

Hampshire Regional School District School Committee Minutes
Monday, May 2, 2016
Hampshire Regional High School Library

Approved as amended
10.03.16

Members Present:

Chesterfield: Trish Colson Montgomery

Goshen:

Westhampton: Tarin Weiss, Karl Norris, Peter Cleary

Williamsburg: Sarah Christensen, Carl Schlerman

Southampton: Jon Moro, Margaret Larson, Tammy Walun~~au~~s, Bill Curran, Corey Braastad

Members Absent: David Nardi, Kristen Estelle, Jessica Judd, Lorna Shirer

Administration Present: Kristen Smidy, Bobbie Jones, Craig Jurgensen

Visitors Present: Jeanne Kowalewski, Peter Spotts, Todd Bryant, Karen Milch, Greg Reynolds, Linda Braastad

Chairperson Montgomery called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Norris, seconded by Mr. Moro the minutes of April 11, 2016 were unanimously approved as corrected.

Warrant

Warrant passed around for signature.

Announcements – there were no announcements

Presentation – Karen Milch, Evaluation Team Leader provided an overview of her position and job responsibilities, as well as special education. She shared current staffing and the number of students on IEPs. She explained the role of the ETL and the disabilities students at HRHS may present. A review of eligibility criteria for special education, the number of students tested and the time saved by having the ETL was reviewed. She shared challenges that included lack of collaboration time, scheduling, and paperwork. Ms. Weiss asked about a home work policy that guides the amount of homework. Ms. Smidy noted there is no policy but one is being considered for HRHS.

Mr. Reynolds shared the HREA report. Dr. Jurgensen agreed to support the HREA's request to pursue a policy on "vapes" and e-cigarettes.

Principal's Report – Ms. Smidy shared safety improvements as noted on pages 9 & 10 of her report. The improvements were briefly discussed. Ms. Norris voiced his support and Mr. Curran concurred that the specific improvement should be investigated. Mr. Norris and Mr. Cleary suggested changing the "Sally port" idea to a school entrance door that would re-direct visitors. After school safety procedures were question by Ms. Weiss.

Superintendent report -- Superintendent Jurgensen presented his report.

•Durham School Transportation Services has hired a new area manager. Michael Patrick will replace Ken Becker who has accepted a job at Westfield State University.

- Grinspoon Awards were held on Thursday, April 28 at the Log Cabin. Ms. Bush was honored.
- Contract negotiations are continuing in Hampshire Regional High School and Southampton. Chesterfield-Goshen and Westhampton contracts expire in August 2017. Negotiations at both schools will be initiated in the fall of 2016.
- Mohawk Regional School Superintendent, Michael Bounocotti, has initiated a “Massachusetts Rural Schools Coalition”. The coalition’s purpose is to lobby on behalf of rural schools and their communities.

BUDGET

Ms. Jones and Principal Smidy are reviewing FY 16 budget. A report on expenditures and balances will be shared at the June meeting.

Acceptance of Gifts: On a motion by Mr. Nardi, seconded by Mr. Curran an anonymous \$300.00 gift in support of the Girls Basketball championship game was accepted. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Florence Savings Bank “Customers Choice” grant award was accepted. On a motion by Mr. Nardi, seconded by Mr. Curran the \$1334.00 grant was unanimously accepted.

Senior Breakfast was discussed and plans made for the annual event to be held on June 1.

Other issues – Ms. Christiansen asked about a homework policy especially as it relates to student stress and special education and homework completion, follow through, and planning. Ms. Smidy agreed speculating that the common planning times at the middle school level help with coordination but this is more difficult at high school level. She reiterated, however, there is no single homework policy but the issue is being discussed.

Warrant Questions: none

Next meeting: June 20, 2016

Ms. Colson-Montgomery asked for a motion to adjourn and enter into executive session with the Committee not returning to open session.

Ms. Larsen made a motion to adjourn from open session at 7:59 and enter executive session not to return to open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Curran. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:00 on a voice vote Norris, abstain; Cleary, aye; Curran, aye; Larson, aye; Walunas, aye; Christiansen, aye; Shirer, aye; Weiss, aye; Moro, aye; Braastad, aye the Committee entered executive session. (Mr. Norris left the meeting.)