

MINUTES

Hoosac Valley Regional School Committee
School Committee Meeting
Monday, January 13, 2025 - 6:30 p.m.
Hoosac Valley High School - Resource Room
125 Savoy Road, Cheshire, MA

PRESENT: Adam Emerson, Erin Milne, John Duval, Andy Przystanski, Fred Lora

ABSENT: Robert Tetlow

OTHERS: Superintendent Aaron Dean

104277 Call to Order

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

104278 Public Comment or Question - None

104279 Approval of Minutes - December 9, 2024

MOTION: On Motion of Andy Przystanski and second by John Duval

VOTED: to approve the December 9, 2024. The vote was 3-0-1 (Erin abstained)

104280 Report of Business Manager - S.C. Order 2502 - Exercise Transportation Contract Extension - Erika spoke about the bus contract extension. Rates are good. Provided the committee with a breakdown of year to year/ cost for buses. Will go out to bid again in 2027. Erika will send a letter to Dufour acknowledging we are engaging in the 2 year extension.

Submitted herein for your approval is a request to exercise Section 2.1 of the Transportation Contract with Dufour Escorted Tours, extending the contract to June 30, 2027.

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

VOTED: Be it hereby ordered to extend the contract with Dufour Escorted Tours an additional two years as per section 2.1 of the original contract. The vote was unanimous.

104281 Report of Sub Committee -

A. Maintenance Committee - Fred Lora: The biggest issue was middle school gym. One beam has a significant crack in it. Aaron reported the beam is getting repaired this week. The hoops in the middle were the major problem, waiting for an engineer's report. It's been deemed safe. Time to put a Statement of Interest for a project. All past the point of 25 years which is the requirement. Looking into an MSBA roof project and can encompass both schools. A project we will need support from both Towns. Rough figure was 8 million. Other issues - elementary gym roof is a repair issue not a replacement issue at this time. Stairwell by gym - showing damage by the boy's bathroom at the bottom of the stairs. Another issue, vandalized faucets, should go with a different type of faucet. Will reconvene with the subcommittee once we hear back from Hill Engineers.

B. Regional Agreement Committee - Actionable items: uncontested about doing a rolling average, 5 year. Meeting again at the end of the month. Unanimously returning the election - the Town of Adams residents will vote for Adams seat and Cheshire residents will vote for Cheshire seats for the School Committee. Some theories why it's under the current arrangement. Consensus of getting away from an at large. Aaron reached out to MARS they are going to do a report on assessments over the last 2 years. John: when would we expect a new agreement? MARS will do a process and timeline, doesn't think it would go through until FY27. Fred: if Adams votes for Adams and Cheshire votes for Cheshire, is it us vs. them? The only thing he can think of, playing

devil's advocate. It was unanimous at the meeting, this is the way we should do it. Fred - also talked about securing some state funding for a feasibility study to combine with other schools in Northern Berkshire County. When do you start having those conversations? Aaron: Now is the time to get the data on the table and start looking at the impacts.

104282 Communications -

A. Spotlight on Applied Learning - HVHS Student and Adult Advisory Board led by Keith Wright -

Kristen Palatt introduced Keith Wright and the students presenting. Keith spoke about SAAB and the mission - give space for students and staff to collaborate and bring out the best version of Hoosac. First group to use Greylock Glen after their opening - had a retreat there. Aaron reported they received a \$10,000 grant for SAAB. Students spoke about their experience and vision for the school. Q & A with committee and students. Adam thanked the students for their impressive presentation.

104283 Report of Superintendent

A. Superintendent Award - Colleen Byrd spoke about Kim Mach, recipient of the Superintendent's award.

Colleen read statements from Kim's teachers. Superintendent Dean presented the award.

B. Calendar Review - Aaron went over the events from January 16th - February winter break.

C. Attendance Review - Aaron discussed the numbers for absenteeism. Continue to make progress.

Attendance teams at the schools are doing solid work.

D. District Improvement Plan - Updates - 3 year Priorities -1. High Standards and High expectations for

mutual partnerships between HVRSD & the community. 2. High Standards and High Expectations for Academic Success & 3. High Standards and High Expectations for Inclusive Practices. Updates - Year 2: 1. Focus on MyCap Curriculum grades 4 -12, develop policies for community partnerships and internships. 2. Deepen our work on inquiry based and applied learning practices. 3. Provide access to rigorous curriculum for all our students. Aaron will share his presentation to the committee for their feedback. Take the feedback and discuss at the next meeting for approval.

E. Nurses 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 school committee; to conduct strategy sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

MOTION:

On Motion of Erin Milne and second by Andy Przystanski:

VOTED: to go into executive session at 7:51 p.m. 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 school committee; to conduct strategy sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. The committee will convene in open session. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous.

MOTION:

On Motion of John Duval and second by Fred Lora:

VOTED: To approve the Nurse's Contract. The vote was unanimous.

104284 Chairman's Report - None

104285 Unfinished Business -

A. Cheshire S.C. Vacancy - Adam Emerson: Mike Henault ended his tenure with us. Looking for a

representative to fill out the remainder of Mike's term which expires in May. If anyone knows of anybody who is interested, please have them apply.

104286 **New Business** - West Pointe educator visit. They host educator's across the district from March 30th - April 2nd. Housing and meals are included in this opportunity. Sent this information to Aaron and Erica Girgenti. If someone from the District wants to volunteer to let Fred know, but doesn't mean you would get selected if you volunteer.

104287 **Action Items** - None

104288 **For the Good of the Order** -

Fred Lora: Office call with General Dynamics - date is January 21st.

Adam Emerson: great to have a crowd of students here doing amazing work and congratulations to Kimberly Mach on her award.

MOTION: On Motion of Andy Przystanski and second by John Duval

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Dean, Superintendent

Lisa Bresett, Recording Secretary