

BOARD OF EDUCATION - REGULAR MEETING

December 12, 2019

Gilead Hill School – Music Room

7:00 p.m.

AMENDED Minutes

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call Heather Petit called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
- Board Members Present: Heather Petit, Christopher Aker, Joseph Margaitis, Keith Petit, Allyson Schmeizl, Amanda Veneziano, Joseph Zuzel
- Board Liaison Present: Gail Richmond
- Board Liaison Absent: Diane DelRosso
- Administrators & Staff Members Present: Dr. Lynne Pierson, Stephanie Levin, Michael Larkin, Katie Uriano, Dr. Donald Briere, Wayne Durocher, Dr. Thomas Baird, Sadie Egan, Student Representative, David McKenney
- Guests: Andy Tierney, Mal Leichter, Nicole Collins, Stephanie Haines, John Collins, Nikki Matthews, Michelle France, Katie Hurley, Isabelle Kreamer, Tucker Haines
- II. Pledge of Allegiance, Introductions
- III. Election of Officers –
- a. Chair – Motion by Joseph Zuzel to nominate Heather Petit as Chair. Seconded by Christopher Aker. Motion by Christopher Aker to close nominations and appoint Heather Petit as Chair. Seconded by Joseph Margaitis. Vote: 6 in favor and Keith Petit abstained. Motion carried.
 - b. Vice Chair – Motion by Allyson Schmeizl to nominate Christopher Aker as Vice Chair. Seconded by Keith Petit. Motion by Joseph Zuzel to close nominations and appoint Christopher Aker as Vice Chair. Seconded by Keith Petit. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.
 - c. Secretary – Motion by Heather Petit to nominate Amanda Veneziano as Secretary. Seconded by Joseph Margaitis. Motion by Joseph Zuzel to close the nominations and appoint Amanda Veneziano as Secretary. Seconded by Keith Petit. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.
- Committee Assignments –
- a. Communications Committee – The following Board members volunteered for the Communications Committee: Keith Petit, Amanda Veneziano, Allyson Schmeizl, Heather Petit and Joseph Margaitis. Amanda Veneziano will lead the Communications Committee.
 - b. Policy Committee – The following Board members volunteered for the Policy Committee: Keith Petit, Heather Petit, Joseph Zuzel and Christopher Aker. Keith Petit will lead the committee.

- c. Resource Management Committee – The following Board members volunteered for the Resource Management Committee: Joseph Margaitis, Keith Petit, Amanda Veneziano and Heather Petit. Joseph Margaitis will lead this committee.
- d. Hebron Education Foundation Liaison – The following Board members volunteered to be a liaison: Amanda Veneziano and Joseph Margaitis.
- e. School Readiness Liaison – Allyson Schmeizl volunteered to be the liaison.
- f. Wellness Liaison – Allyson Schmeizl volunteered to be the liaison.
- g. Student Growth Committee – The following Board members volunteered for the Student Growth Committee: Heather Petit, Joseph Zuzel, Allyson Schmeizl, Amanda Veneziano, and Joseph Margaitis. Joseph Zuzel will be the lead on this committee.

IV. Public Comments – Nicole Collins, 349 West Main Street, stated that they are still requesting that the water be shut off at GHS and request that the new Communications Committee hear what the parents have said. Nicole Collins also requested that a liaison from the Board of Education be appointed to the PTA.

Nikki Matthews, 62 Old Daniels Lane, requested that parents be notified as soon as the testing begins and when the results are available.

John Collins, 23 Coates Farm Road, made the Board aware that the UCONN Civil Engineering Dept. would like to do a study on the pipes from the project at HES to come up with why they possibly failed. The Board of Selectmen and HES Water Remediation Committee are in favor of this.

Mal Leichter stated that the HES Water Remediation Committee is very close to signing a contract with Nutmeg Companies. This company has worked with our current design professional and all the recommendations came in very high. Mal Leichter noted that they are hoping to sign a contract by the end of next week and to begin their work over the winter break.

Katie Hurley, 43 Uncas Drive, shared that she had the opportunity to attend the Board of Selectmen meeting and was unsettled about the lead issue at HES as reported by John Collins.

V. Board Member Comments – Joseph Zuzel stated that he attended the winter concert that was held today at Gilead Hill School. The amount of effort and time that was put into this concert was remarkable.

VI. Acknowledging Student Achievement –
A. Superintendent's Comments

Michael Larkin introduced Sadie Egan as the Student Representative. Sadie Egan noted that the Backtrack Vocals entertained HES at an assembly. Sadie Egan reported on the winter concerts that have occurred at HES. Sadie Egan also reported on the author, Mr. Shu, who attended an assembly at HES and GHS.

- Principal Updates (Read Only) (Encl. 6a)
- CAPSS Student Award Winners – Dr. Pierson acknowledged the two students who received the CAPSS Student Awards. Dr. Pierson introduced Tucker Haines and Isabelle Kreamer as the students who received these awards.

- 2020-2021 Superintendent's Proposed Budget – Dr. Pierson provided a brief overview of the Superintendent's proposed budget for the 2020-2021 school year. Dr. Pierson went over the Board of Education budget parameters and processes.
- VII. Chair's Report – Heather Petit announced that Dr. Tom Baird was appointed as Superintendent as of January 1, 2020 this evening at a special meeting. Dr. Pierson will be staying on through the transition with Dr. Baird. Dr. Pierson noted that she will serve as an advisor for Dr. Baird during the transition.
- VIII. Board Liaison Report – Nothing to report at this time.
- IX. Consent Agenda –
- A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – November 14, 2019 (Encl. 9a.2) – Motion by Keith Petit to approve the minutes of November 14, 2019 as presented. Seconded by Amanda Veneziano. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.
- X. Informational – No Action Required –
- A. Reports
 1. 2019-2020 Financial Report (Encl. 10a.1) - The 2019-2020 Financial Report through 11/30/2019 shows a balance of \$579,740.
 2. Cafeteria Services Report (Encl. 10a.2)
Stephanie Levin shared an updated Cafeteria Services Report showing a positive balance of \$2,430.38 for the month of November.
 3. Preschool Report (Encl. 10a.3) – As of 11/30/2019 there is a negative balance of \$5,231.52.
 4. Student Activity Report (Encl. 10a.4) – The Student Activity Report was shared and showed a balance of \$7,189.50 for Gilead Hill School and a balance of \$20,040.53 for Hebron Elementary School.
 5. Enrollment Report (Encl. 10a.5) – The Enrollment Report as of 11/01/19 showed a total of 659 students with 341 at Hebron Elementary School and 318 at Gilead Hill School.
- XI. Committee Updates –
1. Resource Management Committee – Did not meet
 2. Policy Committee – Did not meet
 3. Communication Committee – Did not meet
 4. Education Foundation Liaison – Did not meet.
 5. School Readiness Liaison – Dr. Briere did meet in November and will meet again in January.
- XII. Approval of Board Meeting Dates – 2020 (Encl. 12) – Motion by Joseph Zuzel to approve meeting dates as amended (see attached). Seconded by Keith Petit. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.
- XIII. Draft 2020-2021 School Calendar (Encl. 13) – Donald Briere highlighted the changes from the present school year calendar to the proposed 2020-2021 calendar. The Committee attempted to align with the EastConn Regional Calendar. Donald Briere stated that with the water project at

HES, the start for school is being proposed a week later than typical. Keith Petit suggested having a 2 day first week of school. He is concerned about the water project running over and it is easier for parents to find daycare for two days versus three days.

XIV. Executive Session

Discussion Concerning a Privileged Attorney Client Communication Regarding Environmental Data Assessment Plans – Motion by Joseph Zuzel to enter into Executive Session at 8:57 p.m. and invite Dr. Lynne Pierson, Attorney Andrew Davis and Attorney Alfredo Fernandez. Seconded by Amanda Veneziano. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:37 p.m.

Motion by Keith Petit to extend the meeting past 10:00 p.m. Seconded by Joseph Margaitis. Vote: all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Keith Petit to adjourn the meeting for 5 minutes. Seconded by Joseph Zuzel. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting returned at 10:43 p.m.

XV. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding GHS Water - Dr. Pierson stated that the plan is to conduct 75 first draw samples and 75 thirty second flushing samples from every single water source in the school. In addition, there will be additional sampling involving the wells. Dr. Pierson indicated that weather permitting the testing should be done no later than a week from Saturday, which is 12/21/19. The next expectation would be that the samples would be analyzed at the appropriate labs and the Board expects a report to be issued prior to the end of January. Dr. Pierson noted that she will be putting out this information tomorrow.

Keith Petit stated that he is very happy with the previous Board for having an abundance of caution and being proactive.

Allyson Schmeizl stated that the Board is standing by data and will be making data driven decisions.

Joseph Zuzel stated that once the results have been presented to the Board, he suggested there be an open forum to inform the citizens of the results.

Amanda Veneziano stated that at this point Gilead Hill School is nowhere near actionable levels and reiterated that the Board wants to do what is best for the students.

XVI. Public Comment – Nicole Collins, 349 West Main Street, questioned what will be done with the water until the testing is complete. Dr. Pierson will provide the communication tomorrow on the plan for testing. Heather Petit stated that we need the data to make an informed decision.

Mal Leichter questioned why the Board was doing the testing and he felt it may be a question the Board is asked by the public.

Nikki Matthews stated that she wanted bottled water until the results are received from the testing.

XVII. New Business – Nothing at this time.

XVIII. Board Member Comments – None at this time.

XIX. Adjournment – Motion by Keith Petit to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 pm. Vote: All in favor.
Motion carried.

Tricia Schiavi
Board Clerk