

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

*Providing Leadership to Enhance the Aspirations of our Children*

Present

Anthony Reynolds, Chair  
Ted Harris, Vice Chair  
Debora Farnham  
Jesse Keith  
Debbie CoWallis  
Jessica Frye  
Allison Treat, Student Representative  
Liana Shaw, Student Representative

Absent

Anne Smith

- Staff: Cindy Badger, Melissa Davis, Micah Grant, Jesse Hargrove, Jenny Perry, and Brian Walsh, Members of the HEA and community
- Item I: Mr. Reynolds, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Item II: Agenda Adjustments: None
- Item III: Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 7, 2019, as presented.  
Unanimous vote (6)
- Item IV: Proclamations and Presentation
- A. Public Comments: None
- B. Request for a trip to Quebec  
Ruth Parent, HHS French Teacher, requested approval of a 4-day trip to Quebec during April vacation 2020. The cost would be a minimum \$600 for 40 students, maximum around \$900 for 20 students. Costs include breakfast and dinner, bus trip to and from, entry fees into all museums and activities, a security guard at night so the chaperones can sleep and a 24-hour bilingual tour guide. The trip will be paid for by the students with no plans to fund raise.  
Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to approve the French Quebec trip, as proposed by Ms. Parent.  
Unanimous vote (6)
- C. Endorse a grant proposal for show choir presented by student Neily Raymond.  
Show Choir is a group of students who perform a 20-minute set of song, dance and acting that they bring to competition at the regional and State levels. She and a group of her peers have been working to bring the program back next year. She would like to submit an Arts and Education grant request to the Libra Foundation in the amount of \$10,000 to support the program. Mr. Gonyar stated that Ms. Neily should work with Mr. Walsh on the grant, then bring the final proposal to him for approval.  
Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to accept endorsing the grant proposal for Show Choir, set forth by Neily Raymond.  
Unanimous vote (6)

- Item V: Personnel
- A. Employment
    - Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to approve the employment of Tiffany Howard, .8 HMS / HHS School Nurse
  - B. Co / Extra-curricular positions \* New applicant to position
 

Sue Shapiro	One Act Play Technical Director *
Jay Applebee	Middle School Boys Baseball Coach
Marisa Kelley	Varsity Girls Basketball, Volunteer Assistant *
Jerimy McIntyre	JV Baseball Coach *
- Item VI: Old Business
- A. Excused Absence of School Committee Member/s: Anne Smith
    - Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to excuse the absence of Anne Smith.
    - Unanimous vote (6)
  - B. Revision for clarification of Policy IKF Graduation Requirements for a Credit Based Diploma
    - Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to approve the change to Policy IKF Graduation Requirements for a Credit Based Diploma, as requested.
    - Unanimous vote (6)
  - C. Second Reading of Policies
    - a. ABB Staff Advisory Functions
      - Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to rescind policy ABB Staff Advisory Functions.
      - Unanimous vote (6)
    - b. ABC Procedures for Selecting Students on the School Committee
      - Mrs. Farnham motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to accept the second reading of ABC Procedures for Selecting Students on the School Committee as written, amended to include an email on the Student Membership Application form.
      - Unanimous vote (6)
    - c. AC Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
      - Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to accept the second reading of policy AC Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, as written.
      - Unanimous vote (6)
    - d. ACAA Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
      - Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to accept the second reading of policy ACAA Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students, as written.
      - Unanimous vote (6)
    - e. ACAA-R Student Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedure
      - Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to table the second reading of policy ACAA-R Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students

to the next meeting to allow Superintendent Gonyar time to gather input from students in Mrs. Cook's Technical English class.

Unanimous vote (6)

f. IMGA Service Animals in Schools

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to accept the second reading of policy IMGA Service Animals in Schools, as written.

Unanimous vote (6)

Item VII: New Business

A. Set 2018-19 Graduation Date for Seniors

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to accept June 15, 2019 as the Graduation Date for Seniors for this school year.

Unanimous vote (6)

B. First Reading of 2019-20 School Calendar

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to accept the first reading of 2019-20 School Calendar.

Unanimous vote (4)

C. First Reading of Job Descriptions

a. Computer Support Technician

b. Technology Systems Coordinator

Mr. Gonyar explained that he will be putting a position in the budget to be filled by one person for the two job descriptions above.

c. Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to accept the first reading of the job descriptions above, as presented.

Unanimous vote (6)

D. Patricia A. Duran School bids for lobby bathrooms

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to accept the bid from D.P. Porter for the Patricia A. Duran School lobby bathrooms, as well as the ADA compliant bathroom, as recommended.

Unanimous vote (4)

Mr. Gonyar noted that last year he went to the Town Council and gained approval to use \$60,000 of reserves to do this work because that is what Dunbar & Braun had estimated the work to be. Originally this was part of the Rec portion of the Patricia A. Duran addition and was knocked out for several good reasons. Now it is going to cost quite a bit more because prices have gone up. Mr. Gonyar will be going back to the Town Council to ask for additional money for this project. It will still come out of reserves. Mr. Reynolds suggested that they could always roll it over to the bond for the whole project because that has not been closed yet.

Mrs. Farnham inquired as to how much is left in reserves. Mr. Gonyar stated that it is still being reviewed by the auditors, and that audit is almost done.

E. Purchase of a Replacement Vehicle

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to task the Superintendent with finding a new Work Horse vehicle.

Unanimous vote (4)

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to explore options to replace the 2003 GMC Sierra.

Unanimous vote (4)

Item VIII: Reports

A. Superintendent

In addition to his written report, Mr. Gonyar pointed out that Lavinia Rogers, MDOE World Language Specialist, is going to meet this week with our Middle and High school foreign language departments and principals to see what we can do about recruiting foreign language teachers and to look at other options to make sure that our students continue to get a foreign language experience over time.

B. Principals

In addition to his written report, Mr. Walsh handed out United Technologies Center's Course Book, done by a SkillsUSA Gold Medal winning UTC student. He also mentioned that March 6<sup>th</sup> they will have their Step-Up Day and are up to 242 students attending that day. One hundred and fifty of those students are coming from our 2 middle schools, and then there are 92 students choosing to attend from area sending schools. Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup> our girls will be competing in the State Cheering Competition, they finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Northern Regionals. Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> we are the one seed in Indoor Track, and are favored to win the State Indoor Track championship. We will be sending Stephanie Biberstein down to Bates as the Administrator to attend. Also, on Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, both the girls' and boys' basketball team's playoff games will be at the Cross Center. Mr. Gonyar, Mr. Walsh and Mr. Sinclair will be the Administrators attending those games.

Mr. Grant mentioned that they had another successful season overall in the Eastern Maine Athletic League. Unfortunately, our girls got upset at home on Friday night in the playoffs, and that the boys lost at the buzzer that evening. The Builder's Club is going to start a paper recycling program at the middle school. It was initiated by a 5<sup>th</sup> grader who wrote Mr. Grant a letter, signed by 65 of her friends, and placed it in his mailbox.

Mrs. Perry stated that PreK and K registrations had started. She is hoping to have solid number to bring to the next meeting. She said that there was an amazing turnout for the school wide, community service project to help Hermon community members, coordinated by PBIS Coordinator Karen Clark. The goal of the Souper Bowl campaign was 300 cans of soup, and the students brought in 2,160 cans of soup for the Hermon Food Pantry.

C. Finance Report

D. School Committee Follow-up and Request for Information

Mrs. CoWallis thanked the student reps and asked each of them what they see as advantages for being able to sit at the school committee meetings. Ms. Treat stated that she gets to see what happens behind closed doors because students may make assumptions, but they do not know what the school committee is doing. They get to see more of the administrative side of things, such as knowing why the policies are being done. Ms. Shaw stated that she personally had a greater respect for the administrative side of things, especially when it comes to budgeting and why they may not have some things.

Mr. Harris stated that he was excited about the destination that we are becoming since 242 students want to come to Hermon. He proposed that next month he bring in Dr. Webb's segment she did for the Blue-Ribbon Commission regarding the SPRPCE committee. He inquired about the High School's 5-year plan. Mr. Gonyar stated that he received it earlier that day in draft form. Once he has a chance to look at it, he'll send it to the committee in draft form. Regarding Mr. Harris' inquiry about the ED279, Mr. Gonyar stated that the last he'd heard was that it should come out around February 15<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully we'll have a better indication what we'll receive for State support this year when budgeting. Mr. Harris also asked if Mr. Gonyar had heard anything about the insurance rates for the upcoming year. Mr. Gonyar stated that he had met with Anthem last week and received an Incident Rate Report, but Anthem has not collected all the data they need to determine what the range of increase will be. Our incident rate was higher than last year, although not extraordinarily high. We should know by mid-March what the increase in our Anthem premiums will be. Mr. Harris asked about the changes to the playground at the elementary school. Mrs. Perry stated that the Rec Department is doing a new playground. It was supposed to be in before winter, but scheduling did not allow that to happen. It will be completed as soon as possible in the spring.

E. Other

Student representative Miss Treat stated that Key Club is partnering with the Bangor Kiwanis for their Polar Dip on February 27<sup>th</sup>. They are trying to find people willing to jump in Lucerne Lake. The Key Club will be volunteering at the event. February 6<sup>th</sup> there will be a steel pans concert and all the proceeds will go towards the Thirst Project.

Student representative Miss Shaw stated that Winter Carnival would be next week. The National Honor Society is planning a Change War to raise money for Leukemia. NHS is planning to sell carnations for Valentine's Day as a fundraiser. They also will be sending 12 students to the State Convention in March. Hawks for Change will be replacing the cardboard boxes with plastic ones that will last a lot longer.

Item IX: Approval of Warrant

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Keith, to approve Warrant # 14 of January 11, 2019 and Warrant # 15 of January 25, 2019.  
Unanimous vote (4)

Item X: Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to enter into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. pursuant to Contract Negotiations [1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D)].  
Accepted unless doubted

The School Committee returned to public session at 8:41 p.m.

Item XI: Adjournment

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary J. Gonyar  
Superintendent of Schools