

**MINUTES**

Hoosac Valley Regional School Committee  
School Committee Meeting  
Monday, December 7, 2020 - 6:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Adam Emerson, Mike Mucci, Mike Henault, Nannette Reid, Bethany DeMarco

**REMOTE:** Regina Hill, Athletic Directors

**ABSENT:** Marty Bush

**OTHERS:** Superintendent Aaron Dean

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**103748 Call to Order**

Chairman Mike Mucci called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**103749** Public Comment: - None

**103750 Approval of Minutes - November 9, 2020**

**MOTION:** On Motion of Mike Henault and second Adam Emerson

VOTED: To approve the November 7, 2020 minutes. The vote was unanimous

**103751 Report of Treasurer/Business Manager** - discussed the FY21 cherry sheet as it compares to our FY21 approved budget - see attachment

**103752 Report of Sub-Committees -**

**A. Maintenance** - Mike Mucci summarized the meeting - discussed building upgrades since last meeting as well as COVID procedures and needs at the building level. Continuing to update the ongoing list of projects. Superintendent explained how some grant funding has made some building level improvements possible - HVAC, sinks etc.

**103753 Communications - None**

**103754 Report of Superintendent -**

**A.** MASS Award - Superintendents award was presented to Sydney Jamros - Colleen Bryd read aloud comments from teachers about Sydney highlighting her achievements and positive impact on the student body

**B.** Athletics Update - Molly Meczywor & Mike Metera nominated Celia Norcross for the Al Rodriguez award and discussed her credentials and achievements warranting the nomination.

Update on HVHS Athletic leadership council - 45 students grades 8-12 meeting biweekly - mission to build leadership capacity that can be brought to the team and the community. Current projects - toys for tots & partnering with kindergarten classes at HVE to write letters to santa

Winter Athletics proposal - recapped fall - summer conditioning - no contact - just getting kids out on the fields and resume some sense of normalcy - non competitive fall sports - 105 students began practicing but did not compete - 0 COVID cases from sports - shows that guidelines were followed and cases were not spread. Proposing Basketball 8-12, swimming 7-12, nordic skiing and cheerleading 8-12 (no competition) - proposal a mix of DESE, MIAA, EEA rules and guidelines. Many people are at the table to create these guidelines.

Looking to start 12/14 with social distanced tryouts and practices. Get groups set as early as possible with games potentially being played January 4th - depending on COVID cases and numbers. If we go into full remote learning - all parties will need to sit down and discuss how to proceed with safety in mind. If students choose to remain in a remote model as a hybrid student, they are not allowed to try out. Safety rules - MIAA specific rules for each sport - rules discussed encompass all sports - masks always worn during practice and competitive play, maintain 6 feet of distance when not in competition. Abundance of Sanitizing taking place - no locker room use. Busing will be used - away fans will not be allowed at home games. Will try to provide ticket system or lanyards for family members access to games. NO spectators other than family of home team in our gym. Will only play a Berkshire county schedule. Nordic ski - will only have races at school locations - racers will be staggered - previously established cohorts of start times. There will be no loitering after events and there will be no spectators. Basketball will look much different this year - but with confidence that we are capable of keeping athletes safe. Half time shorter, no tip off - 4 basketballs per game - must be sanitized - benches must be sanitized. Players enter and exit game with sanitization of hands each way. Multiple air purifiers will be placed throughout the gym. Game management - scheduling - JV and varsity will be scheduled further apart - someone will be checking in lanyard of family members for contact tracing - also have someone stationed at bathrooms to monitor people entering and exiting. Molly read letter from Lucas Levesque. Swimming - co op with Wahconah - modified rules as well - no locker rooms - swimmers and coaches remain masked unless actively swimming. Virtual meets also held with schools outside of Berkshire county. Athletics information will be sent through multiple lines of communication. Coaches will be trained prior to the start of the season.

Aaron - thanked coaches for work, advocacy of program. Conditioning in fall was successful and gave students an opportunity to be part of something - despite no competition. Superintendent standpoint is to get tryouts and practices started. Come January we will revisit the competitive piece. Not ready to go all in at this point and would like to wait and see where numbers and cases are at before making a final decision to compete. Mike Mucci, Mike Henault and Adam Emerson also commended ADs on the work being done during the unusual times. In favor of proceeding with practices Monday. Mike Henault asked that there be some level of registration prior to competitive play to ensure no transmission between teams. Also asked for clarification in regards to students not being able to participate if not attending in person days in a hybrid model. Colleen and Superintendent clarified. Adam Emerson asked some questions in regards to practice protocols and particulars in regards to logistics of tracking, social distancing, cleaning etc. Discussion around timeline and how long we have to make decision to compete.

C. COVID19- learning models - recent move to remote - challenges being faced. 5 cases of COVID led to 20 staff and 60-80 students needing to quarantine. So far cases have leveled off but challenges are now due to community cases causing insecurities in parents sending kids to school. Parents not sending kids on their in person days and looking for the school to accommodate. Parents asked to commit for quarters at a time and is becoming problematic to schedule when not following model chosen. Superintendent included in weekly newsletter the importance of the work being done to contain spread and that based on the previous cases within the school, it is working. Wants to assure families that we are making decisions based on data and on-going efforts are making a difference.

Discussion on how to "police" families not sending kids on their in person days. Mike Henault asked if we had access to data that may help decision making for families when it comes to sending kids in person. Boards of Health in Adams and Cheshire do not have the personnel or capacity to put out information as detailed as Pittsfield.

D. Guidance Update - decision making moving forward - DATA - no discussion

E. MCAS - high school - scheduling and logistics - no January MCAS - 8th grade postponed for now - nothing on grade 3 testing

F. Remote Learning Grant Award \$64,100 - support staff and supply needs at remote learning center. Looking

at something in the highschool in the arts lab for future use.

103755 Chairman's Report - none  
103756 Unfinished Business - none  
103757 New Business - none  
103758 Action Items - NONE

103759 For the Good of the Order - Adam would like parents to participate in the survey.

MOTION: On Motion of Bethany DeMarco and second by Nannete Reid

VOTED: To adjourn the regular meeting at 7:46 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Dean, Superintendent

Erika Snyder,, Recording Secretary on behalf of Lisa Bresett

**Place:** Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting G.L. c. 30a, Sec. 20, the public will not be allowed to physically access this School Committee Meeting. Members of the public can access this meeting via live stream by calling +1-408-650-3123 ; Access Code: 681-412-093 or <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/681412093>