

## MINUTES

Hoosac Valley Regional School Committee  
School Committee Meeting  
Monday, October 4, 2021 - 6:30 p.m.

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

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

**ABSENT:** Bethany DeMarco, Nannette Reid

**OTHERS:** Superintendent Aaron Dean

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**103846 Call to Order**

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

**103847 Public Comment or Questions - None**

**103848 Approval of Minutes - September 13, 2021**

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

VOTED: to approve the September 13, 2021 minutes. The vote was unanimous.

**103849 Report of Treasurer/Business Manager -**

**A. E & D -** Erika Snyder reported that E & D was certified by the Department of Revenue (\$992,230) 4.91% of FY 22 budget, allowed to have up to 5%. Hopeful that we are able to maintain that.

**103850 Report of Sub Committee - None**

**103851 Communications -**

MCAS Data - Kristen Palatt, Director of Curriculum stated her job is to review the MCAS data and to paint a clear picture of the why. Kristen presented the MCAS data from grades 3 - 8 in both ELA and math (see attached powerpoint). We have committed to putting into place structures and practices. We need to tip the scale from trending to growth. Erin Milne asked if they released the SGP numbers? Kristen stated that they did. We averaged between 20-30%, we are ideally looking for 40-60% but we would like to see higher than 60%. Mike Henault asked how our low income and special education did? Josh Dickson stated that our trends match that of the district. We really focused on the middle and high school working together as a group in terms of looking at MCAS data as a whole. We identify there is a lot of room for growth, we see a consistent decline from performance in 3rd grade to 6th grade. Our next steps, as a whole faculty, is looking at the areas we need to target. We found, as a department, we made good choices targeting the foundation pieces. Kristen wanted to end with a quote from Jon Saphier (CEO of RBT) "despite all our good work in recent years, there is a large gap in what our students are achieving and what they need to achieve and could achieve".

**103851 Report of Superintendent**

**A. District Improvement Plan -** Aaron presented the District's Improvement plan. To lay the groundwork, came in 2019 started learning about where we were with curriculum, assessments, programs and then we got hit with a pandemic

which put us more into a survival mode. Looking at grade levels, we needed more rigor in our ELA curriculum. Grades 4 - 8 stuck out as areas we need to put more focus and support. The math implementation was happening in the middle of a pandemic and you see the results of that. One of the pieces we are looking at the middle school level is the integrity of the implementation of that program. One other piece was gathering information from families and looking at surveys and if there is a disconnect of what we are doing in the classroom and creating that connection and finding ways for families to know of their child's performance. One piece about this district is everyone wanted to do well and everyone was trying to make it go well. Looking at the first page of the DIP: **Objective 1:** Staff will implement curriculums with integrity and analyze impact on student learning through the use of Formative Assessments for Results (FAR cycle) and Fastbridge data collection. There are only 5 actions: 1. Training in and implementation of each new curriculum and intervention program; 2. Development of an alignment map to provide clarity and consistency around the district approved curriculum and resources at the tier 1, tier 2 and tier 3 level; 3. Training in and implementation of high leverage instructional practices and the Formative Assessment Results. This is where we are getting our high level practices in. Mike Henault asked if you have matched high leverage practices either district wide or level specific? Aaron stated that we are going into each school at the high school, learning target, and middle school focused on formative assessment that can be used across content areas. At the elementary level, focus on the implementation of the 3 new curriculum. As we look at data and how stagnant in grades 4 - 8 we worked to create success, everyone has common planning time, we have co teaching in 8th grade, past couple of weeks that is what we are diving into. There is an urgency. There are challenges and we are working our way through these pieces. Schedule wise we are set up really well in grades 4 - 8; 4. Implementation of a consistent data review cycle utilizing Fastbridge and formative assessment data to drive instructional planning and decision making. We have gone through the data and presented it to 2 out of the 3 buildings. We really are committed to looking at data with various stakeholders across contents and we are really informed in the decision making. 5. Training for and support of building based and district level Instructional Leadership Teams (ILT's) to provide teacher voice in decision making and support staff with program implementation and instructional practice. **Objective 2:** 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. This is about supporting the student socially/emotionally and getting to the point that they can do it, we believe in them. Looking at our actions we are entry level, we have to start somewhere to build consistency - 1. School leadership teams will work together to align handbook policies and procedures to ensure clarity and consistency with expectations, supports, and information being provided to students and families with an equity lens. We are looking to align the handbooks, looking into building equities into our policies; 2. Expectations district wide will be aligned with the tenets of P.R.I.D.E.; 3. Training in and implementation of Restorative Practices at all levels. This is going to happen with SAC and deans of students, we do have some staff that are trained and have implemented these practices and should have consistently at all schools; 4. Training in and support around implementation of SEL strategies in the classroom. This is something we are making a committee with faculty to address SEL and practices, will get more in depth when we get through the school year; 5. Building administration will explore SEL programs with the goal of selecting a consistent SEL program for each building by the 2022-2023 school year; 6. Implementation of a consistent data review cycle utilizing Panorama staff student and family survey data. We have a calendar, give surveys 2x a year, examining data, learning experience for faculty, big picture from leadership all the way down to the classroom levels. Adam Emerson asked what is being communicated to families so they understand what and why we are doing it? Aaron stated there is not enough information around those areas yet. We communicated some around SEL strategies, it depends on grade level, teachers. We want to have consistent conversations on what we do. The PRIDE piece is our mantra and how we are going to do our work. **Objective 3:** Faculty/staff/administration will create, implement, and/or host a variety of communication strategies in order to support the mission of the district. 1. Fastbridge performance letters will be sent out to families following each benchmark period. This is really about establishing communication. We are sending home fastbridge performance letters. A lot of times families have no idea what we do. Mike Henault stated that he liked the video Kristen Palatt did with the fastbridge letter, very helpful for parents; 2. All documents will be translated and sent home in the preferred language of families. Josh Dickson hired a company to translate any documents that are sent home for our ELL students. Mike Mucci asked how many families does this affect? There are only a handful and they are at the elementary and middle and only 2 languages, Indonesian and Spanish, that need translation at this time; 3. All families will receive regular communication about new curricula and will be provided with opportunities to attend workshops and Q and A sessions about what their children are learning in the classroom. 4. Families will be invited to attend HVRSD events both in schools and in the community to ask questions, share concerns and celebrate successes. Part of the planning is to do coffee time, provide opportunities for families to meet. Erin Milne asked if planning to do this at different times during the day for families schedules: Kristen Palatt: yes, not only different times but different locations. 5. Building administration will explore communication platforms with faculty with the goal of selecting a consistent communication platform for each building by the 2022-2023 school year. Those that have multiple children in the district probably have experienced this. Trying to make it much more streamline and useful; 6. All stakeholders will be provided with the opportunity to provide feedback via Panorama student, staff, and family surveys. One additional piece doing a survey trying to get alumni information so that we can have that additional feedback and what we are doing well and what work we need to put in. Adam Emerson: have been doing the same family surveys just about every year. Is there any thought on giving a survey Sept./Oct., one around January and one at the end of the year so we can see regression throughout the year? Aaron: using the same platform and same survey last year. We did a pre and post to see where they are trending in terms of feedback.

Aaron stated that he is looking for approval from the committee for the DIP.

Mike Mucci appreciates the condensing of the plan. Mike Henault: Standard 2 - was something we talked about in the past - discussions around Standard 2 - Aaron: a lot of that happens during faculty time. One of the pieces is looking at equity around policies and how to create equities in the district. Other pieces around policies that aren't working and what we can do around that. We are going through a tier focus monitoring and coming out of that we can see where we stand and can make adjustments we need heading into next year. Josh: next year you will see our P.D. plan include social emotional, language proficiency, etc. This winter we have to submit our civil rights data which will give us more information to go over with our faculty, that information will be available this spring going into the fall.

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

Voted to approve the 2021-2022 District Improvement Plan. The vote was unanimous.

**B. COVID Update/Mask Policy Update** - Since our initial surge we dealt with in the beginning of the school, we haven't had cases for the last few weeks. Changes we put in place helped us get through keeping this at bay and thanked principals, nurses and custodians for all their hard work to make this happen. The mask policy has been extended until November 1st. Aaron is going to work with nursing staff to track down vaccinated numbers. Mike Henault asked would the district be required to enforce the mask mandate for the remaining 20%? How do you keep track of who is vaccinated and whose not? Aaron: Right now we are better off staying the course. Mike Mucci stated he would like to make sure we have a measure in place on who is vaccinated and knowing the data. Aaron stated that is on his agenda with the nurses.

**C. October Enrollment** - Aaron presented the October 1st enrollment numbers to the committee. See attached.

**103852 Chairman's Report - None**

**103853 Unfinished Business - None**

**103854 New Business - None**

**103855 Action Items - None**

**103856 For the Good of the Order**

Erin Milne thanked everyone for starting the really important and intensive work on the MCAS data.

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn the regular meeting at 7:47 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>

