

BOARD OF EDUCATION - REGULAR MEETING

November 14, 2019

Gilead Hill School – Music Room

7:00 p.m.

Minutes

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call Heather Petit called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Board Members Present: Heather Petit, Christopher Aker, Joseph Zuzel, Kevin Williams, Kathy Williams
- Board Members Absent: Geoffrey Davis, Maryanne Leichter
- Board Liaison Present: Gail Richmond, Diane DelRosso
- Student Liaison: Liam Galligan
- Administrators & Staff Members Present: Dr. Lynne Pierson, Stephanie Levin, Katie Uriano, Dr. Donald Briere
- Guests: Keith Petit, Amanda Veneziano, Chris Lapsis, Rose Modzelewski, John Collins
- II. Pledge of Allegiance, Introductions
- III. Public Comment – John Collins passed out copies of a chart he developed that contains lead water sampling for Hebron Elementary and Gilead Hill School. He noted that he is concerned about Gilead Hill School as there is a frequency of data that is high. There seems to be a progression of deterioration in the pipes.
- IV. Board Member Comments – None at this time.
- V. Acknowledging Student Achievement
- Art Efforts at Hebron Elementary School – Rose Modzelewski highlighted some of the new things that are being done in the Art Room at Hebron Elementary School.
- A. Superintendent’s Comments
- Principal Updates (Read Only) (Encl. 5a)
 - CAPSS Superintendent Award Recognition Program – Dr. Pierson reported that Michael Larkin is representing the Superintendent at the Regional CAPSS Superintendent Award Recognition Program this evening at RHAM High School. Dr. Pierson stated that Isabelle Kreamer and Tucker Haines were selected for this award.
- Dr. Pierson stated that the longtime Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Karen Conderino, is retiring. Dr. Pierson noted that Karen has been a stabilizing factor during difficult times in the district. Dr. Pierson stated that Karen has served with graciousness, loyalty and distinction for the past 12 years and has provided guidance and assistance to 7 superintendents and numerous Board of Education members. Dr. Pierson noted that she is deferring the hiring of this position to the new Superintendent.

VI. Chair's Report

- Update on Superintendent Search – Heather Petit stated that the Search Committee is on task. Heather Petit noted that there was a good pool of candidates. Heather Petit indicated that the first interviews were done this week and hoping to do second interviews next week.
- New Board of Education Development – Heather Petit reported that on November 19th the new members will be sworn in at the Old Town hall. Heather Petit noted that she is working on a series of workshops for the new members and materials have been received from CAFE to help the new members.
- SRO Update – Heather Petit reported that Dr. Pierson and herself met with Andy Tierney where they requested that he post this position again because there have not been a lot of applicants. The market is not providing a sufficient amount of part time candidates. Next week the Town Manager, Resident State Trooper Greenwood, Dr. Pierson and the Principals will be interviewing the full time candidates.

Heather Petit reported that the Building Committee continues to meet regularly, the bid is out and hopefully a contract is in place soon. Heather Petit noted that some of the work will be done over April vacation but the majority of the work will be done over the summer of 2020. As far as GHS is concerned, Heather Petit indicated that the Board hired a consultant, TRC, and are using Shipman and Goodwin because of their environmental background. TRC has been doing work over the last month and will be on site at GHS at the end of this week. A report will be brought to the Board if further tests will need to be done.

Dr. Pierson stated that they are receiving guidance from the Dept. of Public Health and the consultant in regards to the flushing system being done at Gilead Hill School. The data that was shared this evening by John Collins will be immediately shared with the consultant.

Heather Petit stated that unfortunately, Maryanne Leichter could not be here tonight but she wanted to recognize her publicly. Maryanne Leichter has dedicated many years to the Board of Education and the RHAM Board of Education.

VII. Board Liaison Report – Liam Galligan reported on the Veteran's Day Assembly that happened this year at Hebron Elementary School.

Gail Richmond stated that next Tuesday a new Board will be sworn in and then they will have a special meeting to swear in a new Chair and Vice Chair.

Diane DelRosso stated that she has nothing new to report.

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Meeting – October 10, 2019 (Encl. 8a.1)

Motion by Kevin Williams to approve the minutes of October 10, 2019.

Seconded by Kathy Williams. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

IX. Informational – No Action Required

A. Reports

XIV. 2019-2020 Financial Report (Encl. 9a.1)

The 2019-2020 Financial Report through 10/31/2019 shows a balance of \$678,720.00.

2. Cafeteria Services Report (Encl. 9a.2)

Stephanie Levin shared an updated Cafeteria Services Report showing a deficit of \$4,972.89 for the month of October. Stephanie Levin reported that product costs did come down significantly this month. Stephanie Levin noted that \$2,922.88 will be used from the Board of Education offset for the Cafeteria.

3. Preschool Report (Encl. 9a.3) – As of 10/31/2019 there is a total balance in Preschool of \$11,526.32.

4. Student Activity Report (Encl. 9a.4) – The Student Activity Report was shared and showed a balance of \$5,124.59 for Gilead Hill School and a balance of \$22,491.56 for Hebron Elementary School.

5. Enrollment Report (Encl. 9a.5) – The Enrollment Report as of 11/1/19 showed a total of 659 students with 341 at Hebron Elementary School and 318 at Gilead Hill School.

X. Committee Updates –

1. Resource Management Committee – Has not met

2. Policy Committee – Has not met

3. Communication Committee – Has not met

4. Education Foundation Liaison – No update

5. School Readiness Liaison – Dr. Briere reported that the Council met on 10/29/19 and discussed receiving the NEAYC accreditation. Dr. Briere stated that the next meeting is November 26th.

XI. Policy 9023 Student Representative-Second Read & Possible Approval (Encl. 11) – Kevin Williams stated that to his knowledge there were no comments on this policy. Kevin Williams moved to approve Policy 9023 Student Representative as presented. Seconded by Kathy Williams. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

XII. Public Comment – Nikki Collins, 349 West Main Street, stated that she did research on the lead through the CDC websites and the Dept. of Public Health. Nikki Collins questioned if the Board intended to do any stop gap procedures until we can figure out what is happening. Heather Petit noted that as Dr. Pierson stated earlier they have started flushing the system and data will be obtained from the DPH. Heather Petit indicated that so far Gilead Hill School has not had any exceedances. Heather Petit noted that the Board will wait to hear from the consultant on any additional measures or recommendations they may have.

XIII. New Business – Heather Petit would like to add the discussion of the 2020-2021 Board meeting calendar so it can be provided to the Town Clerk before January. Also, there will be Board elections at the next meeting.

- XIV. Board Member Comments – Heather Petit thanked Kevin Williams and Kathy Williams for their service to the Board of Education.

Kevin Williams encouraged everyone to stick to factual data in regards to the water issue in both schools.

- XV. Adjournment
Motion by Kevin Williams to adjourn at 8:09 p.m. Seconded by Kathy Williams. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

Tricia Schiavi
Board Clerk