

MINUTES

Hoosac Valley Regional School Committee
School Committee Meeting
Monday, August 1, 2022 - 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mike Mucci, Mike Henault, Adam Emerson, John Duval, Erin Milne

ABSENT: Regina Hill, Bethany DeMarco

OTHERS: Superintendent Aaron Dean

103955 Call to Order

Chairman Mike Mucci called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

103956 Public Comment or Questions - None

103957 Approval of Minutes - June 6, 2022

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

VOTED: to approve the June 6, 2022 minutes. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous.

103958 Report of Treasurer/Business Manager - None

103959 Report of Sub Committee -

A. Maintenance

Met 8/1 to discuss needs both from the past and current. Looking at immediate and long term needs with a joint meeting October 3rd with principals. Roof projects are necessary at both locations - high school is under warranty - bid through Garland who owns the warranty. Waiting for feedback on pricing they received. Will go back to keeping a running list of projects in the queue and those that have been completed

103960 Communications -

A. Adopting SEL Curriculum

See slideshow handout from Kristen Palatt - Kristen reviewed the process quickly and discussed what was selected and why it was the choice for anti bullying and SEL curriculum from K-12. A discussion took place around the details of each curriculum chosen for grade ranges (K-3 Responsive Classroom, 4-8 Positive Action, 8-12 Olweus) and the implementation plans for each. Adam Emerson asked how many teachers within the district have used this curriculum already and will we be able to provide the supplies needed to successfully implement this curriculum. Kristen responded to say that all supplies have already been purchased for the Elementary piece (rugs, easels etc) and all morning meetings have been planned at the Middle / High School for the entire year as well as faculty meeting time being used to collaborate around implementation. Aaron mentioned that we will also be dedicating one of the first 2 PD days to this implementation as well as addressing it throughout the year in PD sessions. Walkthroughs have been scheduled in order to assess utilization and success over the course of the year. There are also program specific assessments that will be used to gauge success. Adam asked what the timeline was for utilization and what the life cycle is for these curriculums. It was clarified that these curriculums are to be used for the foreseeable future and we will give it the life cycle it deserves in order to be carried out meaningfully and successfully, which may be up to 3 years where we would then reassess.

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

VOTED: to adopt selected SEL and anti bullying curriculums as recommended by the SEL committee. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous.

103961 Report of Superintendent -

A. Athletic Director contract ratification

Contract was presented for Jeff Puleri for ratification. Aaron discussed the background of this position, why the position shifted to the current form and what we will benefit from it. He also discussed the interview and selection process that was used. There was a discussion around salary and how this aligned with teacher salary. Starting salary is 78,000. Position is full year (210 days) and the nature of the job is that of an Administrator level position.

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

VOTED: to ratify the Athletic Director's contract as presented. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 4-0-1

B. Shared Services Agreement

Agreement between NAPS and HVRSD for shared Athletic Director. Salary will be split 50/50 as well as benefits. Adam Emerson wanted clarification as to who the Superintendent listed in the contract is referring to. It was clarified that both Superintendents will have input and authority over this position. Adam also asked what the evaluation criteria would be for this. Mike Henault asked what the license requirements were. It was clarified that no license was required for this position. Mike Henault asked if there are any policies within the 2 districts that are significantly different whereas abiding by one would be going against another. This is to be looked into further as the AD navigates and begins to align many differences between the two school systems.

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

VOTED: to adopt shared services agreement with NAPS for a shared AD.. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous.

C. Middle/High School Cell Phone Policy

Findings from walkthroughs found cell phone use was excessive inside the classroom. Per this policy change, phones will no longer be allowed to be used inside the classroom during instruction. A second update will be to not allow use of cell phones during study halls. This will allow teachers and administration to reinforce these policies. Adam asked why this was not run first through the policy committee. It was determined this was more of a building based mandate than a district policy but should be treated as such. There was a discussion about adaptive devices - which are provided to students who need them. Same with any device needed for medical purposes. Phones have historically been used as calculators, to eliminate that, calculators have been purchased for all students at the high school level. Adam touched upon using them during emergency situations and how some families may have adverse opinions around this being taken away. Application of this policy and situation at hand will clearly determine how or when this may be permissible in an emergency situation. What will we do when the adults (teachers) allow the policy to be broken? Aaron is using these few changes as a reset in policy and expectation of teachers in regards to managing their classrooms cell phone use. There was a discussion in regards to hallway time - which is allowed per policy during passing times. There was a question as to whether any teachers are using their phones as teaching devices. Another question was if this will be applicable to teachers as well. Adam asked how we can make this a positive as opposed to taking something away from you. Mike also asked where families stand on this issue. There was a discussion about doing more research with families and crafting a building based approach to reinforce current policy before changing it.

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

Adam asked that we follow up on the impact of these enforcements and see if there is a spike in detention / suspension as a result.

VOTED: to adopt the M/HS Cell Phone Policy. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous.

103962 Chairman's Report - None

103963 Unfinished Business - None

103964 New Business:

Mike Henault - MASC is hosting a Changing the Course course at PHS on Saturday Sept 17 at 8:15 am - which is rarely hosted locally - and is encouraging anyone who is interested to attend.

103965 Action Items - None

103966 For the Good of the Order -

Mike Henault - wishing good luck to the opening of school

Adam Emerson wanted to thank the NAPS committee and search committee as well as the community for their work and contribution with the shared AD position

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. A roll call vote was taken- The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Dean, Superintendent

Erika Snyder, Recording Secretary