

Hermon School Committee
Minutes – Regular Meeting
Monday, February 8, 2016
Hermon High School Room #139

Providing Leadership to Enhance the Aspirations of our Children

Present

Mr. John Snyder, Chairperson
Mr. Anthony Reynolds, Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Debora Farnham
Mr. Ted Harris
Mrs. Debbie CoWallis
Mrs. Shannon Knowles
Ms. Madalyn Jackson, Student Representative
Mr. Michael Lana, Student Representative (and JRORC Cadet)

Absent

Mr. Ralph Carr

Staff: Major Marcel Fortier (Retired) Mr. Micah Grant, Sgt. Robby Jenkins,
Mr. Jerry Kiesman, Mrs. Barbara Libby, Mr. Brian Walsh
JROTC Cadets: Cassidy Barnes, Austin Bemis, Ryan Byers, Christian Greener, Travis Morin,
Lily Price, Emma Shaw, Brian Speck
Guest: Mrs. Sherry Andrei

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 – None.

Item III: Mr. Reynolds motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 11, 2016.
Unanimous vote (6)

Item IV: **PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

A. HHS JROTC Program

Major Fortier introduced himself, Sgt. Jenkins and the cadets and thanked the School Committee for the invitation to present. He spoke to the JROTC's mission and programs and provided historical information as well as statistics (cadet grades, attendance, etc.). He stressed that the JROTC program is to promote student leadership and not to encourage cadets to sign up for military service. Several cadets spoke to their positive experiences and promoted the program. The Superintendent and School Committee members commended the instructors, the cadets and the program.

B. Public Comments

In response to Mrs. Andrei's three questions,

1. Mr. Snyder answered that the Building Committee is awaiting receipt of a conceptual plan to add twenty classrooms to the back of Hermon Elementary School;
2. Mrs. Duran explained that the financial plan is to retain the same bond payment for this HES addition; and
3. Mrs. Libby stated that G/T testing for fourth graders equates to four 90 minute sessions or four hours/week with prep time.

Item V: **PERSONNEL**

Employment

1. Mr. Reynolds motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to approve the employment of Mr. Jonathan Collins as a custodian at Hermon Middle School.
Unanimous vote (4)
2. Mr. Reynolds motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to approve the employment of Mrs. Amy Harmon, Mrs. Deborah Langille and Mr. James Seager as an ed tech III – K-4 special education.
Unanimous vote (4)
3. Mr. Reynolds motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to approve the employment of Mrs. Alecia Walker as a food service worker.
Unanimous vote (4)

Item VI: **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Carr was excused from attending the meeting.

Item VII: **NEW BUSINESS**A. 2016-2017 Budget

Mrs. Duran distributed budget accounts addressing teachers, ed techs and some benefits as well as preliminary DOE subsidy information for districts in the Penquis region. She stated that plans are to add the following positions: .5 nurse, .5 speech therapist, 1.0 HHS science position (replacing the current .625 position) and a portable classroom at HES to house special ed and music classrooms. Efforts to date to secure a Spanish teacher were discussed. School Committee consensus was to again request bullet points as to major increases/decreases in proposed 16-17 budget. It was agreed to schedule two to three additional meetings dedicated to budget.

B. HSD Strategic Plan

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Reynolds, to approve the nomination of Mrs. Farnham as chairperson of the committee to develop a Strategic Plan.

Voting for:	Snyer, Reynolds, Harris, CoWallis, Knowles
Abstain:	Farnham
Absent:	Carr

C. HHS Program of Studies

Mr. Walsh spoke to new courses added to the 2016-17 Program of Studies, all of which will be enrollment driven (minimum of 15 students). All are senior courses: Senior Math (1 credit) and four Rural U classes: US History II HTY 103 (1 credit), American Government GOV 200 (1 credit), College Composition (ENG 100/101) (2 credits), allowing participants in Rural U classes the opportunity to graduate with 12 college credits (at a much reduced tuition rate).

Item VIII: **REPORTS**A. Principals

-In addition to their written reports, Mrs. Libby announced her intention to retire this summer and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve as HES principal for 14 years. She added that the Pre-K classes received some P/R on Q106.5 for their \$200 in coins collected for the Pine Tree Egg Ride.

-Mr. Kiesman announced that the Boys "A" basketball team will compete for the championship Wednesday this week at Hampden Academy.

-Mr. Walsh announced that a possible storm day tomorrow will reschedule the varsity girls playoff game to Wednesday at 6 pm at HHS. The varsity boys will play at 6:30 pm at MDI HS. Winter Carnival outside activities are back on for Thursday this week.

B. Superintendent

Mrs. Duran thanked Mrs. Libby for her years of service and was complimentary of all her successful efforts.

C. Student Representatives

-Mr. Lana reported out on last week's "No Name Calling Week."

-Ms. Jackson invited the School Committee and community at large to participate in Key Club/NHS's March 12 hosting of Project Linus (making blankets to donate with monies, sponsors, supplies and/or blankets welcomed).

D. School Committee Follow-up and Request for Information

-Mrs. CoWallis expressed appreciation to HHS's Guidance Department for their efforts, in particular for the increasing number of students with post secondary academic plans.

-Mr. Harris encouraged everyone to participate in the Community Harvest and Homecoming scheduled for September 9-17. He commended Mrs. Kitchin and Mrs. Smith for their efforts in addressing dropouts and encouraged working closely, if possible, with the feeder schools. He asked if the comments received from 5th graders who participated in the lesson on managing stress and worried could be shared with the HSC. In response to Mr. Harris, Mrs. Duran said that the HSD did not advertise for three quotes for the floor tiles and roofing projects. Instead Mr. Davis contacted vendors with whom the HSD does business to request quotes. Mr. Harris complimented Mr. Grant and Mrs. Smith for their presentation to Glenburn's 8th graders and is hopeful that more Glenburn students will choose to attend HHS.

-Mrs. Farnham had praise for the lowering percentage of secondary students' failing two or more classes, 2nd quarter 2016 vs 2015.

She requested that Mrs. Gordon provide the HSC with an update on professional based activities.

-Mr. Snyer thanked the bus drivers for safely transporting students home during last Friday's snow storm.

Item VIII: E. Other

(cont'd) Mrs. Duran announced that this Thursday night she and Mr. Walsh will present to the RSU directors on proficiency based education and transition to proficiency. She offered to bring this same information before the HSC.

Item IX: Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Reynolds, to approve Warrant # 15A of January 15, 2016, Warrant # 16 and 16A of January 29, 2016, and Warrant #17 of February 12, 2016.

Unanimous vote (4)

Item X: Mr. Reynolds motioned, seconded by Mrs. Farnham, to enter executive session at 8:10 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) to discuss contract negotiations.

Unanimous vote (4)

Mrs. CoWallis and Mrs. Knowles left the meeting

The School Committee returned to public session at 9:07 p.m.

No action taken.

Item XI: Mr. Reynolds motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Unanimous vote (4).

Respectfully submitted,

Gaynor Reynolds
Recording Secretary