

MINUTES

Hoosac Valley Regional School Committee
School Committee Meeting
Monday, November 9, 2020 - 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Adam Emerson, Mike Mucci, Regina Hill, Mike Henault, Marty Bush, Nannette Reid, Bethany DeMarco

REMOTE:

ABSENT:

OTHERS: Superintendent Aaron Dean

103725 Call to Order

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

103726 Public Comment: - None

103727 Approval of Minutes - October 5, 2020

MOTION: On Motion of Regina Hill and second Mike Henault

VOTED: To approve the October 5, 2020 minutes. The vote was 6-0-1

103728 Report of Treasurer/Business Manager -

A. S.C. Order #SC2101 - To reclassify budget:

Submitted herein for your approval is a request to reclassify the FY21 budget to align with projected expenditures. It is hereby ordered to transfer funds between various accounts as follows: See attached schedule.

MOTION: On Motion of Bethany DeMarco and second by Regina Hill:

VOTED: To approve SCOrder #2101. The vote was unanimous.

This year's budget is as it should be. We are lucky enough to be granted funds from the state to accommodate all our covid related expenses. Aaron stated that we are fortunate to have it, a lot of important things were purchased with these funds and we wouldn't be able to provide the families without the grants we received.

Erika Snyder reported to the committee that we have had 7 fraudulent checks trying to be cashed. What we have in place is a positive pay program. Our bank is aware of it and am able to decline the check from being cashed and mark it as fraudulent. We have a good system in place for preventing us from fraud.

103729 Report of Sub-Committees - None

103730 Communications - None

A. Athletic's Update - The first round of guidelines was released today by EEA and we are expecting further guidance from MIAA during the week of November 9th. Once the guidelines are sent out, the AD's will work with administration and other Berkshire County AD's, principals and superintendents to review processes and protocols around a potential winter season. All decisions will be dependent on COVID data and guidance/guidelines from all parties. Colleen Byrd reported that Bill Robinson will be coming back as the Boy's Varsity Coach; Matt Larabee as the boys J.V. Coach; Holly McGovern will be the girls Varsity Basketball Coach and McKenzie Robinson will be the girls J.V. basketball coach; Sacia Harrington will be the cheerleading coach and Greta Facchetti is the boys and girls nordic ski coach.

B. Data - October 1st Enrollment. Our numbers are down. The biggest impact we have is the elementary school from last year. We can't get as many students in the Pre-K program because of the pandemic. Same with kindergarten. Middle school is holding close to what it typically does. The High School is up 3 students from last year. We have approximately 15 more students that chose homeschooling from last year. We have 29 families total. Once we get past the pandemic we are hoping to see a change. Enrollment does impact budget numbers for next year. Other districts have reported the same as far as their enrollment numbers.

Aaron reported that the building principals will give updates on their respective buildings.

Rebecca Sawyer, elementary principal stated that attendance has been a challenge, but not as alarming as first anticipated. The average attendance is 96.2%. Kindergarten is at 97%; Grade 1 is at 84%; Grade 2 - 95% and 3rd grade is 93%. With the new way we are coding our attendance, we can get a clearer picture on how remote is playing into this. Some of the challenges we are still running into is that families are having access issues. We are working with parents on how to log in with schoology and zoom. Teachers are concerned about the expectations of them over the school year. Biggest challenge is how to help families with the overall feeling of stress. We are asking them to do a lot of things that they have never done before. Masks are successful, they are wearing them and responding to reminders. Using good hygiene practices. They line up 6 feet apart. Doing a great job with the compliance piece of it. Thankful for the families that are supporting our message. Kids are happy to be there, teachers are happy to be there and see the students. Meals are going well, teachers and catheter staff have a great system.

Chris Sposato, middle school principal reported that getting the students into the building was a boost for the teachers and staff. The students are happy to be there. Challenges are similar to elementary. Working on glitches with zoom, schoology, etc. Other challenges are absent rates for high flying students. We have enlisted the help of NBCC. We have our teacher of department and school adjustment counselor reaching out to families for extra support. We did notice that we have students who will pick and choose which classes they attend. Overall, that percent is small. We have 10 students that have missed 10 days or more of school. Working with the families/parents on this, overall they have been very supportive. Our remote attendance is more challenging than in person. Our students and teachers have been rock stars throughout all of this.

Colleen Byrd, high school principal reported that we have a very similar situation. We have 9 students who are switching from remote to hybrid... 6 from hybrid to fully remote. Students who are fully remote are doing well and are taking off. Attendance is spotty at about 20 - 30 absences on any given day. We have students if they feel under the weather or got up late, they are not coming in for the hybrid but they are zooming in from home. We have data team meetings that have already started... started our interventions. Our motivation piece is tough for some students. Working with the family place, with the courts, trying to find ways to get the students engaged. Mask wearing has been great. Tracking the bathrooms, for contact tracing purposes. No complaints, so far so good. Quarter 2 started today and report cards are going home on Friday. We also started our elections, we are doing that virtually. We are plugging along.

Mike Mucci: the quarter just ended on Friday, is there any type of metric of what grades are going out, failing, etc. Colleen stated that we are looking at the data. Our at risk students need a lot of attention and they are getting it.

Aaron reported that we will be making data driven decision making regarding attendance, behavior, academics. Families can look for surveys prior to our Thanksgiving break. Fastbridge, ELA benchmark/snapshot for all students in grades 2 - 10. Early reading for K & 1 - 4 categories were looking at: high risk, some risk, on track, college pathway. Did implement the TEAMS training and FAR Cycle. We need to delve more into formative assessments. Step one is to clarify the learning journey; step 2 infuse formative assessments; step 3 analyzes formative assessments; and step 4 take firm action.

C. Sub-Committee - meeting/goals - Negotiations: Successor Agreements with the custodians, nurse, cafeteria and Secretaries, last year we did a one year extension. We have that work on the table; Maintenance: HVAC report to go through with the committee. We got good marks on that. Systems function and more than sufficient, some recommendations for the future; COVID readiness, other maintenance projects; A & E: We need to discuss goals for this year's budget; Policy: Curriculum renewal cycles, Code of Conduct; Technology: Recent additions, staffing, renewal cycles. Mike Mucci - Aaron should email out some dates to get these meetings in motion. Mike Henault asked if we could start the meetings via zoom.

D. Covid Presentation - Reiterate messages out to families. We did have one case, it was isolated - that person did take precautions. Superspreading events, keep social circles small; mask up; practice hand hygiene and stay home if you don't feel well and get tested. Follow the governor's guidance.

103732 Chairman's Report - None

103733 Unfinished Business -

103734 New Business -

A. Adams Lions Club Donation - The Adams Lion Club voted at its last meeting to provide our district \$2,000 to help offset additional COVID expenses. Purchased headsets for every student in the district. They arrived last Friday. A lot of students needed a headset to perform the work they need to do. Another opportunity based on people's generosity.

MOTION: On Motion of Nannnette Reid and second by Mike Henault.

VOTED: To approve the Lion's club donation. The vote was unanimous.

103735 Action Items - NONE

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

VOTED: to go into executive session at 7:40 p.m. for the sole purpose of collective bargaining. The committee will reconvene in open session. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous.

MOTION: On Motion of Nannette Reeid and second by Mike Henalt:

VOTED: to reconvene in open session at 7:50 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous.

MOTION: On Motion of Mike Henault and second by Bethany DeMarco:

VOTED: To approve Hoosac Valley Regional School District and Adams Cheshire Teachers Association agreement during the state of COVID-19 emergency. The vote was 6-0-1

B. MOA - Dufour - We are agreeing to pay our base every month, no additional fees to athletics and special ed. We have additional runs and meal runs. If we go fully remote we will go back to pay 50% like we did last year.

MOTION: On Motion of Adam Emerson and second by Nannnette Reid.

VOTED: To approve Dufour MOA. The vote was unanimous.

Aaron stated that at our last meeting (October 5, 2020) he informed the committee of a special education MOA. (Special Education faculty and service providers will be required to attend a mandatory powerschool special programs training on September 23rd. Special Ed. faculty and service providers will be eligible for paid time at \$30.00/hour for a maximum of 3 hours). He is asking that the committee make a motion approving the MOA.

MOTION: On Motion of Regina Hill and second by Mike Henault:

VOTED: to approve the Special Education MOA. The vote was unanimous.

103736 For the Good of the Order - NONE

MOTION: On Motion of Mike Henault and second by Nannette Reid.

VOTED: To adjourn the regular meeting at 8:10 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Dean, Superintendent

Lisa Bresett, Recording Secretary

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>