

MINUTES

Hoosac Valley Regional School Committee
School Committee Meeting - Budget Vote
Monday, May 19, 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, Robert Tetlow, Fred Lora

ABSENT: Aaron Dean, Superintendent

OTHERS:

104325 Call to Order

In Superintendent Dean's absence, former Chair Adam Emerson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

104326 Reorganization of Committee

- A. Election of Chairman (by voice vote)
- B. Election of Vice Chairman (by voice vote)
- C. Election of Treasurer
- D. Election of Assistant Treasurer
- E. Election of Secretary
- F. Election of District Counsel
- G. Appointment of Sub-Committee

Reorganization of Committee:

A. Election of Chairman (by voice vote)

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

MOTION: On Motion of Adam Emerson and second by Andy Przystanski

VOTED: to nominate and appoint Erin Milne for Chairman. A voice vote was called. The vote was unanimous.

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

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

MOTION: On Motion of Adam Emerson and second by Andy Przystanski:

VOTED: to nominate and appoint Robert Tetlow for Vice Chairman. A voice vote was taken. The vote was unanimous.

C. Election of Treasurer:

MOTION: On Motion of Erin Milne and second by Robert Tetlow:

VOTED: to appoint Richard Jette as Treasurer. The vote was unanimous.

D. Election of of Assistant Treasurer:

MOTION: On Motion of Erin Milne and second by Robert Tetlow:

VOTED: To appoint Erin Milne as Assistant Treasurer. The vote was unanimous.

E. Election of Secretary:

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

VOTED: To appoint Aaron Dean as secretary. The vote was unanimous.

F. Election of District Counsel:

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

VOTED: To appoint Dupre Law Office as District Counsel. The vote was unanimous.

G. Appointment of Sub-Committees - Erin Milne asked members if they have particular interest or are interested in multiple committees let her know and she will discuss with Aaron.

104327 Public Comment or Question - Elizabeth Wilson, Cheshire resident. Wanted to share some information: took a month to think about it before coming, daughter is a freshman, part of the Varsity Basketball team for the past 2 years. This year had a scary circumstance, largely around basketball. Hoosac Valley, trains elite athletes, years of success in a lot of our programs. Daughter spent a couple of weeks in the hospital. Went in for severe malnutrition. Talked about breakfast and lunch at school and then after lunch, athletes don't have anything to eat until they get home. Sometimes not until 10:00 at night. Went to the hospital with a heart rate of 27, organs were failing, her body went into starvation mode. Lost 25 pounds in five weeks. Comes to school at 7:30 and under HVRSD supervision until late at night with sports. Very little education for athletes about nutrition. The more support she received from the community, it's a lot of the same story. Parents sharing their experiences with her and struggle with the nutrition aspect of an athlete. Doesn't know if there is a right answer. Something we could put into place, such as the concussion protocol, some type of course that students and families might be required to take before registering their child. Daughter eating 3,600 calories just to be an athlete. Important for families to know this information. She is not the only athlete going through this, not as severe as daughter, but similar instances. Doesn't want to see this happen to any other student. Looking for some type of protocol to protect our student athletes. Erin thanked Elizabeth for coming forward and will discuss with the Superintendent.

104328 Approval of Minutes - April 28, 2025

MOTION: On Motion of Andy Przystanski and second by Fred Lora:

VOTED: to approve the April 28, 2025 School Committee minutes. The vote was unanimous.

104329 Report of Business Manager -

A. Authorization 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, 2025, 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.

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

VOTED: to approve the authorization to Borrow. The vote was unanimous.

104330 Report of Sub-Committee - None

104331 Communications

A. Dave Irwin, audit director & Joe Collins, supervisor - Adelson & Company audit - 1st year using Adelson for our audit. Talked about what they do. Completed audit for 2024 year. Discussed the financial statements to the committee regarding the audit. Issued a clean opinion of the financial statements. The main financial statement, page 3, is the independent auditors report. Multiple basis of accounting inside the financial statements. Dave and Joe went over this statement with the committee. One recommendation: in regards to the order in which the school committee signs off the school warrants. Need to see the orders before checks are issued, could be an issue when COVID started. Accounting wise, no adjustments. Erin asked if they have any questions, upon close inspection of the report, who do they go to? Dave stated to go to Erika and she can bring any questions to them. Committee thanked Joe & Dave for their presentation.

B. Recognition of Sgt. Dixon - Fred sent out a recommendation to the committee. She is an active duty and recruiter for Berkshire County and also assistant soccer coach. Can't remember the last time a recruiter was an assistant coach in our high school. Positive attitude, met the criteria. Next step would be the presentation of the medal. Maybe during our last school committee, or at a soccer game, etc. Leave it for Aaron's discretion for the venue. Invitation should come from the school committee. Positive story for our District and Community.

Adam: the commander has to approve this? Is it a high chance that she will receive the medal? Fred: yes.

Erin: look for a motion to authorize the memorandum as written by Fred as part of the application

MOTION: On Motion of Fred Lora and second by Adam Emerson:

VOTED: : To approve Fred Lora to submit the memorandum to Air Force as part of documents for the medal.

C. Spotlight on Applied Learning - Kristen presented on applied learning - 2 invitations: Thursday as part of POG, a handful of Hoosac students are teaming up with other students in area schools: Berkshire Student Summit at BCC - invited the committee - May 22, 2025 at 8:45 a.m. May 29th from 5:30 to 7:00 HVMHS Student showcase - Walk the pathway of applied learning. Erin asked Kristen to send calendar invites.

D. Math Curriculum Council Presentation: Recommendation for Approval of a New Math Curriculum

Kristen Palatt, Alissa Rosier, Bridget O'Neil-Hopkins & Regina Deisz presented the new curriculum to the committee. Kelly Reichers, Kim Trimarchi and Marie McCarron also attended and were an integral part of this process. Why does curriculum matter? Providing teachers with access to higher quality, better aligned curricular materials can prompt improvement in students outcomes: The reasoning behind the change in curriculum: curriculum and instructional materials are a key component to making sure all students are successful; stronger material can help get students excited to learn and be more invested in their instruction; effective materials can make teaching more sustainable for teachers by providing them with resources they need for instruction and lessen the amount of time required to plan each lesson; Data was showing that the curriculum was not a match for our student and the teachers were asking for a change. Doesn't match grade level, outdated, not enough application.

Core element of the curriculum process: Monitoring, instructional vision, communication, pausing for equity, and professional development

The implement selection process: Turned to DESE - started with the Learn and prepare; investigate and select; launch; implement and monitor

HVRSD Pilot & Implementation: Week 1 - Preparing and learning together - Establish curriculum council, identify non-negotiables and prescreen, introduce HQIM, Curriculum literacy and scoring rubric. Week 2 - Material Investigation and Selection: Review reports and publisher materials/outline guidelines of field test, field test and pilot, meet with publishers, make a selection, communicate decision transparently with community. Week 3 - Preparing to Launch: Develop launch and monitor plan, create PLC and CP expectations, determine coaching plan, schedule professional learning, Administrator and Teacher Training. Week 4 - Implementation and Monitoring: PLC Facilitation, Training and Professional Development, Stakeholder Feedback.

The Curriculum Council Members were: Aaron Dean, Kristen Palatt, Regina Diesz, Alissa Rosier, Kelly Reichers, Kim Trimarchi, Laurie Cantarella, Sarah Kenney, Marie McCarron, Katie Chenail, Dawn Harrington, Morgan Clayton, Justin Luciani and Kathy Budaj

Instructional Vision for Math: This vision is what helped make the decision. Professional Learning: Curriculum Literacy: In HVRSD math instruction provides all students with the opportunity to acquire deep and lasting content knowledge, aligned with grade level standard and the Standards for Mathematical Practice. Math instruction leads students to see math as a dynamic set of problem solving strategies instead of the application of memorized algorithmic or computational procedures. Math instruction is culturally affirming, inclusive and prepares all students to excel in math and become problem solvers and partners in figuring out how the world works. Math classes take ownership over their learning by preserving and engaging in productive struggle; Utilize math vocabulary, strategies and resources to drive their own learning and build their fluency and flexibility with numbers; show and explain their thinking, identify patterns, structures, and repetition in order to find efficient pathways to solutions. Math Teachers: provide high expectations and high standards, provide clear goals for students to meet daily including measurable learning targets, criteria for success and formative assessment, building and facilitate classroom norms and routines to explore math topics from a student perspective, utilize high quality instructional materials, including key vocabulary that have a coherent scope and sequence, monitor student learning and make swift adjustments to ensure all students master the content, have a deep understanding of the content and the standards, including how concepts progress over time, connect mathematical concepts within and across grades; provide opportunities to explore concepts using a variety of models, including concrete (manipulatives), semi-concrete (tape diagrams, number bonds, drawing, etc.) and abstract (equations). Plan lessons that reflect the key instructional shifts that are required by state level standards; develop students' procedural skill and fluency from a place of conceptual understanding; assess student understanding in order to provide differentiated support.

Non-Negotiables: Pacing is reasonable and flexible; Strong Tier 2 & 3 within the classroom/differentiation (enrichment); Manipulatives - coaching/PD embedded prior and during; Student voice and choice (UDL); Intentional coherence (vocabulary, routines, family resources, etc.); Student centered learning with a focus on student discourse; Strong formative/summative assessments; Digital component (student access, teacher resources, etc).

Outlining the parameters of the pilot: Between September and January every math teacher in HVRSD piloted at least one unit of a new math curriculum. Each grade level was assigned the curriculum and unit that they were to pilot. Selected units were a direct replacement of a corresponding unit of Eureka. Once the one unit pilot is complete for their grade level, all teachers will go back to Eureka for the year. PreK-K - Eureka Math 2; Grade 1 & 2 - Reveal; Grade 3 - Eureka Math 2; Grade 4 - Eureka Math 2 and Reveal; Grade 5 - Reveal; Grade 6 & 7 - Eureka Math 2 and Reveal; Grade 8 - Eureka Math 2 (currently using the Reveal) Every grade level at least piloted one and some piloted two, by choice.

Implementation of the Pilot: Representatives from Reveal and Eureka- Beginning of the year P.D.; Weekly collaborative planning; walkthroughs and peer observations; curriculum Internalization training for Assistant Principals

Sent out a survey to students - Data Collection from Students: What kind of activities would you like to have in your math class; How important is it for the math curriculum to include help with learning new skills that is step by step? How important is it for the math curriculum to include opportunities to practice what we learn? How important is it for the math curriculum to include challenges or more difficult problems to push my learning? How important is it for the math curriculum to include learning math through real life problems? How important is it for the math curriculum to include use of technology or tools to make learning easier? How do you prepare to learn math?

Kristen will send the powerpoint to committee members - Unanimous from teachers and council it is:

The recommendation of the HVRSD Math Curriculum Council: Reveal Math - Derived from the latest research on how students learn best, Reveal Math is strategically designed to fuel active student engagement and deepen conceptual understanding. This coherent, vertically aligned K-12 core math solution will help you uncover the mathematician in every student through productive struggle, rich tasks, inquiry opportunities, and mathematical discourse. By encouraging curiosity, exploration and a growth mindset, Reveal Math allows students to see math as a dynamic set of problem-solving strategies instead of the application of memorized algorithmic or computational procedures. This powerful paradigm shift allows students to learn the language of math and demonstrate their fluency all along the road toward standards mastery. Reveal Math can empower by creating more equitable learning experiences. Whether you are in the classroom, teaching remotely, or utilizing a blended learning model, the purposeful technology and insightful instructional resources within Reveal Math will help you provide effective, multimodal differentiation and scaffolded support for students at every level.

Kristen: Important for us to do this right. Now we launch and implement & Monitor. Important that teachers are supported with P.D. Based on the teacher's input, Reveal is a better match. Kristen will send out the links to the committee to see the process.

Adam: cost? Kristen: Reveal - 5 years of student consumables, manipulatives kits for every classroom K - 8 was \$108,000 for five years. \$108,000 upfront cost. What are we currently paying for math? \$12,000 per school - \$108,000 is not unreasonable. Buy in? P.D. how do you see that going forward for the teachers that have to learn it and then implement it? Kim Trimarchi - teacher's are very excited, they are asking for something new. A giant focus on really building thinking classrooms, moving away from teacher directed. Eureka does not do it, harder for the kids and the teachers and is not child friendly. Kristen: continue to use [P.D](#) for the rest of the year and will include for the summer series. Will start the new year with a refresher for new teachers.

Erin: Pre-K and K - 8 covered - anything from 9 - 12 - plan is to pilot next year - we would like to pilot Reveal - if not a fit, we will have that discussion. Erin was able to attend a council meeting - a lot of thought to get as many voices as possible and impressed with the process. A heavy lift for you all.

MOTION: On Motion of Andy Przystanski and second by Fred Lora:

VOTED: To approve the Reveal Math Curriculum for grades K - 8 The vote was unanimous.

104332 Report of Superintendent - None

104333 Chairman's Report - None

104334 Unfinished business - Fred: beginning of school year talked about inviting the state Fire Marshal. That didn't occur, at this point. It is the committee's job and we should allow him to engage with our students and recognize him for the career he has had.

104335 New Business - None

104336 Action Items - None

104337 For the Good of the Order

Andy: congratulated Erin & John on the recent election

Adam: wish our athletic teams and wish our graduates luck as they end their high school career.

Erin: thanked Adam for his term as chair.

Fred: Looking forward to the assembly at the Elementary School. Monday is Memorial day - we have 2 students who will be speaking at the Adams Parade.

Robert: thanked Erika for the audit and the great job.

MOTION: On Motion of Adam Emerson and second by Andy Przystanski:

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Dean, Superintendent

Lisa Bresett, Recording Secretary