

Hermon School Committee
Minutes – Regular Meeting
Monday, April 3, 2017
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
Mr. Michael Lana, Student Representative
Mr. Eric Byers, Student Representative

Absent

Mrs. Shannon Knowles

Staff: Mrs. Stephanie Biberstein, Mrs. Rhonda Byers, Mr. Micah Grant, Mr. Jerry Kiesman, Mrs. Jenny Perry, Mr. Brian Walsh

Guests: Gary Gonyar, Chuck Hillman, John Snyder, and Emma Shaw

Item I: Mr. Reynolds, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item II: Agenda Adjustments

Mrs. Duran, Superintendent, requested the following adjustments:

(1) Under New Business, postpone consideration of HMS league change until we can do a little more research.

Item III: Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting

Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 6, 2017, as written:

Unanimous Vote (5)

Item IV: PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATION

A. Public Comments – None

B. Skills USA - Mrs. Biberstein, HHS Voc. Ed Facilitator

Mrs. Biberstein introduced Emma Shaw, who played her gold medal winning Skills USA Digital Cinema Production video. HHS's gold medal winners have the opportunity to represent both HHS and United Technologies Center at Skills USA in Kansas City.

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Carr, that each of the Skills USA gold medal winners who commit to go to Kansas City receive a \$100 stipend.

Unanimous (6)

Item V: PERSONNEL

A. Resignations

Mrs. Duran, Superintendent, announced the resignations of Lauren Driscoll, HS Science teacher and Nicholas Jackson, HS English teacher.

B. Employment

Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris to approve the employment of Jane DeHaas as Finance Secretary at the Superintendent's Office.

Unanimous Vote (5)

C. Extra Curricular Appointments

The following appointments were announced:
High School

* New to position

Kyle Gallant – Head Football Coach *
Julius Williams – Assistant Football Coach *
Rob Beaton – Volunteer Baseball Coach

Item VI: OLD BUSINESS

A. Excused Absence of School Committee Member/s

Mrs. CoWallis motioned, seconded by Mr. Reynolds, to excuse the Mrs. Knowle's absence.
Unanimous vote (6)

B. 2017 – 2018 Budget

A new draft of the budget was handed out. The State has not made any determination yet as to the K – 12 funding is going to be. The Education Committee voted 8 to 3 to not agree with the governor's changes, however they do not get to make a recommendation as to how much to put in the budget. It is now up to appropriations to decide to either make changes or leave it the way it is.

When we look at our possible revenue for next year, our projected revenue is at least \$260,000 less than last years revenue due to two components: 1. The State is going to give you \$276,000 less than they did last year. 2. We have fewer freshmen coming in from RSU 87 than we have seniors graduating. If we presented a budget that was the same as last year's expenditure budget, we still would have to be asking the town for at least \$260,000 more than we did last year. If we add on \$600,000 to our expenditure, we are now up over \$800,000.

We should hear by next week our exact increase on our insurance premiums, the maximum increase supposed to be 9.5%, so that's what we have built in.

There are some errors that still need to be corrected. To this point we have not cut anything, but have looked to see if things could be reduced without eliminating anything. The local percentage for teacher retirements went up 18%.

Item VII: NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration of HMS league change

Mrs. Smith motioned to table the Consideration of HMS league change, after discussion of the need to do a little more research, Mrs. Smith rescinded her motion.

Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to grant Mrs. Duran, Superintendent, Mrs. Biberstein, Athletic Director permission to make the decision regarding HMS league change, due to time sensitivity for fall scheduling.

Unanimous vote (5)

Item VIII: REPORTS

A. Principals

- In addition to his written report, Mr. Walsh added that the high school hosted the State Show Choir competition, with Hermon receiving an honorable mention. Mr. Carr mentioned he was pleased with Unified Basketball receiving the Sportsmanship Award.

- In addition to her written report, Mrs. Perry stated the Pre-K registration session was discussed with possible options for future registration sessions, and that there are 66 confirmed Pre-K registrations. In the midst of MEA testing with new technology, the elementary school completed testing on Friday without a glitch. The elementary school also hosted the NED Show, an innovative character education program. It is a pay it forward program and with the sales of yo-yo's, they are able to pay it forward to two schools: Carmel/Levant and Hermon Middle School.

- Mrs. Biberstein added that Unified Basketball received the Sportsmanship Award from the MPA. There are a record numbers signed up for sports.

B. Superintendent

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Carr, to approve the revised 2017-2018 HSD calendar.
Unanimous vote (5)

C. School Committee Follow-up and Request for Information

Mr. Harris inquired as to what grants did the school apply for and receive last year. Mrs. Duran stated no other grants than the federal grants we receive and that the school does not employ a grant writer. He asked the status of the building project and was informed the RFPs had gone out and bids would

be picked up on April 14th, to be reviewed then interview would be conducted. He also inquired as to whether a portable could be utilized for the additional pre-k students that have registered. Mrs. Duran said she did not feel that it could.

C. School Committee Follow-up and Request for Information (continued)

Mrs. Farnham asked for a recap of the audit. She was informed there were no major findings, although we had to ask for an extension this year. It is a routine audit done annually that the school's portion costs about \$11,000. It is required by the Department of Education.

Mr. Reynolds suggested there was a person at the State that may be able to come in to the schools to do an energy evaluation on each of them.

D. Other

- Eric Byers, student representative, mentioned the Business program at UTC won the Life Smarts State competition and will continue on to Pittsburgh for Nationals. They will be recognized at the State House, as well.

- Michael Lana, Student Representative, mentioned 4 Hermon High students will be traveling to Spain with Mrs. Clain during April break. The senior exhibition will be held April 6th at 6:30 pm.

Item IX: Mr. Carr, motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to approve the Warrant # 20 of March 24, 2017 and Warrant # 21 of April 7, 2017
Unanimous vote (5)

Item X: Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.
Unanimous vote (6)

Respectfully submitted,

Jody White
Recording Secretary