

## MINUTES

Hoosac Valley Regional School Committee  
School Committee Meeting  
Monday, December 6, 2021 - 6:30 p.m.

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

**REMOTE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ABSENT:** Regina Hill, Adam Emerson

**OTHERS:** Superintendent Aaron Dean

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**103870            Call to Order**

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

**103871            Public Comment or Questions - None**

**103872            Approval of Minutes - November 8, 2021**

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

VOTED: to approve the November 8, 2021 minutes. The vote was unanimous.

**103873            Report of Treasurer/Business Manager - Erika Snyder -** we have scholarship funds that the district has ownership of that is awarded each year to the senior class. We currently have \$453,000 housed at Adams Community Bank. Our district treasurer would like the committee to consider moving these funds to Berkshire Taconic Fund, a private entity to manage these funds to get a better interest rate. Some of the more private entities can get a much higher interest rate, but it does come at some risk. He wanted to see what the committee thinks about changing this practice. Would be put into a primary managed pool account. The returns are much higher than we are getting now. He wanted the committee's thoughts. We don't have to do this soon, but would like to research some options to bring back to the committee. Mike Mucci would be interested in hearing the different options and the pros and cons and for him to put together a packet for the school committee. Interested in seeing some history on the accounts, etc.

**103874            Report of Sub Committee - None**

**103875            Communications - None**

**103876            Report of Superintendent**

**A.            Technology Subcommittee items -** We had a number of questions from the Cheshire Selectboard regarding platforms (panorama, etc.) that our district uses and how it's used, and one member sent quite a list. It wouldn't hurt to look at our processes. It makes sense to forward that information to the technology committee and talk about the practices. Mike Mucci thinks it's a good idea to meet about it. Having our technology subcommittee to take a look at it.

**B.            Panorama Surveys -** We have been using this for several years, there is information about the company and their practices and did send the committee what the company practices are, etc. It is a standard agreement, there is nothing that is shared to anyone but us. The plan is to send out a second notice about the survey this week. The student survey is a SEL and from there we get our information on how to approach social/emotional issues in the schools. Staff will get a survey about climate,

parents will get a survey about the schools. We use it for planning for the upcoming school year. Mike Mucci stated the timeline about sending the surveys out and the return date is reasonable. Mike Henault asked if Aaron is prepared to take action on the data once it is collected, are we ready to move forward with some actionable steps with our students? Aaron stated that there will be action plans that come out from the data.

**C. Fall & Winter Athletic Updates** - Athletic Director Molly Meczywor sent a fall sports report. Boy's Soccer finished 2nd in their Bi-county league with a record of 11-3-2; Coach Mahoney continues to develop all players into knowledgeable soccer players while establishing positive relationships which lead to a high level of buy-in. Girl's Soccer: the team was led by a large number of seniors. They struggled in their new league, which was highly competitive. Several injuries plagued the start of the season. They did qualify for the Western Mass. Tournament but missed the State Tournament by one placement. Golf: New coach Chad Alibozek brought a new perspective to the golf team. He had a young small squad so he was able to provide more one-on-one instruction. The team did not qualify for Western Mass., but we did have one player who was close for individual qualification. XC: HV switched to co-coaches with Nick Curelop and Bill Champion, both seasoned and successful runners themselves. They had a small squad, every runner improved their times and Senor Justin Levesque qualified for the State Championship. Cheer: Although small, the Cheer squad provided a great deal of motivation and positivity at all of our football games. Coach Harrington continues to challenge her cheerleaders to learn new stunts and performances as well as make sure they have fun. They traveled to all of our away games as well. Football: Coach Bostwich and his staff did a tremendous job given their schedule and small roster. They finished as league champions, final four finalists and had a fantastic run in the state tournament.

Winter sports - COVID 19 Protocols: All student athletes, coaches, officials, staff and spectators will be required to wear a mask indoors for basketball, cheer, hockey and wrestling. Nordic Ski will not be required to wear a mask while at practice or games outside. If they train inside, they will need to mask up. Bus Policy: ALL athletes and coaches will be required to wear a mask while riding to and from contests. No food or drink allowed. Game Protocol: In addition to masks, hand sanitizer will be available at the scorer's table for student-athletes and coaches. Masks will be required of all spectators and game staff. Covid Protocol: \* Should a member of basketball or cheer test positive for Covid, the school nurse will follow state protocols. She will contact members of administration and follow a test and stay regimen. \* Close contact: If vaccinated, that person continues on with their attendance and participation in school and at athletic events. Close contact: \* If unvaccinated, student-athletes will test every morning and if they are negative, they can resume participation in school and sports. If positive, the school nurse will communicate with administration and families to follow protocol. On weekends, the Athletic Department will pay a stipend to a nurse to come to school and test on either Saturday or Sunday, if needed. Nordic Ski does not follow this protocol as they are outside. The school nurse will ask for voluntary admittance for vaccination status. Mike Mucci thought a lot of the teams would be shut down because of COVID and it didn't happen, didn't have the spread on the teams and were able to play all season.

**D. COVID Update** - We had quite a spike leading up to Thanksgiving. We are keeping a close eye on it. In the last case reporting period (November 17th - December 1st) there were 37 cases. 19 at the elementary; 10 at the middle and 8 at the high school. Total cases this year is 88; 50 at elementary; 23 at middle and 15 at high school. Vaccination numbers for the district: High School: 59% out of 338 students - 184 students have had 2 doses; 15 students have had 1 dose and 23 records no record found. Middle School: 39% out of 314 students: 76 students have 2 doses; 45 have had 1 dose; and 28 records did not sync with the database. Elementary School: 26% out of 367 students: 18 students have had 2 doses; 79 students have had one dose and 10 records with no record found. Mike Henault: when looking at the percentage and the vaccination numbers it's a little disheartening. How do we make a public health statement as a district that we are encouraging vaccinations? How do we as a district help educate and push the need for vaccinations so eventually we can finally come unmasked? Aaron stated we can put a letter out to people, but it's a personal choice, not sure how much more we can do. Mike Henault stated that some agencies put out facts and if we can get to 80% we can eventually be unmasked. Erin stated that maybe in his newsletters he can put out the vaccination numbers and hopefully get more people on board. Mike Mucci thinks that sharing data to the parents will be helpful. Aaron will put the vaccination status in his newsletter.

## **103877 Chairman's Report -**

**A. Superintendent Evaluation** - Mike Henault talked about the methodology used last year. Planning on using the indicator rubric provided by DESE - each member will rate on each indicator - this will be done from a google form. Each member has one vote and will become part of the public record. Mike will compile the data and will be presented to Aaron at the January 10th meeting. Aaon: presented his evidence. Under each indicator he put a little summary of the work that has been done. You will find that most anything he put a document in is in teaching and learning. Every indicator has a box underneath it, standard one two and three. Standard 4 is a lot of the work we are doing with DIP and made a summary for Standard 4 but if you have any questions, happy to give more information. This is a lot of work we have talked about in our meetings. See attached evidence

document. Mike Henault - to ensure we are in compliance with the open meeting law, he will individually send them to members. He will need the information by January 6th from the members. Mike will get this out to the members by the end of day tomorrow.

**103878 Unfinished Business -**

A. School Improvement Plan Vote -

**MOTION:** On Motion of Mike Henault and second by Erin Milne:

VOTED: to approve the School Improvement Plan, for the elementary, middle and high as presented at the November 8, 2021 meeting. The vote was unanimous.

B. District Improvement Plan Benchmarks - see attached full plan.

High Leverage instructional practices and implementation of curriculum with integrity: Staff will implement curriculum with integrity and analyze impact on student learning through the use of the Formative Assessments for Results (FAR) cycle and Fastbridge data collection. Safe Learning Environments: staff will maintain a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all students by regularly utilizing and reflecting on SEL data to ensure student needs are being met. Communication/Family Engagement: Faculty/staff/administration will create, implement and/or host a variety of communication strategies in order to support the mission of the district.

**MOTION:** On Motion of Erin Mile and seconded by Mike Henault:

VOTED: To approve the DIP benchmarks. The vote was unanimous.

C. District Office Lease - Mike Mucci- questions about mold coming into the hallway? Potential demolition: do you have any updates? The committee talked about the issues at the district office, mold, etc. Mike would like us to explore other office options, make sure space fits our needs. We need information from the Town of Cheshire on the measures on how to handle the removal of records in the basement.

**103879 New Business - None**

**103880 Action Items - None**

**103881 For the Good of the Order**

**Mike Mucci** - wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

**MOTION:** On Motion of Bethay DeMarco and second by Mike Mucci:

**VOTED:** To adjourn the meeting at 7:42 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>