

HEBRON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thursday, March 15, 2018

SPECIAL MEETING

Gilead Hill School –Music Room

7:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call Chairperson Erica Bromley called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
- Board Members Present: Erica Bromley, Heather Petit, Christopher Aker, Geoffrey Davis, Maryanne Leichter
- Board Members Absent: Kevin Williams, Kathy Williams
- Liaison Absent: Diane Del Rosso, Gail Richmond
- Administrators & Staff Members Present: Timothy Van Tassel
- Staff Members Absent: Donald Briere, Katie Uriano, Eric Brody, (Due to Invention Convention), Stephanie Levin, Patricia Schiavi
- II. Pledge of Allegiance, Introductions
- III. Public Comment  
Benjamin Fournier, 35 Warner Pond Lane, shared that he came to the board meeting to observe as part of a requirement of boy scouts.
- IV. Board Member Comments  
No comments at this time.
- V. Acknowledging Student Achievement
- A. Schools in the Spotlight
- GHS Unified Arts – Second Step  
Tony Pitrone, Karen Sanstrom and Sue Giammarco shared a powerpoint presentation on Second Step, a specials class that teaches character education, promotes school success, safe school climate, empathy, problem solving, and compassion for others.
  - Board Recognition  
In recognition of Board Appreciation Month the art department presented the board with tiles and flags. Mrs. Giammarco, art teacher at GHS, explained the process for making the tiles saying the students designed them and helped glaze them. Students, Maeve Flynn, Jacklyn Coffey and Bryce Glower presented each board member with an individual tile. Meredith Cowan, art teacher at HES, thanked the board for all they do for the schools and introduced students Joseph Hoban, Isabelle Kreamer, Brooke Gorgone, Leah Petro, and Julia Fournier who presented each board member with a flag they personally created with inspirational text on the reverse side. The board thanked the students for their kindness and were very impressed with the work they are doing in art class.
- B. Superintendent's Report
- Principal Updates (Read Only)(Encl. 5b)
  - Preschool Lottery  
The preschool lottery was held on Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Briere will review proposals at the April Board of Ed. Meeting.

- BOE Budget Presentation to Town (March 13, 2018)  
The BOE Budget Presentation will be held Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Douglas Library.
- EASTCONN Northeast Connecticut Regional Summit  
Heather Petit and Mr. Van Tassel attended the Regional Summit in which Jessica Ritter presented. A copy of the presentation will be emailed to BOE members.
- Parent Forum (March 26, 2018)  
A Parent Forum is being planned for March 26th with presenters from different organizations from town showing the services provided locally. The theme of the forum is “One Community Working Together in Partnership for Children and Families.” The event will begin at 7:00 pm in the GHS Activity Room
- Exxon Mobil Grant  
A \$500 grant was applied for and received by the Mobil station in town. Mr. Van Tassel would like to thank Diane Mackiewicz, Manager at the Exxon Mobil in Hebron, for applying for this grant for the Hebron Public Schools.
- AHM has requested sharing technology services with the Hebron Public Schools. This service will be provided on a fee basis with daily support from our technology coordinator. Mr. Van Tassel will share the plan once it is completed.
- Mr. Van Tassel thanked students and staff who participated in the Invention Convention. Six winners will be chosen and will move on to the regionals.
- Mr. Van Tassel and Ms. Petit attended a Solidarity event at RHAM High School in which seventeen students from RHAM spoke. The common thread from the students is that they have yet to be in a school environment where they have felt safe.

#### VI. Chair’s Report

Mrs. Bromley informed the board of an invitation received from EASTCONN requesting participation on the EASTCONN Board of Directors. She also reminded everyone of the Board of Finance meeting next week. Community members are welcome to come speak. Mrs. Bromley also spoke of the Parent Forum scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup> and encouraged people to come out to listen to things happening in town. It’s not just about physical safety but social and emotional wellbeing.

#### VII. Board Liaison Reports

No report.

#### VIII. Consent Agenda

##### A. Approval of Minutes

1. Meeting – February 8, 2018 (Encl. 8a.1)
2. Meeting – February 15, 2018 (Encl. 8a.2)
3. Meeting – February 21, 2018 (Encl. 8a.3)

**Motion** by Maryanne Leichter to approve the minutes of February 8<sup>th</sup>, February 15<sup>th</sup>, and February 21<sup>st</sup> as presented. Seconded by Heather Petit. \_Vote: Unanimous.  
Motion carried.

#### IX. Informational – No Action Required

##### A. 1. Monthly Enrollment Report (Encl. 9a.1)

The Monthly Enrollment Report was presented showing the total number of students at 710 with 383 students at Hebron Elementary School and 327 students at Gilead Hill School. There are 16 magnet school tuitions paid for by the Board of Education.

##### 2. Student Activity (Encl. 9a.2)

The Student Activity Report was shared and showed a balance of \$5,976.16 for Gilead Hill School and a balance of \$31,052.44 for Hebron Elementary School.

3. Year to Date Financial Report (Encl. 9a.3)  
A Year to Date Financial Report dated 3/1/2018 was presented showing a surplus of \$148,157.00. Mr. Van Tasel stated he would be looking to make necessary transfers before the end of the year. Substitutes are not encumbered so that line will fluctuate along with the insurance line due to coverage changes. Also, we have not received the Excess Cost money from the State, which will offset the special education tuition line. Mr. Van Tasel is also continuing to monitor for Safety and Security funding. Instructional supplies are being purchased and repairs to the buildings are being done.
4. Cafeteria Services Report (Encl. 9a.4)  
A Cafeteria Services Report showing a gain of \$556.25 for the month of February. The program has a loss of \$955.42 for this fiscal year. The cafeteria bank account has a total amount of \$2,842.91 as of the beginning of March, 2018. There will be 3 payrolls in the month of March which may have some impact on the \$20,000 the board has in the budget for Cafeteria Services.

#### X. Committee Updates

1. Resource Management Committee  
The Resource Management Committee met on March 14<sup>th</sup> to review the year to date financial statement along with personnel matters. The Personnel matters will be on the April meeting for formal approval.
2. Policy Committee  
No meeting was held.
3. Communication Committee  
A meeting was held February 12<sup>th</sup> in which the Budget Communication was developed.
4. CIP Liaison  
The CIP Committee has moved the requests to the Board of Selectmen/Finance.
5. Education Foundation Liaison  
The Ed. Foundation will be meeting soon to go over the mini grants.
6. School Readiness Liaison  
AHM is hosting a literacy evening at the Douglas Library with a book giveaway.

#### XI. Discussion and Possible Action on FY19 Budget Communications & March 13 BOS/BOF Presentation

Mr. Van Tasel reviewed the budget flyer which is in the budget book that will be presented to the BOS/BOF on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Van Tasel asked if anyone had anything to change or offer. Ms. Bromley wanted to make it clear that any reduction of dollars from the State is the burden of both Region 8 and Hebron. Mr. Davis was pleased that the Board is being very transparent.

#### XII. Discussion & Possible Action on the School Calendar & April Vacation

**Motion** by Maryanne Leichter to use Monday & Tuesday (April 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>) as school days with the possibility of using more days of April vacation should the need arise having the last day of school for students June 22, 2018. Seconded by Geoffrey Davis.

Discussion: Mr. Aker asked for a clarification. Mr. Van Tasel reviewed the survey results that were sent out to both the staff and Hebron families. Results from the staff showed 36.28% taking Monday only from April vacation with 25.66% saying to take the whole week. The results from the Hebron families showed 27.05% taking Monday only with 29.10% saying to take the whole week. Mr. Van Tasel recommended taking Monday & Tuesday from April vacation with the last day of school being June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mrs. Bromley agreed with the recommendation which gives a little bit of a break for April vacation and keeps the last week of June as the beginning of summer vacation.

Mr. Davis felt the further in June the students are in school the less learning will be done. The potential for heat and loss of focus play a factor. He also asked about the staff who might have booked vacations. Mr. Van Tassel stated he will work with the collective bargaining groups in reaching an understanding regarding being in school during April vacation. Mrs. Leichter said the majority of responses from staff stated they felt April vacation should be used.

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

XIII. Public Comment

Mal Leichter, 62 Wellswood Road, stated the Board of Finance is putting a survey together in regard to budget. The thought is to gather information ahead of the budget process. April 10<sup>th</sup> is the Public Hearing and he encouraged friends and neighbors to fill out the survey when it is released. The goal is to have the survey ready for next week.

XIV. New Business

Agenda Items for next month: Leave requests

XV. Board Member Comments

Ms. Petit questioned Mr. Leichter in regard to the survey, if there was a question for keeping everything as presented. Mr. Leichter reviewed a few questions.

XVI. Adjournment

**Motion** by Heather Petit to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. Seconded by Christopher Aker. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Conderino  
Board Clerk