HEBRON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, April 3, 2018
SPECIAL MEETING
Douglas Library of Hebron
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

I.   Call to Order and Roll Call   Chairperson Erica Bromley called the meeting to order at
                                       6:02 p.m.

        Board Members Present: Erica Bromley, Heather Petit, Kevin Williams, Christopher
                                       Aker, Geoffrey Davis, Maryanne Leichter, Kathy Williams

        Administrators & Staff Members Present: Timothy Van Tasel, Donald Briere, Adam
                                                   Parks, Stephanie Levin

II.   Pledge of Allegiance, Introductions

III.   Board of Education Preschool Presentation
        Mr. Van Tasel reported there were questions at a previous Board of Selectmen/Board of
        Finance meeting regarding preschool. In order to answer those questions the Board of
        Education was called for a special meeting to review a preschool presentation prepared
        by the district regarding 2018-2019 scenarios. Mr. Van Tasel began the presentation by
        saying the program was NAEYC Accredited and then reviewed the lottery process and
        elements of the preschool program. He also reviewed the numbers of students who have
        applied to the lottery, the waiting list, and the total cost of the program. Dr. Briere then
        talked about programming options including structure and cost. He reviewed five
        different models and three different tuition structures associated with the program.

        Mrs. Bromley asked the board to review the document and bring their questions to the
        April 12th regular Board of Education meeting.

IV.   Public Comments
        Andrew Maxwell, 43 Oak Drive, asked if there was a reason the School Readiness
        program could not be increased. Mr. Van Tasel explained because of the School
        Readiness grant, the program is capped at 18 slots.
        Kerri Bruno, 95 Attawanhood Trail, stated the preschool program is a very important
        program with highly qualified teachers and accreditation. Dollars should be utilized for
        the school system to keep it top notch and keep families in town. She felt the majority of
        families want money and taxes to support the school system.
        Dan Smith, 411 Jones Street, felt the school should build a plan to keep full day for
        returning families. Changing would affect plans for families.
        Krystin Strumskas, 309 Skinner Lane, spoke about her children and the difficulty with
        transitions from other preschools. She feels her child that attends preschool at Gilead is
        developing skills and is confident about the transition to kindergarten. She also talked
        about the voice of the community and the tax dollars being spent on programs for
        students.

Becky Murray, AHM, 25 Pendleton Drive, Gilead Hill School has a fabulous program but is not the only program in Hebron. AHM provides KinderRHAMa at RHAM along with a program from the Christ Lutheran Early Childhood Center in town.

Taylor Crawford, 7 Hebron Landing, acknowledged there were other programs in town but felt very comfortable as an educator with the program at Gilead Hill School. She also felt it was very important to keep the program as is with the full time classrooms.

Alisha Natelle, 443 Old Slocum Road, stated the teachers at Gilead Hill School are certified and are very strong educators. Their family chose Hebron because of the school system, the strong reputation here, and wanted a small town community.

Jeremy Jankowski, 102 Northam Road, has a daughter beginning the preschool program next year and would be very disappointed if any programs are cut back.

Sara Coppolino, 44 Hillcrest Drive, felt her family has paid more in taxes and the price of her home for less square footage because of the school system. The Board of Education needs to protect their programs and keep full day for families. It is an effective program and changing would not be in the best interest for children. She also stated she cannot understand why there is a constant question regarding preschool.

V.   Board of Education Discussion
        No discussion because of time constraints.

VI.   Adjournment
        Motion by Kevin Williams to adjourn at 6:57 p.m. Seconded by Kathy Williams. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.