

**MINUTES**

Hoosac Valley Regional School Committee  
School Committee Meeting  
Monday, November 8, 2021 - 6:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Adam Emerson, Regina Hill, Mike Mucci, Erin Milne, Mike Henault, Nannette Reid

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

**ABSENT:** Bethany DeMarco

**OTHERS:** Superintendent Aaron Dean

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**103858 Call to Order**

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

**103859 Public Comment or Questions - None**

**103860 Approval of Minutes - October 4, 2021**

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

VOTED: to approve the October 4, 2021 minutes. The vote was unanimous.

**103861 Report of Treasurer/Business Manager -**

**A. Budget Transfer Request - School Committee Order SC2201 - to Reclassify budget**

Submitted herein for your approval is a request to reclassify the FY22 budget to align with the projected expenditures. Be it hereby ordered to transfer funds between various accounts. See attached schedule.

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

VOTED: to approve S.C. Order 2201. The vote was unanimous.

**103862 Report of Sub Committee - None**

**103863 Communications -**

A. Lyndsey McGinnis: teaches in the science department and runs a couple of initiatives including the garden initiatives. HVRSD received a \$25,000 grant to start a farm to school initiative. Started with a vacant tennis court lot. We needed to start planning right away. We started off slowly. Had a group of volunteer advisory students. Last spring we had a group of students who built 10 raised beds. After planting, school ended and we had 10 beds to take care of, we had an amazing harvest. Katie Sholz and Tia Karah took over and helped maintain the beds over the summer. They were hired as work study students. Couldn't have asked for 2 better students to come in over their summer vacation. Colleen Byrd received a message from New England Dairy about its Fuel Good in your community awards that celebrates students making a difference in their communities, so she submitted Katie and Tia's name. Tia stated that they go into the school to grab what we need depending on if we have to water. There is a spigot near the school and said they often had to connect multiple hoses and drag their line across the parking lot to reach the garden if they couldn't

get the job done with the rain collectors. It's a lot of work, preparing the beds for the winter, getting compost restarted, completing the infrastructure and continuing to focus on recycling efforts. Lyndsey stated they are trying to bring more environmental awareness and initiatives to students, staff and community. Erin asked how many students are in the garden club - Lindsey stated 10 students. Adam stated that this is great work and Tia and Katie should be proud of themselves.

**B. Hoosac Valley Elementary/Middle/High School - School Improvement Plan Presentation** - Erin Beaulac, Chris Sposato and Colleen Byrd asked the committee to look at the SIP as a collaborative plan - handed out the intense plan but will present with a bulleted presentation. Each school created a short easy mantra to remember: Elementary School: Kind.Connected. Visible; Middle School: Engaging Every Student Every Day; High School: Connect.Build.Own.Reflect. Each school has 3 strategic objectives, how they look in the elementary, middle and high school. **Objective One (elementary):** Staff will implement new curriculum with integrity and analyze impact on student learning through the use of the Formative Assessments for Results cycle (FAR Cycle) and FastBridge data collection - offering P.D. for staff (Fastbridge, new ELA curriculum, FAR Cycle) Learning targets will be visible, will be aligned to curriculum will be rigorous and engaging - reflecting on regular formative assessments: utilize FAR cycle, progress monitoring, use results to differentiate instruction; Implementation of curricula with integrity: ELA: wit and wisdom, foundations and Heggerty; Math: Eureka/Engage NY; **Objective One (middle):** Staff will implement curriculum with integrity and analyze impact on student learning through the use of Formative Assessments for Results cycle and Fastbridge data collection - Fastridge Administration, data meetings; Building Based Teams; **Objective One (high):** Staff will implement curriculum with integrity and analyze impact on student learning through the use of Formative Assessments for Results cycle and Fastbridge data collection - well structured lessons - staff working in departments/independently to complete curriculum maps, update maps and prepare for department presentations June, 2022; ILT/TEAMS to use protocols to access the integrity and effectiveness of formative and summative assessments; FAR cycle; Adjustments to Practice - ILT/teachers review data as part of FAR Cycle; Coaches reviewing fastbridge data; Co-Teaching in all 8th grade classes and identified areas of need; BBT's. Mike Henault asked Erin if she has found time to have grade level teams to analyze and reflect on the formative assessments? Erin is trying to implement within the confine of the contract - the teachers meet at grade level teams and trying to think outside the box for administration to meet with teachers. Chris: appreciates Aaron and Kristen for aligning the schools and it's refreshing and going to see a lot of commonality. We do have common planning for our grade level teams and to look at data. Colleen stated that she is proud to say we are all doing this together as one team. We are working on clarifying the journey... taking a look at data and analyzing the data and proud to say that our data is increasing. **Objective 2 (elementary):** HVRSD promotes the learning and growth of all students through instructional practices that establish high expectations, create a safe and effective classroom environment, and demonstrate cultural proficiency - Use language from curricula that model high expectations within lessons for all students; use fastbridge data to determine student scaffolds; supporting classroom practices - SEL support; behavior approach, classroom environment; teacher of department to reinforce RC practices and behavior throughout the building; **Objective 2 (middle):** HVRSD promotes the learning and growth of all students through instructional practices that establish high expectations, create a safe and effective classroom environment, and demonstrate cultural proficiency - Implementation of UDL; use of high leverage teaching practices such as providing exemplars, rubrics, guided practice Use of appropriate inclusive practices tiered supports, scaffolded instruction. **Objective 2 (high):** - HVRSD promotes the learning and growth of all students through instructional practices that establish high expectations, create a safe and effective classroom environment, and demonstrate cultural proficiency - Clarifying the journey; connect, build, own, reflect; meeting diverse needs: differentiation, TIER I across the board, co-teaching and coaching; ESL Liaison, restorative circles/code of conduct; SEL block. **Objective 3 (elementary):** Faculty/staff/administration will create, implement, and/or ost a variety of communication strategies in order to support the mission of the district - Host family events at school, communicate school information in families native language, parent-teacher conferences, regular communication with parents/guardians; **Objective 3 (middle):** Faculty/staff/administration will create, implement, and/or ost a variety of communication strategies in order to support the mission of the district - Weekly quick-notes (newsletter) by administration - sent via messenger, post on website/facebook; meet the teacher night, family tips for supporting learning at school and home, family roundtable. **Objective 3 (high):** Faculty/staff/administration will create, implement, and/or ost a variety of communication strategies in order to support the mission of the district - Words from Byrd, quarterly 8th grade showcase events, meet Hoosac Valley, Parent/Teacher conferences, Dean's quarterly newsletter, LINK Crew Showcase Newsletters, social media update; Partner with Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, the family resource center, and Juvenile Court to strengthen and support more services available to students and families. Regina Hill asked Colleen if she feels she is reaching more families then in the past in doing those things? Colleen thinks they are, it seems to be a real want and need and families have been interested in coming in and meeting. Received emails from families when they get the Word from Byrd. Have heard a lot more this year in particular. Mike Henault asked what percent of families are you reaching for meetings? We have been holding about 3 a day, 15 a week. Regina Hill asked Chris: how is communication going in middle school? Do you feel like you are reaching out to parents and are they responding? Chris said this year parents are more responsive. More of a need for that connection. Mike Mucci: doing the SIP as a collaborative effort is this something you recommend going forward? Erin Beaulac: coming from Springfield where there are 33 elementary schools alone, we are unique and we have the ability to move in the right direction, Chris, Colleen and I talk, sharing ideas, we all have different skills and learn from each other, students and staff are starting to notice it and we realize that we are going towards

unity and to have a superintendent that supports us is makes it all the better. The DIP directly connects to all three of us and the goals we have are attainable because of how it is set up.

Mike Mucci recommends we table the SIP for vote for the next meeting to give the committee time to review.

**103864 Report of Superintendent**

**A. Covid Update** - brief updates: since we started collecting the data we had 21 cases in the district. Prior to that, the state wasn't collecting the data yet. We are collecting the vaccination info. It is a multi step cycle. The nurses will follow up with families and can look at the state for information. Of the 130 that responded to the survey, 51% reported that they are vaccinated. 31% they are planning to get vaccinated. We still have an 80% threshold. There are 20 schools across the state that did reach the 80% threshold. We are holding a vaccine clinic for ages 5 - 11, on November 15th and the follow up date will be 12/6-21. The link was shared with families and will put it out on social media.

**B. Superintendent Goals** - Proposing goals to go along with the SIP. It's the principal's job to develop staff and it's my job to develop the principals and the leadership team and it's a job that I take very seriously. COVID caused a lot of disruption to the district. We haven't had a normal school year in two years and our students didn't make the typical growth so there is a lot we have to do to promote that growth. Student Learning - Goals: In order to address the COVID slide, I will complete monthly walkthroughs with each building leadership team and provide learning experiences to the leadership team in the areas of data analysis and feedback to educators, so that by June, 2022 data collected will indicate growth in the faculty's use of high leverage teaching practices and student growth on benchmark assessments. Mike Henalt asked when the committee evaluates the success of this goal, what are the measures that we will see to see this goal being achieved? Aaron: we have baseline information on practices in all the buildings, the goal will be 85%, will we get there? Only time will tell. My goal is a level of full implementation. Mike would like to have specific MCAS goals. If we want to see either growth and change in proficiency it is a good measure to include, not that it has to be a specific measure Mike Henault asked if walkthroughs and analyzing of the walkthrough data going to directly lead to growth and the use of high level teaching practices and to student growth on fastbridge assessment? Aaron stated yes, that is the plan.

Professional Practice goal: In order to promote consistent transparent two way communication with families and to better promote the work of the district, I will develop a communication plan that maps out communication sources and their use for sharing and gathering of information district wide. This plan will be completed in June, 2022 and implemented in September, 2022. We really need to take strides in our communication and have a real plan on what and how we are communicating and we are telling the story of what we want the people to know about the district. I want to hear people's stories, there's a great deal of success from alumni that we need to share.

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

VOTED: to approve the Superintendent goals as presented.

**103864 Chairman's Report - None**

**103865 Unfinished Business - None**

**103866 New Business - None**

**103867 Action Items - None**

**103868 For the Good of the Order**

Nannette Reid: Thank you to the administration for the presentation of the SIP.

Mike Henault: thanked the elementary school for the trunk or treat - great community building and it was nice to be a part of it.

Adam: Agreed with Mike - great event

Regina: Agreed with Mike & Adam.

**MOTION:** On Motion of Adam Emerson and second by Erin Milne:

VOTED: to go into executive session at 7:55 p.m. for the sole purpose: to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous. The Committee will not reconvene in open session.

**MOTION:** \_\_\_\_\_ On Motion of Adam Emerson and second Erin Milne:

**VOTED:** To adjourn the regular meeting at 7:55 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. 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>