

HEBRON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thursday, August 15, 2018

SPECIAL MEETING

AHM Youth Services

MINUTES

The Hebron Public Schools, in partnership with families and the community, is committed to fostering confidence, creativity, responsibility, and academic excellence in our children to enable them to explore the possibilities in their diverse world as respectful, contributing members of their community.

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, Maryanne Leichter, Christopher Aker, Kathy Williams, Geoffrey Davis, Kevin Williams

Administrators Present: Timothy Van Tasel

Superintendent Van Tasel opened by introducing Patrice McCarthy, Deputy Director and General Counsel of CAFE.

Ms. McCarthy recapped the services CAFE offers, including Professional Development, Policy guidance, and Legislative support. She touched on recently vetoed Senate Bill 453 regarding Classroom Safety and Disruptive Behavior. There is now a working group including CAFE to work out something that addresses safety concerns while enabling the administration to manage their buildings. She also talked about task forces formed that are addressing Special Education costs and fingerprinting requirements as well

Ms. McCarthy highlighted that the Education Committee in General Assembly will be changing following the 2018 elections. New leadership may mean new focal points.

Ms. McCarthy highlighted ways the Hebron Board of Education can be more engaged including participation in the Government Relations Committee and the State Relations Committee.

CAFE willing to come out before the session starts to summarize the hot issues on the table, and Ms. McCarthy also recommends that the Board of Education invite our representatives in the General Assembly to meet with us separately from the Town of Hebron joint board meeting to discuss our specific needs.

Mr. Aker asked what CAFE's position is related to School Resource Officers. CAFE's position is that the decision remains a local issue for each municipality to decide. There are a group of legislators gathering to look at school safety and security. CAFE, CAS and CT PTA will be presenting next week to the group. CAFE has a model Memorandum of Understanding to help districts and a School Resource Officer with local police department interactions.

Mr. Van Tasel asked the Board to maintain our current goals which align with the District priorities

through 2020. This helps the administration handle District Advancement and ultimately School Advancement Plans in alignment with goals.

Mr. Van Tassel recapped the four main strategies connected to the District plan and 2018-19 initiatives that align with those strategies.

The Board discussed the framework for a pre-school study this fall. The goal would be to have the study completed by December so the results can be used to inform budget discussions for the 2019-2020 year. The Board would like to see representation of the Board itself, Parents, Administration, Teachers, Town Officials (including both Town Boards and the Town Office), Non-Parent Taxpayers and Parks & Recreation on the study committee. The desired general format is to open with why pre-school is needed, a brief history of pre-school in Hebron, a history of any concerns that have been expressed and why the study is being done. Questions were then gathered that might help inform the committee on the information they gather. The process will also include a broader community survey to ensure as full a picture as possible is assembled. Once completed, the committee will be asked to make a recommendation to the Board of Education on how pre-school might look moving forward. The Board of Education will then consider that input in it's decisions for future years, keeping in mind the recommendations may change from year to year depending on the resources available.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Thanks,

Kevin Williams
Board Secretary
Hebron Board of Education
580 Gilead Street
Hebron, CT 06248

860-209-1408
williamskboe@gmail.com