

Hermon School Committee  
Minutes – Regular Meeting  
Monday, May 1, 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  
Mrs. Shannon Knowles  
Mr. Michael Lana, Student Representative  
Mr. Eric Byers, Student Representative

Absent

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

Guests: Gary Gonyar

Item I: Mr. Reynolds, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item II: Mrs. CoWallis motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to enter executive session at 6:04 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (B) to discuss a student issue.  
Unanimous vote (7)

The School Committee returned to public session at 6:15 p.m.

Mrs. Knowles motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to accept U.T.C. credit for T.W. contingent on the student not being absent, tardy or dismissed for the balance of the school year.

Voting for: T. Reynolds, D. Farnham, T. Harris and S. Knowles

Voting against: A. Smith, D. CoWallis

Mrs. Carr motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to re-enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (B) to discuss a student issue.

Unanimous vote (7)

The School Committee returned to public session at 6:40 p.m.

Mrs. CoWallis motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Anne Smith to accept credit for all passing grades for K.D.

Unanimous vote (7)

Item III: Agenda Adjustments: None

Item IV: Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, to approve the of minutes of regular meeting of April 3, 2017 and special meeting of April 19, 2017.as written:

Unanimous Vote (7)

Item V: PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATION

A. Public Comments – None

B. Proclamations

Mr. Reynolds presented Mr. Lana with a certificate of appreciation for his service as a representative for HHS students. A round of applause followed.

Item VI: PERSONNELA. Resignations

Mrs. Duran, Superintendent, announced the resignations of Jessica Fusco, HHS Resource Room Ed Tech III and Jerry Kiesman, Principal, Hermon Middle School both effective with the end of the school year.

B. Employment

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Carr to approve the transfer of Micah Grant to Principal, Hermon Middle School effective July 1, 2017.

Unanimous Vote (5)

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to approve the employment of Heather Pelletier, High School Guidance Counselor for the 2017-2018 school year.

Unanimous Vote (7)

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mr. Carr to approve the employment of both Megan Kidder and Matthew Murray, as High School English teachers for the 2017-2018 school year.

Unanimous Vote (7)

Mr. Harris motioned, seconded by Mrs. Smith to approve the employment of Elizabeth Trenkmann, as High School Life Science teacher for the 2017-2018 school year.

Unanimous Vote (7)

C. Extra Curricular Appointments

The following appointments were announced: \* New to position  
High School

Troy Bennett \* – Volunteer Asst. Outdoor Track

Richard Feero \* - Assistant Football Coach

Jerimy McIntyre \* – Volunteer Asst. JV Baseball

Nathan Wyman \* – Volunteer Asst. Outdoor Track

Item VII: OLD BUSINESSA. Excused Absence of School Committee Member/s: – NoneItem VIII: NEW BUSINESSA. April 1 Student Enrollment

Mrs. Duran provided data for the past five years and reported that total enrollment is up 2% over five years ago, while tuition enrollment is down 2%. Total enrollment is currently is 1,197.

B. Budget

Mrs. Duran handed out the bulleted list on the budget that had been requested. She stated that we have worked diligently to get the budget increase down to 1.78%. The roof that we need to have repaired at the Elementary school that is already leaking has been taken out of the budget with the idea that we will try to put that into the construction project, as well as some other very important repairs. We are taking monies out of our reserve accounts with the intent that if the State does grant us more than they are currently projecting, that money will be returned to the reserve accounts from which we are withdrawing it. Now that the audit is complete, there is about \$150,000 that can and should be put in to the reserve accounts through the warrant process because you can only have an unallocated amount of 3% of your budget. We put that aside last year, which is the only unassigned monies you have. Mrs. Duran stated that she will present the 17-18 proposed budget to the Hermon Town Council Thursday night. She believes they will be pleased to see the minimal increase given salaries and benefits increased substantially. She also feels the budget has been trimmed to the extent that it possibly could be.

Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris to approve the 17-18 proposed budget as presented.

Unanimous Vote (5)

C. Update on Elementary School addition

Mr. Reynolds mentioned that one of the big issues was the elementary school roof. We will have that repaired as part of the elementary school project. We are going to have Carpenter Associates along with Dunbar & Braun suggest the best way to fix it. Everything was built before 1975, so we have a shot with the Storm Water Permit. We need to replace the two boilers. The fire marshal has to come in and review the building. The proposed building will not be attached to the current building. There will be a connecting hallway to the addition. We hope that we will not have to spend \$400,000 to put in a sprinkler system in the current building. We believe we will have to have a sprinkler system in the new addition. We will not know until 90 days in to the project when the fire marshal reviews the plans. We may have to expand the septic tank/pumping station. The current fire alarm system was installed in 1977, and will not work with the new fire alarm system, so they will have to change some of the wiring and the main system itself. All of the bathrooms need to be ADA compliant. Mrs. Duran added that she has a list of items from Mr. Davis, Maintenance and Grounds Director, for items that need to be done if there is the money to do it: finishing the abatement of asbestos in the floor tile, pneumatic heating controls, a heating system that would allow classrooms to be controlled individually, the drinking fountains need to be replaced, the roof leaks, updates to paving, and furniture for the new classrooms. The contractors also mentioned that we will need blasting which is an added expense.

D. Contribution to Employee's Retirement Celebration

Mrs. Farnham motioned, seconded by Mr. Harris, that the HSC fund a \$100 donation for a retirement recognition celebration.

Unanimous Vote (5)

Item IX: REPORTS

A. Principals

In addition to his written report, Mr. Walsh reported that he and the guidance department met with representatives from EMCC for early college for me. We can have up to 9 students take 2 EMCC courses at no cost. If we have at least 9, then they would give 3 of our students a \$1,500 a year scholarship when they graduated. Mr. Harris asked if we were having Bridge Year next year, and Mr. Walsh replied that after the Bridge Year presentation only 3 student packets were returned, so we will not be participating in Bridge Year next year.

In addition to her written report, Mrs. Perry reported that Pre-K / Kindergarten screenings will be done a little differently this year. The Pre-K screening will consist of meeting with parents to reassure them while the children are in the classroom. We will get some data on attachment and structure within the classroom. For the Kindergarten screenings, the children will be in the classroom for a shortened class with adults observing fine motor, gross motor, and academic skills. Children will be pulled if they need a health screening or speech / language. While the children are in the classroom, the parents will be with Mrs. Perry for 2 hours of presentations from the school nurse, cafeteria staffing, bussing, and office staff on what is expected of them.

B. Superintendent

In addition to her written report, Mrs. Duran reported that Mr. Gonyar spent the day in district on Friday.

C. School Committee Follow-up and Request for Information

Mr. Harris thanked Mr. Lana for his representation on the school committee for his class. He also congratulated Mr. Grant on his new position. He spoke on the SPRPCE grant for the Alternative Education program. Mrs. Duran stated that she hopes we use the program very sparingly because it is an out of district tuition placement which is expensive, but there is a need for the program in the area. The program is being funded by the grant the first year, but after that it lands on the districts.

Mrs. Farnham inquired about the middle school sport's program moving to the Eastern Maine League, and Mrs. Duran stated that they are. She stated that the minutes of the joint meeting of the Hermon and RSU 87 school committees mentioned collaborative future meetings, and asked if there were other opportunities to consolidate with Carmel and Levant, and possibly with Glenburn. Mrs. Duran pointed out that we currently do share with RSU 87 an occupational

therapist, a physical therapist, some transportation to UTC, and a food service director. There was some discussion of an AOS with separate boards, but a shared central office.

Mrs. Smith inquired about the status of the Ed Techs. Mrs. Duran stated they had voted through the mail in April and had 22 responses from 34 ed techs and 20 voted that they want representation, so they will become part of the Hermon Education Association.

Mrs. CoWallis thanked Mr. Lana for his representation on the school committee, and let Mr. Lana know he was doing an awesome job as well.

Mr. Carr asked about the Golden Feather Awards. Mr. Walsh explained that it was similar to the end of the year athletic banquet, except that it was for performing arts.

Mr. Reynolds also thanked Mr. Lana for his representation on the school committee.

D. Other

Mr. Lana reported that there was going to be a slow pitch softball tournament for JROTC; the team that wins gets to donate the money raised to the charity of their choice. Two students have taken the form to be student representative for next year. He knows both students and feels either one would both be a good choice. He thanked the Committee for the opportunity to be a student for representative.

Mr. Byers reported that NHS was planning an academic awards night May 17<sup>th</sup>. He also reported on his trip to Pittsburgh with the Life Smarts competition.

Item X: Mr. Harris, motioned, seconded by Mr. Carr, to approve the Warrant # 22 of April 21, 2017 and Warrant # 23 of May 5, 2017.

Unanimous vote (5)

Item XI: Mr. Carr motioned, seconded by Mrs. CoWallis, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Unanimous vote (7)

Respectfully submitted,

Jody White  
Recording Secretary