

MINUTES

Hoosac Valley Regional School Committee
School Committee Meeting - Adams Visitor Center
Monday, January 10, 2022 - 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mike Mucci, Erin Milne, Nannette Reid, Bethany DeMarco

REMOTE: _____

ABSENT: Regina Hill, Adam Emerson, Mike Henault

OTHERS: Superintendent Aaron Dean

103882 Call to Order

Chairman Mike Mucci called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

103883 Public Comment or Questions - None

103884 Approval of Minutes - December 6, 2021

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

VOTED: to approve the December 6, 2021 minutes, with the correction of Mike Henault making the motion to adjourn the meeting, not Mike Mucci. The vote was unanimous.

103885 Report of Treasurer/Business Manager - Erika and District Treasurer, Dick Jette met with Bartholomew & Co and Berkshire Taconic Funds. They are both putting proposals together and will have a recommendation at the next meeting regarding accounts for scholarship money.

103886 Report of Sub Committee -

A. Maintenance - Mike Mucci - looked at the space on the second floor of the Adams Visitor Center for the potential office space for the district. Looking to see what the space has to offer, we need further discussion to see if it fits the needs of the district office. Not much new to report regarding the maintenance of the buildings. Will talk in depth at the next meeting. Update from Chad Carpenter, custodian at Hoosac Valley Elementary School- on track with the maintenance of the building and projects in the future. Keeping an eye on the roof by the McDonald's entrance. Aaron stated that we continue to work with EDM to spend the funds that the Town of Adams has for capital projects, has been on hold for too long. Looking to schedule something this summer after reviewing their assessment and how we can best use those funds. High School: Aaron: 2 boiler issues that came up in the past couple of weeks, Adams Plumbing was there today addressing them. Two boiler pumps that are leaking, have parts on order. Roof: repair work in the B Wing - warranty still valid until 2024. Wall pads were installed in one of the special education rooms. Talked about a potential sander for the custodial department.

103887 Communications -

A. Curriculum Renewal Cycle - Kristen Palatt - table until next meeting.

103888 Report of Superintendent

A. MASS Award - Superintendent Dean reported that this is one of his favorite parts of his job. Aaron congratulated and presented Brodie Lanoue with the Superintendent's Academic Award and also congratulated his parents. This does not happen by accident and clearly you have great role models in your life and I can't think of a better recipient. Principal Colleen Byrd read some sentiments she received from teachers about Brodie - "talented student, highly determined young man, motivated." "He is an exceptional student". "Always on time, courteous and polite". "Brodie is an exceptional student who's clever and hard work" "He never fails to make us laugh while submitting superior work". Principal Byrd congratulated Brodie on all his accomplishments.

Mike Mucci: great to hear the teacher quotes on all his accomplishments.

B. Budget Calendar - Today we received the date the states numbers are coming out. January 19th the governor's number will come out. This year is about balancing grant money. Making sure we have a core budget that is sustainable. Special Ed. is an area we are taking a real hard look at. Having a lot of hard conversations next week and solidifying what we need to put forward at A & E. Will have a couple of A & E meetings and the first week in March is our hearing (March 7th). Official vote will be March 28th.

C. Parent Forums - In December we had our first parent forum at the visitor's center. We had about 10 - 20 parents come. A good session. It is designed to talk to building administrators, ask questions, give ideas, etc. There were great questions from parents. It was successful and nice to chat with families, Did take some feedback from them and incorporated some of it, one being Hoosac Happenings. One thing that came up was we are doing a lot of great things, but it's not talked about. A date has been set for Cheshire for February 3rd at the Cheshire Senior Center. Time is 4:30 - 6:00. This is another way to engage families and hopefully get some personal feedback.

D. COVID Updates - Last week's newsletter alerted families of the difficulties to be able to staff a school. We were getting close to that threshold. This week we are in a little better shape. In terms of numbers, over break there were 20 plus cases, this last week coming back from the break there were 15-20 staff that were COVID related. Doing the best we can with masking and distancing. As a district we are about 40% vaccinated. The governor put forward the mask mandate to be extended until February 28th. We continue to be resilient. We are doing everything we can with the guideline changes. We are really doing the best we can. Mike Mucci was disappointed at the percentage of vaccination rates in our district.

103889 Chairman's Report -

A. Superintendent Evaluation - table until next meeting

103890 Unfinished Business - None

103891 New Business - None

103892 Action Items - None

103893 For the Good of the Order -

Bethany DeMarco: Hoosac Happenings videos - nicely done. Iberkshires athlete of the week was hockey player Zach Lillie - Congratulations.

Nannette Reid: Congratulations to Brodie, an amazing student and very happy for him.

Erin Milne: thanked everyone who is working so hard to keep our buildings and students safe. Been above and beyond for 2 ½ years now and as a parent and school committee member really appreciate it.

MOTION: On Motion of Nannette Reid and second by Erin Milne

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Dean, Superintendent

Lisa Bresett, Recording Secretary