

MINUTES

Hoosac Valley Regional School Committee
School Committee Meeting
Monday, December 11, 2023 - 6:30 p.m.
Hoosac Valley High School
125 Savoy Road, Cheshire, MA

PRESENT: Mike Mucci, John Duval, Andrew Przystanski, Erin Milne, Adam Emerson

ABSENT: Mike Henault

OTHERS: Superintendent Aaron Dean

104125 Call to Order

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

104126 Public Comment or Question - None

104127 Approval of Minutes - November 11, 2023

MOTION: On Motion of Erin Milne and second by Andy Przystanski

VOTED: to approve the November 11, 2023 School Committee minutes. The vote was 3-0-1

104127 Report of Treasurer/Business Manager - None

104129 Report of Sub Committee -

A. Negotiations - will address under para contract

104130 Communications -

A. Superintendent Award - Talia Rehill - Colleen read statements from Talia's teachers congratulating her on her academic success. Colleen remarked what a wonderful student she is and happy they built a great relationship over the years, a bright, caring student. Aaron presented the Superintendent academic achievement award to Talia.

104131 Report of Superintendent -

A. District Improvement Plan approval - Aaron thanked Kristen Palatt and Erin Milne for their work on the plan and pairing down the agreement. The most focused and highest quality DIP brought forward. Strategic Objective 1: High Standards and High Expectations for mutual partnerships between HVRSD and the Community - Engage local businesses in Pathway and internship development; Partner with local agencies to connect students and families with needed services; and open and maintain dialogue with caregivers through strengths and framework. End of year goals: Implement a central system for tracking community engagement and partnerships on both the internship and family support side. We have the family and community coordinator, should be tracking all these pieces, a lot of work happening. Research and recommendations for updated community partnership and internship policies - on end of year survey – at least 80% of caregiver respondents will respond favorably to questions regarding communication, resources and support for learning; What families to feel supported, we want our school district to be a resource for family and community; On end of year survey, at least 50% of caregiver respondents will report in person interactions regarding academics with their children's teachers more than once or twice per year. The communication with families, making them feel welcome, the teacher is an advocate for their child's education.

Strategic Objective 2: High standards and high expectations for academic success - promote student achievement; build teacher leadership capacity to promote and develop high leverage teaching practices; formalize assessment of inquiry-based learning, innovation pathways, and POG competencies; getting students the hands on experience, getting them to apply their experiences, going to get us to the next level; develop a shared vision for continuous improvement with an asset-based approach to student learning. Looking at the strengths of the students and their weaknesses, did a lot of work with individual student profiles. End of year goals; on end of year survey - at least 80% of students will respond favorably to questions regarding self efficacy and their belief they can succeed in achieving academic outcomes; at least 80% of staff will respond favorably to questions regarding their belief in students ability to learn and engagement in their classes; at least 90% of staff will respond favorably to prompts regarding the value and relevance of professional learning in the district; at least 80% of students at 65% of the national norm based on Fastbridge math and reading data grades 3 - 8; 4/4 points for achievement in Math, Science and ELA MCAS; at least 65% accountability points on MCAS; Established system for measurement of inquiry-based and applied learning, Innovation Pathways, and POG competencies. Understanding what it should look like in a classroom and having students apply their learning. Strategic Objective #3: High standards and high expectations for inclusive practice: Provide PD aimed at providing curriculum access points for all students in the classroom; Building understanding of implicit bias and cultural competence in order to create a more inclusive settings for all staff, students and families; Implementation of a district-wide, data-driven, cohesive Multi Tiered System of Support for students; Objective 3 - End of year goals: greater than 80% of staff will respond favorably to questions regarding their perceptions of the overall social and learning climate of the school; 80% of caregiver across disaggregated demographic groups will respond favorably to questions regarding their perceptions of the overall social and learning climate of the school; Evidence of use of differentiated instructional materials for students with disabilities in at least 80% of classroom walkthroughs; Narrowed equity gaps in referral, suspension and class failure rates for students from historically marginalized backgrounds including those with disabilities as measured by Powerschool. If we are doing our jobs, all students will be passing, achieving and growing. The work we are doing is the right work, holding everyone to high standards and expectations. Questions? Looking for the committee to formally approve the plan. Adam would recommend we send the DIP to the Towns and offer them an explanation, as well as posting on the website, giving that they were adamant to get it. Aaron does give it to them at their Board meetings. Will send it along and offer them the same thing, and can give them a synopsis of what it means. Erin Milne: Standard 3 - about inclusive practices, evidence of use of differentiated instructional materials for students with disabilities in at least 80% of classroom walkthroughs that's focusing on an accommodation model of disability and might want to tweak it a little to allow for an access model of stability if using UDL principles that might not be, as stated there, a differentiated instructional material, but it's still an inclusive practice for students with disabilities, maybe just tweak that language a little bit. Kristen: What would that look like? evidence of use of universally designed instructional materials? Erin: universally designed or differentiated. Kristen will make the change. Kristen reported that she met with Linda Tatro, our Powerschool Specialist and can pull the demographic data we've been looking for on students regarding attendance data, class grades, referral data based on race and ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status and disability status - that has been a gap on the data collection in the past. Hopefully we can identify current gaps, that was a highlight of this work. How can we measure what applied learning looks like - implementation of the pathways, what's the tool we are going to use as one of the end of year goals, we just got a grant through the States Applied Learning Grant - sending teachers from the middle and high school to schools who have applied learning really well, will come back with experience in these classroom and a clear picture of what it looks like. Erin stated we should put that in there as well. Kristen will put it in the school based one. John Duval: for the surveys we have staff and caregivers, would you consider putting students in there as well under strategic objection 3? Aaron: yes. Erin Milne: added a bullet to reflect that. See attached District Improvement Plan. Mike thanked Erin and Kristen and the team and the collaborative effort of putting this together.

MOTION: On Motion of John Duval and second by Erin Milne:

VOTED: to approve the District Improvement Plan as modified. The vote was unanimous.

B. MASC Policy Review Proposal - Aaron spoke with Glen Koocher at the conference and followed up with Liz Lafond who is going to be doing the work with us through MASC - proposal of \$7,500 broken up over 3 years in terms of the payment structure. Did give us a break of \$3,000 due to being a small district. Take all policies, all contracts and review them against current laws, and many other standards making sure all our policies make sense. Will help the committee as well, as they will look at our governance policies as well. Should take about a year and a half to complete. The monies will come out of our general contracted services budget. The policy sub committee will meet with MASC to review the policies. Will go over modifications and bring back to the S.C.

MOTION: On Motion of Adam Emerson and second by John Duval:

VOTED: to approve the contract with MASC to revise policy. The vote was unanimous.

C. Paraprofessional Contract - Executive Session - to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. - went into executive session at 7:10 p.m. The committee will reconvene in open session - the committee reconvened in open session at 7:20 p.m.

MOTION: On Motion of Erin Milne and second by Andy Przystanski:

VOTED: to ratify the Paraprofessional Settlement Agreement (1 year). The vote was unanimous.

104132 Chairman's - Mike Mucci talked about the process to fill Bethany DeMarco's departure. Due to change of residency, Bethany resigned, effective December 6, 2023.

104133 Unfinished Business - None

104134 New Business -

A. Regional Agreement Review - The Regional Agreement is dated 2019, but started the process in 2016. Mike Mucci recommends the document have a major overhaul every 10 years and a review every 5 years. Recommending that we put together the same committee last time, one school committee member from each town, one board of selectmen from each town, one finance board from each town, 2 community members and the superintendent, which totals 9.

104135 Action Items - None

104136 For the Good of the Order -

John Duval: wishing everyone a happy holiday

Adam Emerson: thanked Bethany for her years of service. Did a great job for our schools. Happy Holiday and good luck to our winter sports teams

Erin Milne: Thanked Bethany for her service and congratulations to Talia

Andy Przystanski: Congratulations to Bethany and happy holidays

Mike Mucci: Thanked Bethany and appreciate her time on the committee

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Dean, Superintendent

Lisa Bresett, Recording Secretary