

Hermon School Committee
Minutes – Regular Meeting
Monday, June 4, 2018 – 6:30 p.m.
Hermon High School Room #139

Providing Leadership to Enhance the Aspirations of our Children

Present

Anthony Reynolds, Chair
Ted Harris, Vice Chair
Debora Farnham
Jesse Keith
Anne Smith
Debbie CoWallis
Shannon Knowles
Allison Treat, Student Representative

Absent

Eric Byers, Student Representative

- Staff: Stephanie Biberstein, Janice Clain, Heather Corbett, Micah Grant, Erica Hake, Jenny Perry, and Lynn Sawyer
- Guests: Courtney Applebee, Cindy Badger, Lauren Ouellette, Cindy Pellett, Jennifer Violette, and Loris Young
- Item I. Mr. Reynolds, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Item II. Agenda Adjustments: None
- Item III. Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of May 7, 2018.
Unanimous vote (7)
- Item IV. Proclamations and Presentation
A. Public Comments *: None
- Item V. Personnel
A. Employment
Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham to approve the employment for the 2018-19 school year of: (*New to position)
- Courtney Applebee - HES, Kindergarten Teacher *
 - Katherine Crocker - HES, Grade 3 Teacher *
 - Heather McFarlin - HES, Grade 1 Teacher *
 - Lauren Ouellette - HES, Kindergarten Teacher *
 - Morgan Robinson - HES, Pre-K Teacher *
 - Kelly Donato, HMS Grade 6 ELA Teacher
 - Cynthia Badger, Director of Special Services *
- Unanimous vote (5)

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith to approve the summer school employment of:

- Anna Anthony - HHS ELA
- Elizabeth Connors - HHS Math

Unanimous vote (7)

B. Transfers

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to approve the transfers of:

- Sheri Severance transferring from fifth grade to sixth grade for one year to teach Social Studies and Science.
- Chelsea Pinette transferring from 8th to 6th Grade ELA teacher
- Kelly Donato be transferred 6th to 8th grade ELA teacher
- Sarah Sorg, Ed Tech, transfer from HES to HMS self- contained program
- Matt Farnham, Ed Tech, transfer from HES to HMS self- contained program
- Miranda Mauger, Ed Tech, transfer from HMS back to HES self- contained program

Unanimous vote (5)

Item VI: Old Business

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

B. Policies – Second Reading

- a. JICH - Drug and Alcohol Use by Students
- b. JKE - Expulsion of Students
- c. JKE-R Expulsion Guidelines
- d. GBGAA - Bloodborne Pathogens

C. Job Descriptions – Second Reading

- a. School Principal

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve the second reading of the policies and job description, as presented.

Unanimous vote (7)

Item VII: New Business

A. Approve MVR #4 Regional Budget

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to approve the MVR #4 Regional Operating Budget.

Unanimous vote (5)

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to approve the MVR #4 Regional Adult Education Budget.

Voting for: Reynolds, Harris, Keith, and Smith; Voting against: Farnham

B. Discussion of Renaming the Hermon Elementary School

Cindy Pellett spoke with the HES PTA board members stating that since the school was changing their name, that the PTA would need to change its name as well. Based upon that discussion, she found that most people did not know the name had

been changed. She stated that the name change was done in December of 2016 in Executive Session with no public input at that time. She felt it was important to get on the agenda for public discussion.

Mr. Gonyar explained that the process started in 2008 around the possible reorganization of districts, when the first public discussion around the name change took place. It was to honor Mrs. Duran as a long-time proponent of education with a variety of roles in the district working her way up to superintendent. It was a unanimous vote in December of 2016 to rename HES to the Patricia A. Duran school. There was no written policy in this district around naming anything, so that duty fell on the school committee.

Mr. Reynolds stated that they had checked with MMA and that the reason that they went into Executive Session was to ask Mrs. Duran if it was alright with her to name the school after her. Mr. Reynolds stated that we would love to have a policy in place, but that he felt it would have to be a town and school policy for naming a school. Mr. Reynolds stated that they could have the name changed, but that it would be a long process. Mr. Gonyar assured that they would remain the Hermon Hawks and have the same colors.

Jen Violet, treasurer of the PTA, stated that she felt the push back was that others were just unaware of the name change. She personally was in support of it.

Erica Hake asked if there would be two new signs for the name change as well. Mr. Gonyar stated that renaming is supposed to take place when the addition is completed in August and the name will be changed on the sign of the building and in the front. Mr. Gonyar stated that he will check with Town Manager Howard Kroll to see what their policy is if any, and we will try to blend ours with theirs.

C. Applications for Student Representative to HSC

Mrs. Clain brought 3 applications from 3 sophomores who are interested in being student representatives on the school committee. She explained that the process has always been that someone from the school committee interviews the applicants before the students leave for the summer, so the decision can be made at July school committee meeting.

Mr. Keith and Mrs. Smith both volunteered to interview applicants for Student Representative to HSC.

Item VIII: Reports

A. Superintendent

In addition to his written report, Mr. Gonyar stated the HES addition is going very well. They have started to put the metal roof on the new addition. The roof for the rest of the campus was put out to bid, sent to several companies. The only bid received was for \$200,000 more than it would have been if it had been left as part of the project. When Mr. Gonyar went to the town council with the plan to use reserves to do the roof, it was not enough to cover the new bid. The Council agreed that the metal roof is needed. They are going to take the price of the roof and add it to the loan they are taking for the new addition and gave us back our reserves to do other projects.

The design for the front entrance that the building committee supported was also brought to the Town Council for approval, because it was going to cost more than

the guaranteed maximum price. The Town Council did not accept the new design for the new entrance.

Due to the request for bus monitors on each of our buses, the Transportation Improvement Plan was created

- Reviewed the bus rules with all the elementary students.
- Sent a letter home to every family with a place for parents to respond to a short survey about the transportation system. The survey was open for two weeks and we received 39 responses out of approximately 350 families at HES. The majority agreed we were doing a good job and some that identified some problems.
- Guidance counselors went around to each class and discussed bus safety and bullying.
- Mrs. Perry went to the staff and asked them for help reinforcing their classes when necessary.
- Mrs. Perry is working on a school climate survey to give staff and parents another chance to talk about school safety and bullying.
- We reached out to the parents that were here with concerns and asked them to meet with Mr. Gonyar. As of the meeting, he had met with one of the families.
- At the May 22nd Policy meeting, the committee worked on transportation policies. A parent volunteer, Vicky Edwards, came in to help with those policies.
- Going to institute a written warning slip so a student who gets multiple verbal warnings to behave and doesn't, will get a slip. Those slips will be kept and documented to see if there are repeat offenders, and if there are, we will go in to progressive discipline.
- Mr. Gonyar spoke with all the bus drivers. 4 out of 7 bus drivers did not feel that they needed a monitor on their buses. 3 out of 7 bus drivers felt that at times they could use a monitor to help with the discipline. His recommendation is to hire at least one bus monitor with the idea that could ride any bus any given day. He suggested that Ed Techs who may like some additional hours may be interested in this.
- He also suggested that we hire an additional bus driver that could also be a bus monitor. As we are growing, we will need to consider getting some additional help for Bryan Higgins with the proactive, mechanical side of things in the garage.
- Mr. Gonyar is going to suggest to the principals that they speak with Transportation Director and bus drivers and revisit the rules with students each quarter.

B. Principals

In addition to her written report, Mrs. Perry had one change on the kindergarten and forth grade graduation date. It will be June 13th, instead of the 12th which is voting day. The School Climate Parent Survey went out in the Hawk News that Mr. Gonyar mentioned in the transportation report.

Mrs. Biberstein added that the boy's baseball team won the Harry Dalton Sportsmanship award again this year.

Mr. Grant discussed the 'Spring into the Arts' event that was held at HMS.

C. Finance Report

D. School Committee Follow-up and Request for Information

Ms. Treat mentioned that finals were to be held the next week, seniors would be graduating on Saturday, June 9th and that student council held elections for new officers.

Mrs. Smith suggested putting something in the Hermon Connection about items that the school committee is working on. Mrs. CoWallis asked if the School Committee agenda was posted in the schools and at the Town Office. It was suggested meetings could also be put on the electronic sign.

Mrs. Smith also asked if we could look in to how many people watch the Town Council meetings to see if it would be beneficial to televise the meetings. Mr. Reynolds mentioned there is a cost to televise meetings. Mrs. Farnham stated that she advocated that at least once a month, that Mr. Gonyar or one of the school committee members, represent the school department to the Town Council. Mr. Gonyar mentioned that he, along with Rick Sinclair and Jeff Wheeler, have been looking into a program called Apptegy that will post to all social media at one time. It is \$9,000 to set up, and about \$3,500 to maintain it. There are several districts in the SPRCE SMLC that are looking in to this, so they are looking in to getting it at a better price. He stated he is unsure how effective it will be for that cost.

Mr. Keith asked if Mr. Gonyar could get an estimate of the costs of having the school committee meetings televised. Mr. Gonyar stated that televising meetings does change the dynamics of the group, it is more formal. Mr. Reynolds also mentioned the liability part of televising the meetings.

Mr. Harris recognized the Maine Youth Leadership Conference and what a good thing students Liana Shaw, Kaden Nevels, Katelyn Walsh, Emily Smith and Cody Porter were involved in it. He wanted to recognize Annalee Libby for the Hike for Haiti. Congratulations to Shawn Good and David King for being PVC coaches of the year. Mr. Harris also asked what was going to try to be accomplished for summer projects. He also asked if the buses were ever washed. He mentioned that the grounds are not to the level of expectation for a contract to take care of dandelions and other issues on our fields.

Mr. Reynolds mentioned that each of the basketball teams received a gold ball. Rick Sinclair called a bunch of the businesses to pay for it, and Randy Gardner took care of whatever was remaining towards those purchases. He extended his thanks to all of those businesses and to Randy Gardner.

E. Other

Item IX: Mr. Harris moved, seconded by Mrs. Smith to approve Warrant # 23 of May 18, 2018, and Warrant # 24 of June 1, 2018.

Unanimous vote (5)

Item X: Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith to enter Executive Session pursuant to Evaluation of Superintendent 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) at 7:45 pm.

The school committee returned to public session at 8:04 pm.

Action:

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to extend Superintendent Gonyar's contract by two years; with a 3% increase for 2018-19.

Unanimous vote (5)

Item XI: Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith to enter Executive Session pursuant to Duties of Officials/Appointees/Employees (1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) at 8:10 pm.

Accepted unless doubted.

The school committee returned to public session at 8:35 pm.

Item XII: Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

Accepted, unless doubted

Respectfully submitted,
Gary J. Gonyar
Superintendent of Schools