

MINUTES

Hoosac Valley Regional School Committee
School Committee Meeting
Monday, May 9, 2022 - 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mike Mucci, Bethany DeMarco, Mike Henault, Adam Emerson, John Duval, Erin Milne, Regina Hill

REMOTE:

ABSENT:

OTHERS: Superintendent Aaron Dean

103930 Call to Order

Superintendent Aaron Dean called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

103931 Reorganization of Committee

A. Election of Chairman (by voice vote)

Superintendent Dean stated that we will take nominations and a vote for Chairman. Are there any nominations?

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

VOTED: by voice vote to nominate Mike Mucci for Chairman. Hearing no further nominations, the vote was unanimous.

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

VOTED: by voice vote to close nominations. The vote was unanimous.

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

VOTED: by voice vote to appoint Mike Mucci as Chairman. The vote was unanimous.

B. Election of Vice Chairman (by voice vote):

Chairman Mike Mucci stated that we will take nominations and a vote for Vice Chairman. Are there any nominations?

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

VOTED: by voice vote to nominate Adam Emerson as Vice Chairman. Hearing no further nominations, the vote was unanimous.

MOTION: On Motion by Mike Henault and second by John Duval:

VOTED: by voice vote to close nominations. The vote was unanimous.

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

VOTED: by voice vote to appoint Adam Emerson as Vice Chairman. The vote was 6-0-1

C. Election of Treasurer

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

VOTED: to appoint Richard Jette as Treasurer. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous.

D. Election of Assistant Treasurer:

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

VOTED: To appoint Mike Mucci as Assistant Treasurer. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous.

E. Election of Secretary

MOTION: On Motion of Regina Hill and second by John Duval:

VOTED: to appoint Aaron Dean as secretary. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous.

F. Election of District Counsel

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

VOTED: to appoint Dupre Law Office as District Counsel. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous.

G. Appointment of Sub Committees: Chairman Mike Mucci will email committee members about assignments.

103932 Public Comment or Questions - None

103933 Approval of Minutes - April 11, 2022

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

VOTED: to approve the April 11, 2022 minutes. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 6-0-1

103934 Report of Treasurer/Business Manager - None

103935 Report of Sub Committee -

A. Audit & Evaluation - A & E met regarding Superintendent's contract. Will discuss under the Chairman's Report.

103936 Communications -

A. Pathways Presentation by Lyndsey McGinnis/ Tammie Shafer -

Lyndsey McGinnis and Tammie Shafer presented a powerpoint presentation on the Science Pathways. Lyndsey: Why pathways? Several schools in southern Berkshire County have been designated with these pathways, none in northern Berkshire as of yet. DESE Innovation pathways is a statewide initiative that aligns with Hoosac Valley's mission, philosophy and goals. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts launched the statewide High-Quality College and Career Pathways Initiative to close skill and achievement gaps. These are: Career Vocational and technical Education Pathways, Innovative Pathways and Early College Pathways. All 3 types of pathways include 6 components: Advising, labor market demand, integrated instruction, work based learning, credential preparation

and post secondary linkages. Pathway course sequencing draft: Environmental/outdoor leadership: 9th grade: environmental science; 10th grade: biology (MCAS yr), 11th-12th grade: Chemistry or AP environmental science/ environmental sustainability - Additional Environmental electives: outdoor leadership, conservation and stewardship environmental sustainability Mike Henault: what percentage of students for environmental science take the AP test? Tammie states that it is sporadically offered.

Farm to School: We went from building our sheds, to growing and harvesting and we are now in our second growing season. Mike Henault asked if the shed was built by the timber framing class. Lyndsay stated that it was, we received a \$25,000 grant.

Conservation & Stewardship: Students are removing invasive species, corridor clearing and many do not know but the Nature Trail is on wetlands and students are working on re-routing the trail.

Outdoor leadership & environmental awareness: Post-Secondary Linkages: AP environmental Science now offered as Environmental Sustainability (concurrent dual enrollment) MCLA - B.S. in Environmental Science; BCC Environmental Science A.S; GCC has various A.S. and certificate programs, such as adventure education, environmental conservation, farm and food systems, outdoor leadership, science of earth and environment; Williams College - Environmental Studies. The Extracurricular Activities at Hoosac Valley are Garden Club/Farm-to-school program; The Green Team/Recycling with the Leo Club; Ski Club; Nordic Ski Team and Cross Country. We have established community connections with Greenagers, Red Shirt Farm, Berkshire Outfitters, Tamarack Hollow, NBMSW and Ramblewood. We have many potential community connections such as CET, Berkshire Beat, Bousquet Mountain, Berkshire East, Jiminy Peak, Zoar Outdoor, MA Fish & Wildlife.

Outdoor Leadership & Environmental Progress: Meeting with Heather and Michelle from MassHire. On January 26, 2022 we had an electives department meeting; On January 27, 2022, we had pathway discussions with Hoosac Valley, MCLA and BCC; On February 2nd & 9th we had professional goal/department meetings. Will have additional meetings on April 6th & 13th, on June 2nd we have a webinar with DESE.

Tammie Shafer: PLTW started in 2017. We added on human body systems and medical interventions this year. 3 biomedical courses within the program. This is our 4th year. We have 2 girls that have finished all 3 courses - one is going into neuroscience and the other is going into nursing. Pathway course sequencing draft: PLTW Biomedical: Core: 9th grade Honors Biology; 10th grade Chemistry; 11th grade AP Chemistry; 12th grade AP Biology. PLTW Principles of Biomedical Science: Intro Course (9th or 10th grade); Human Body Systems (2nd) and Medical Interventions (3rd). Our established community connections are with: Berkshire Medical Center, General Dynamics (grant) Brien Center, Berkshire Health Systems Career Pipeline programs, Berkshire Workforce Board. Local Post-Secondary Program: MCLA (B.S. in Health Sciences - 7 concentrations & B.S. in Nursing); BCC (A.S., B.S. Nursing and Health Sciences); McCann (4 degree program); Williams College (B.S. Biomedical or Bioinformatics); UMass-Amherst (Biochemistry)

The power of transportable skills- this is something PLTW is working on - this is changed from skills based to locating at the transportable skills: areas are problem solving, creating thinking, collaborating and thinking, ethical reasoning and mindset.

Mike Henault: What are we doing to recruit 9th grade students who may be interested in these pathways? Tammie: In 8th grade we have medical detectives, which is an exploratory.

Mike Henault: How many students in the pathways are mostly girls? Tammie - in hers it is mostly girls in her pathway.

Tammie: we should be promoting this to the public- there is no other school that has biomedical pathways.

John Duval: for biomedical - have you reached out to Adams Ambulance? Tammie - yes, we have.

Adam Emerson: Are we tracking data? Colleen Byrd: yes - we have it broken out with what the students' interests are. We are starting to collect the data on how many students graduated from the pathways.. We just started this last year.

Regina: Are you tracking the data for students who take a course here and there?

Colleen: We developed the pathways when John Vosburgh was here then COVID hit and we are now tracking the 3 pathways and who is following all the way through and the students who are dipping in and out. We are being clear to families that students do not have to take a pathway. Anyone who isn't sure what they want to do, can dip a toe into it.

Bethany: Anyway to get the middle school involved in the pathways - Lyndsey - this is going to be part of the step up program.

Next Steps for DESE pathways Innovations Designation:

Timeline for School Year 2022-2023:

Innovation Pathways Part A application and separate planning grant application posted by End of April 2022 still waiting for announcement; June 2nd Webinar - pre-registered with DESE; Continuing to partner with Heather and Kat from Massshire; Continuing to develop our community connections; continuing to focus our high school science.

Aaron: stated that we received a grant for early childhood - looking at that as a pathway, working with MCLA. Will bring that information at the next meeting.

B. Overnight Field Trip - Lyndsey McGinnis - would like to get approved for an overnight camping trip up Mt. Greylock. Would like it to be the 1st week in June. Presented to students that took the conservation stewardship class. Can only take 10 students. Students are excited about this - not sure how many would actually commit.

Mike Mucci stated that if Colleen could get all the waivers, etc. He thinks this is a great idea.

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

VOTED: to approve the field trip to Mt. Greylock. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous.

103937 Report of Superintendent -

A. Savoy Tuition Agreement- Tuition Agreement for Savoy students coming to HVHRD. This agreement now includes grades 7 & 8 which it hasn't in the past. Using the same formula we used for high school. Savoy handles the transportation. See attached Memorandum of Understanding.

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

VOTED: to approve the Savoy Tuition Agreement. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous.

103938 Chairman's Report -

A. Superintendent's Contract & Salary - A & E subcommittee met and recommended that we put together another 3 year contract. When Aaron was hired - he needed to go through the Superintendent Induction Program. - the committee agreed to pay \$6,000 per year towards that program. Aaron will be finishing up this 3 year program and the district will no longer have to pay for that. The recommendation is that we take the \$6,000 and add to his salary. In year 2 of his contract he received a 1 % raise and year 2 a 2% raise. We are recommending a 2% raise and adding the \$6,000 we were paying for the Induction program. Reached out to MASC and had them send comparable salaries for similar schools, we received the database for the entire state and showed the education level, years of service, etc. - we are in the bottom third with the base salary. Aaron has done an exemplary job in his 3 years he has been here. Any comments from the committee? Bethany - MASC gave numbers and we felt that the suggestion we are making falls in line where he should be amongst his peers. Erin Milne asked if the 2% increase would be before the \$6,000 is added? Mike Mucci stated before we add the \$6,000. Mike Henault: What is the total percentage 7%? Mike Mucci: his current salary is 131,500 - this gets him to \$141,130. The piece from MASC the typical percent is the 2 - 3% range. Mike Henault: given current inflation rate given a 7% bump, puts us in line but still leaves us in the bottom third.

Mike Mucci asked if Aaron had any questions? Aaron did not.

Mike Mucci will have District Counsel prepare the agreement and will bring the contract forward at the next meeting.

103939 Unfinished Business - Cheshire Lease: Aaron: counter proposal from Cheshire maintains the \$12,500 for this year and next year is \$2,000 per month or \$24,000 per year. They felt maintaining the \$12,500 for this year was a good faith effort and staying here and having presence here is worthwhile to take a 3 year lease with \$12,500 this year and \$24,000 for the following 2 years. Mike Mucci: The \$10,000 we were paying is low and we recognize that. We agreed to \$2,000 a month with a minimum of 2

years. Aaron sent the revised lease with that proposal, but hasn't heard back yet from the Town. Mike Heneault: one concern was the mold? Where does that stand? Aaron: They had a test and we are clear in our spaces with the mold. Erin Milne would like to see the amended counter agreement before we vote.

Mike Mucci: Will table a vote until the next meeting, if we have the amended lease by then.

103940 New Business: None

103941 Action Items - None

103942 For the Good of the Order -

Bethany DeMarco: hoping MCAS goes well for the middle schoolers.

Regina Hill Adam Hines is now running for Lt. Governor. Supported Adam when he first ran for State Rep. Going to be outwardly supporting Adam under her name but as a school committee member. He has supported Western Mass. very well. And looking forward to seeing him as Lt. Governor. Would like HVRSD join Regina to support Adam.

Mike Mucci: Will be supporting Adam Hines as well. Also, before the meeting he was out at the track meet measuring shot puts as Hoosac was taking on Taconic. Great to see everyone outside and using the facilities we have at the school

Adam Emerson: wishing seniors well in their finals.

Mike Henault: would like to acknowledge the work at Elementary in family engagement. They had a STEAM night and it was well attended and nice to see the community together and the work the PTG is doing. This just did a penny war and never saw his kid that excited about a fundraiser and it was good spirited with a competitive edge about it.

Erin Milne: coming off teacher appreciation week and giving a shout out to educators for their brilliant work.

John Duval: My first meeting, this is a great group and looking forward to working with everyone.

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

VOTED: to go into executive session at 8:30 p.m. for the sole purpose to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares. The committee will not reconvene in open session. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Dean, Superintendent

Lisa Bresett, Recording Secretary