their comments.

Item V: **PERSONNEL**

A. Mrs. Duran announced the resignation of Mrs. Ruth Gomes, grade three teacher, effective with the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

B. **Employment**

1. Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to approve the employment of Ms. Britnee Stevens as a K-4 ed tech III – special education.

Unanimous vote (4)

2. Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Carr, to approve the employment of Mr. Dale McGuire as a maintenance worker/bus driver/groundskeeper.

Unanimous vote (4)

C. **Extra Curricular Appointments**

Mr. Snyder announced the following appointments for 2015-2016:

Hermon Middle School

Boys "A" Basketball

Anthony Davis

Girls "A" Basketball

David Yeo

Girls "B" Basketball

Rob Jenkins

Hermon High School

Student Council

Justin Holbrook.

Item VI: **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Carr, to approve the absence of Mr. Reynolds and Mrs. Knowles.

Unanimous vote (5)

Item VII: **NEW BUSINESS**A. **October 1 Enrollment**

Mrs. Duran reported that the enrollment is up for Hermon but lower for tuition students and shared a graph showing a steady increase in enrollment for the past four years. In response to Mrs. Farnham, there are currently 25-30 home school students.

B. **HSC Draft Goals 2015-2016**

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to add the goal to review and update the HSD's Strategic Plan .

Unanimous vote (4)

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Carr, to approve the draft goals as amended.

Unanimous vote (4)

C. **Review of HSD Emergency Management Plans**

Mrs. Duran stated that the plans are the same as were presented a year ago but with minor (personnel) changes. HSC members will review the plans independently and vote at the next meeting.

Item VIII: **REPORTS**A. **Principals**

In addition to their written reports, Mr. Walsh announced that tickets for the fall musical are on sale, the varsity girls soccer team will play for the Northern Maine championship on November 3, and the JROTC cadets, followed by the HHS Band, will lead the November 11 Veteran's Day parade in Bangor.

B. **Superintendent** – None.C. **Student Representatives**

Mr. Lana reported out on HHS's Spirit Week activities.

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

-In response to Mr. Harris, Mrs. Libby explained that parents are asked to bring their children into the school whether at the start of or during the school day and that staff parking is in the back row only of the front parking area.

-Mr. Harris reported that he will attend his first SPRPCE directors meeting this month and leadership training the end of the month. He encouraged the submission of articles to the "Hermon Connection" as a means of promoting positives within the HSD.

-Mrs. Farnham spoke to the awarding of proficiency based diplomas to special education students who term out at age 20 and the potential budget impact.

Item VIII: In response to Mrs. Farnham who asked about findings ways to encourage students to (cont'd) consider careers in math and science and if the HSD offers any career exploration for students, Mrs. Duran stated that HMS hosts a Career Day and added that she will speak with HHS Guidance counselor about the annual Career Fair which UTC hosts.

-Both Mrs. Farnham and Mr. Harris offered positive comments about the opportunity to attend the annual MSMA Fall Conference.

E. Other – None.

Item IX: Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to approve Warrant # 9 of October 23, 2015, and Warrant # 10 of November 6, 2015.

Unanimous vote (4)

Item X: Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Carr, to enter executive session at 8 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 506 (6) (A) to discuss a student issue.

Unanimous vote (5)

The School Committee returned to public session at 8:14 p.m.

No action taken.

Item X: Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gaynor Reynolds
Recording Secretary