

MINUTES

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

PRESENT: Mike Mucci (attending remotely), Bethany DeMarco, Mike Henault, Adam Emerson, John Duval, Regina Hill

ABSENT: Erin Milne

OTHERS: Superintendent Aaron Dean

103943 Call to Order

Vice Chairman Adam Emerson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

103944 Public Comment or Questions - None

103945 Approval of Minutes - May 9, 2022

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

VOTED: to approve the May 9, 2022 minutes. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous.

103946 Report of Treasurer/Business Manager -

A. Authority to Borrow

"That the District Treasurer be authorized, under the provisions of General Laws Chapter 71, Section 16(g) as amended by Chapter 134 of the Acts of 1972, and with the approval of the Chairman of the District Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section ".

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

VOTED: To approve the authorization to borrow. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous.

103947 Report of Sub Committee - None

Committees have been formed and will schedule meetings for the near future

103948 Communications -

A. Program of Students Presentation - Megan Sookey

Presenting items that have changed - refer to hand out - page 8 - new courses - currently in rotation A - Rotation B will be next year. New - physical science, science of cooking, anatomy and physiology being brought back . Medical Intervention now being offered every year.

Mike H asked how student input played a role in the selection of courses. Teachers were asked what they would be willing to teach and that list was distributed to the student body via google form.

K Pallatt explained how grade 9 students gave input on course offerings as part of their civics project and what they may do differently next year to retain students. Dig deeper into what would make students stay. Adam asked how we can incorporate that into 8th grade as well - Megan and Kristen Pallatt both felt this was a great idea and in 8th grade they too have a civics course and considered it for a project.

Meghan Rogers reiterated how much the students have been involved and how important it is for their voice to be heard.

Regina Hill asked if there was the possibility of doing a dual course offering and having 2 courses that complement each other be taken together in one semester to broaden the ability for students to take more courses.

Kristen explained how they are open to thinking outside the box and trying new things.

Adam - asked if there has been thought of reducing AP and instead offering more dual enrollment courses for college credit, Aaron explained that there are some hurdles in doing this that they have come across when trying to do this.

Trying to get more concurrent courses going, and with Lindsay McGinnis classes next year, it's a first step. The Megans spoke about how much they have been pushing this and encouraging the classes that can be taken for college credit.

Adam recommended a summary page to this booklet in order to put attention to the new courses and changes from year to year. Committee felt it was important that parents and students have access to these documents early.

Megan said a challenge is getting teachers to advocate for these courses and it needs to be a school wide initiative to get the message out. Mike asked what the barrier would be and in most cases it is contractually not an obligation for teachers to participate therefore there is not a large teacher presence at pathways nights, after hours showcases etc.

Bethany wondered if Kristen can do some more videos in the highlights for parent newsletters. Kristen mentioned that the career fair was such a huge success it might be helpful to also do an exploratory fair to give students an opportunity to see what the different courses can offer. Megan mentioned that they were able to retain 4 students who had originally wanted to leave.

B. SEL Curriculum Selection Update - K Pallatt, C Sposato, E Beaulac

Kristen Pallatt spoke about how they were hoping to come to this meeting with selections, but they are not there yet. They want to do it right and not rush. Much research has been done and the timeliness of this task is extremely important. Wide variety of members on the SEL committee ranging from parents, paras, gen. ed and sped teachers, admin and guidance counselors. Initially wanted to find a PreK-12 curriculum - but they did not find one that would work in that capacity. Relying on casel program tool to help select - see hand out for time line of work that has been done thus far. Handout outlines casel program criteria and our district specific program criteria. Kristen went through the progress made so far through meeting 4. 5th meeting happening this Thursday with narrowed focus specific to curriculums that have been selected as meeting the most criteria for each school.

Regina asked when this will be presented to the committee and if there will be time to approve and order all materials and train staff. Kristen said there is not a lot of up front preparation which was part of the criteria used to find the right curriculum. Mike Henault mentioned how Responsive classroom is awesome but requires a mind set change and that will take time to make a move to their style of classroom. Did we plan on this being a multi year process? Kristen said yes and we have to be prepared to take the first several PD sessions to get all of the training teachers need.

After that there would be as much to cover at once. Adam asked if we are potentially throwing too much to teachers with the new curriculum that was just rolled out this year and now another layer of new changes. Erin B said much thought and consideration has been put into this and the schedule next year has been changed in a way to accommodate and carry out responsive classroom well. Staff have an overwhelming desire to implement. Not denying that it's a heavy lift, but they do feel they have the support of staff to take this on. Mike H asked how middle school program being kit based, will be effective without a morning meeting in their schedule. Chris Sposato spoke about how the middle school will accommodate SEL once a week as part of their WIN block. Kristen said implementation for this program is just once a week which works for this schedule. Mike H asked if this aligns with the P.R.I.D.E. lessons that have been a focus this year - Kristen said there is the ability to make connections to what they have already learned. John D asked what the measurements for success are. Chris said the number of referrals to SSC or to the office as well as the data from students themselves should be telling in terms of how the program is working. Mike asked why Olweus wasn't in the programs that were explored in depth. Aaron explained how at the highschool level they needed to address topics on a more conversational level, not scripted. Number of minutes in a day / week spent on SEL activities varies based on school / grade level. There was a conversation about benchmarking and having indicators set up front. Mike asked if there is something in the panorama playbook that we could use since we are already paying for it - with the understanding that there will be a decent amount of work to take on to make that work..

C. Summer P.D. Series

Kristen presented our brochure for Summer 22 Learning series - see handout. She spoke about the wide variety of content these courses offer, while also being able to offer support. Majority of courses are taught by our own coaches and teachers. Put out to staff on Saturday June 4th and has already gained much interest. This will be the first year we have organized and offered something like this. Exploration of partnerships with neighboring schools is also taking place in hopes of being able to collaborate in the future.

103949 Report of Superintendent -

A. Introduction of Director of Student Services/Ratification of Contract

Monica Zanin - introduced herself and extended thanks for giving her the opportunity to work with the District. Spoke about commitment and reiterated not just commitment to the district but to the students as well.

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

VOTED: to approve the contract as presented for the Dir. of Student Services A roll call vote was taken - The vote was unanimous.

B. School Committee Meeting Calendar 2022-2023

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

VOTED: to approve the School Committee 2022-2023 Meeting Calendar. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 5-0-1-

103950 Chairman's Report -

A. Ratification of Superintendent's Contract

Mike reviewed what legal counsel had suggested be removed in regards to superintendent's pay being tied to union increases. All other changes were more or less pronoun changes as well as a single change of switching ACRSD to HVRSD whenever mentioned. Mike opened this up for discussion and asked if Aaron had any questions or concerns. Aaron appreciated their trust in him for another 3 years.

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

VOTED: to approve the Superintendent's Contract. A roll call vote was taken- The vote was unanimous.

103951 Unfinished Business - Cheshire Lease:

Aaron has the updated lease which memorialized \$12,500 for this year and extends one more year at 24K at 2,000 per month. Lease runs through August 2023 with a 90 day option for either party to end the agreement. With uncertainty in the building, we must have open lines of communication moving forward and be open about needs and their plans for this building while also keeping options open continuing to look for other space if we should need to move. Adam asked if it makes sense for this to become part of the Maintenance committee's responsibilities to discuss and explore logistics of moving and what that would look like. .

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

VOTED: to approve Cheshire Lease as presented . A roll call vote was taken- The vote was unanimous.

103952 New Business: None

103953 Action Items - None

103954

For the Good of the Order -

John D - congratulated the Scholz children on their STEM award at the general dynamics competition. And also wanted to recognize the HVHS band. Regina Hill congratulated the 2022 graduates of Hoosac Valley. Adam Emerson also wished good luck to the graduates and to congratulate the undergraduates receiving awards tonight. Also highlighted the drumming students at HVE

MOTION:

On Motion of Mike M and second by John Duval:

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. A roll call vote was taken- The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Dean, Superintendent

Erika Snyder, Recording Secretary