

Hermon School Committee
Minutes – Regular Meeting
Monday, February 6, 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. Eric Byers, Student Representative
Mr. Michael Lana, Student Representative

Absent

Mrs. Shannon Knowles

Staff: Mr. Micah Grant, Mr. Jerry Kiesman, Mrs. Jenny Perry, Mr. Brian Walsh
Guests: Jeff Wheeler, Josh Burgess, Gary Gonyar

Item I: Mr. Reynolds, 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 the following adjustments:
(1) Under New Business, add D. Jobs for Maine Grads invitation.

Item III: Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 9, 2017.

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 9, 2017, as written:
Unanimous Vote (6)

Item IV: PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATION

A. Proclamations and Presentations

Mrs. Duran asked Mr. Walsh to accept a plaque recognizing Hermon High School for the AP District Honor Roll for 2017, one of three schools in the State.

B. Public Comments

None

Item V: PERSONNEL

A. Resignations

Mrs. Duran, Superintendent, announced the resignations of Joyce Scripture, 2nd Grade teacher at Hermon Elementary School; Brad Deuring, Head Football Coach and Michele Mahar, part time finance assistant in the Central Office.

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Carr to make a \$100 donation towards retirement celebrations for staff.

Unanimous Vote (5)

B. Employment

1. Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Carr to approve the employment of Michele Mahar as an Ed Tech III at Hermon Elementary School.

Unanimous Vote (5)

2. Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to approve the employment of Ashley Emery as an Ed Tech I at Hermon Elementary School.

Unanimous Vote (5)

C. Extra Curricular Appointments 2016-2017

The following High School appointments were announced:

* New to position

Marcel Fortier –Varsity Softball, Voluntary Assistant Coach

* Rob Jenkins – Varsity Softball, Coach

Lynn Sawyer – Unified Basketball, Assistant Coach

Holly Scott – Unified Basketball, Coach

Mr. Harris moved, seconded by Mr. Carr, to elect Elliot Wilcox as the One Act Play Technical Director at the High School.

Unanimous vote (6)

Item VI: OLD BUSINESS

A. Excused Absence of School Committee Member/s

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to excuse Mrs. Knowles's absence.

Unanimous vote (6)

B. HSC Goals and Objectives 2016-2017

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to accept the 2016-17 HSC Goals and Objectives with the amendment of the lunch for all program to be K to 12.

Unanimous vote (6)

C. 2017 – 2018 Budget Process

Mrs. Duran gave two hand outs in addition to the packet information. The first one identifying a number of items to consider for the budget this year:

- World Languages Teacher to be shared between middle and high school
- Addition of a Behavioral Specialist
- We have applied and hope to be accepted for a school bus. In addition, we are asking for a new handicap accessible van for \$55,000
- Replace a segment of the original wing of the elementary school roof for \$85,000
- Update the heating panel at the high school for \$69,000
- Terminals on wheels for each of the schools at \$10,000 each

The second handout from MSMA outlining the 48 proposed changes to the funding formula. This is a huge change and makes it nearly impossible to prepare the budget. We will continue to keep preparing the expenditures budget.

Mrs. Smith motioned, seconded by Mr. Carr to rescind the motion of last month, voluntarily recognizing the Ed Techs under the umbrella of the HEA.

Voting for: Reynolds, Carr, Harris, Smith

Voting Against: Farnham

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to request the ed techs go through a card campaign, and if they decide as a group that they want to be under the MEA umbrella, then the HSC will support that.

Voting for: Reynolds, Carr, Harris, Smith

Voting Against: Farnham

Item VII: NEW BUSINESS

A. A. Exchange Student at Hermon High School

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to admit an exchange student for the 2017-18 school year.

Unanimous vote (6)

B. B. Introduction to the Ben Q

Jeff Wheeler, Director of Information Services, gave a presentation on the Ben Q interactive projector.

C. C. Course Approval – A.P. Biology

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to accept the A.P. Biology course as proposed in the Program of Studies for next years classes.

Unanimous vote (6)

D. Jobs for Maine Graduates

Hermon High school is one of 5 high schools invited to join Jobs for Maine Graduates at no cost to us because they have a grant. It is a wonderful opportunity for our students. JMG will provide an instructor, we have to have a place for them and allow that individual to go to workshops. They would like 40 students, but would probably run it with 35. Hermon now qualifies for this program because it is now open up to and requires 40% of the students involved to have an IEP or 504. It includes internships, getting out and seeing businesses, writing skills development, preparing a resume, making out an application and soft skills. Mr. Walsh added that they would hire two Vocational Rehab counselors to work with just the 5 schools in the program. The cost now is \$25,000 and would not need to be paid until 4 years down the road. Mrs. Duran proposed that she would request RSU 87 split that cost.

Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris to accept the invitation to participate in Jobs for Maine Graduates.

Unanimous vote (6)

Item VIII: REPORTS

A. Principals

- In addition to their written reports, Mr. Walsh added the cheerleaders are doing fantastic and performed at a showcase on Saturday. They will be competing this upcoming Saturday at the Augusta Civic Center at 2:00 pm. Basketball is down to the wire with the potential of the boys being the first seed if they win against Houlton, and the girls being the 2nd seed if they win against Houlton.
- Mrs. Perry stated the first PreK-4 dance raised \$610 to be donated to the Lafayette Center and the Pennies for Patients Drive raised \$193.82.
- Mrs. Biberstein reported that 20 students qualified for regionals in track, one Hermon student swimming for John Bapst has qualified for States, as well as a Hermon student wrestler wrestling for Bucksport.

B. Superintendent

Mrs. Duran encouraged all to be vigilant making contacts regarding Betsy DeVos as the Education Secretary Nominee.

C. School Committee Follow-up and Request for Information

- Mr. Harris wanted to recognize Cameron Fowler for his 700 hours of voluntary service. He asked when the Building Committee meets next and gave a flyer on shelving available from USM. He also inquired about the process for hiring a new Football coach. Mrs. Biberstein stated that once the resignation letter was received, that the position was posted both in-house and on Serving Schools, and that it will be open until February 15th. At that time a hiring committee would be formed to look at the applications, and then interviews would be conducted.
- Mrs. Cowallis, referring to the Goals and Objectives mentioned RSU 87 discussed getting the two boards together and was asked to get ideas for what the conversation/agenda may look like. Their next meeting will be the first part of March.
- Mrs. Smith commended Mrs. Biberstein and Mr. Walsh on the sportsmanship she had noted at some of the games she'd attended. She is very excited for the opportunity for Jobs for Maine Graduates. She expressed a concern regarding unfunded mandates and asked for a breakdown for what it reimbursed either from the State or federally.
- Mr. Carr stated his sadness at the loss of Bill Laughlin, for whom the field hockey field was named after. He asked Mrs. Duran if she had decided on a name for the elementary school, and she indicated that she had decided on Patricia A. Duran.
- Mr. Reynolds mentioned the possibility of privatized special education and further cutting of funds to public schools. He mentioned things may change if Betsy Devos becomes the Secretary of Education.

D. Other

- Eric Byers, student representative, mentioned the new sign language club and a Neurology/Cardiology job shadow experience for the UTC Bridge Year.
- Michael Lana, student representative, stated that next week will be the Winter Carnival with a music theme.

Item IX: Mr. Carr, motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to approve of Warrant # 16 of January 27, and Warrant # 17 of February 10, 2017.

Unanimous vote (5)

Item X: Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Unanimous vote (6)

Respectfully submitted,

Jody White
Recording Secretary